

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 10/01/2009
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 9600 BLACKWELL ROAD, SUITE 210 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-0304104
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 240-481-5192
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541990

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2024	JENNIFER POHLHAUS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2024	AMY BIELSKI
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 229
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 160 6a(2) 187 6b 0 6c 67 6d 254 6e 0 6f 254 6g(1) 150 6g(2) 146 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-0304104

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).....

Yes

x

No
- b

If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

LION STREET ADVISORS LLC

80-0946231

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27 51	N/A	17476	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

SENTINEL BENEFITS GROUP, LLC

20-5916766

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 50	N/A	12195	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-0304104

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
	Assets	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	886	936
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	13028	13065
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	37800	35742
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	22118	34828
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	21786	21617
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	4854997	6346735
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	4950615	6452923
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		6844
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	6844
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	4950615	6446079

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	313094	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	614175	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	319437	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1246706
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	1335	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	1082	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		2417
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	106895	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		106895
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		809108
c Other income	2c		3680
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2168806

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	638725	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		638725
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		56
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	12195	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	17476	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	4632	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	258	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		34561
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		673342

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1495464
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **HOZIK AND COMPANY, P.L.C.**

(2) EIN: **54-1963607**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	☒	☐	160259
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-0304104	

Part I	Distributions
--------	---------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 27-3169253		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
---------	--

4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
---	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
---------	--

10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for: a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment) b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment) c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14a 14b 14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16a 16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b): a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____% b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20. a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box: ☐ Yes. ☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. Other. Provide explanation: _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No 21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2). ☒ Design-based safe harbor method ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>11 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q704235A</u> .	

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS
RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

Years Ended December 31, 2023
and 2022

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

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HOZIK & COMPANY, P.L.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
374 MAPLE AVENUE EAST, SUITE 305
VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180
TELEPHONE (703) 272-7109
WEBSITE www.hozikcpa.com

*Member of the American Institute
of Certified Public Accountants*

Partners
Karen Fleming
James Hozik

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator
Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan
Rockville, Maryland

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section—

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

- the information in the financial statements, referred to above, related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Schedule H, Line 4a – Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such

information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Henrich & Company, P.L.C.

Vienna, Virginia
August 15, 2024

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
 STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH - non interest-bearing	\$ 936	\$ 886
INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE		
Registered investment company shares	6,381,563	4,877,115
NOTE RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS		
Participant loans	21,617	21,786
RECEIVABLES		
Employee contributions	35,742	37,800
Employer contributions	<u>13,065</u>	<u>13,028</u>
	<u>48,807</u>	<u>50,828</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,452,923</u>	<u>4,950,615</u>
LIABILITIES		
Other liabilities	<u>6,844</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>6,844</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 6,446,079</u>	<u>\$ 4,950,615</u>

See notes to financial statements.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

ADDITIONS	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Additions to net assets attributed to:		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 809,108	\$ -
Interest and dividends	<u>108,230</u>	<u>85,540</u>
	917,338	85,540
Interest on notes receivable from participants	1,082	503
Contributions:		
Participants	614,175	600,746
Employer	313,094	289,865
Rollover	<u>319,437</u>	<u>99,109</u>
	1,246,706	989,720
Other income	<u>3,680</u>	<u>4,192</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	2,168,806	1,079,955
DEDUCTIONS		
Deductions from net assets attributed to:		
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	-	1,020,353
Benefits paid to participants	638,781	443,495
Other expenses	<u>34,561</u>	<u>25,258</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>673,342</u>	<u>1,489,106</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	1,495,464	(409,151)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS		
Beginning of year	<u>4,950,615</u>	<u>5,359,766</u>
END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 6,446,079</u>	<u>\$ 4,950,615</u>

See notes to financial statements.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information about the Plan's provisions. Participants should refer to the plan agreement and summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, copies of which may be obtained from the plan sponsor.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Ripple Effect Communications, Inc. (the Company). Employees who are more than 21 years of age are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month coinciding with or next following date eligibility requirements are satisfied. Temporary and seasonal employees are excluded from participation in the Plan unless they complete 1,000 hours in a Plan year.

The Company is the administrator of the Plan. As administrator, the Company has exclusive authority and responsibility for all matters in connection with the operation and administration of the Plan (including the authority and responsibility to invest, manage and control the assets of the Plan specifically allocated to the trustee). Mid Atlantic Trust Company is the appointed trustee of the Plan and acts at the direction of the Plan's administrator. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

Plan Contributions

Participants may elect to contribute up to 100% of eligible compensation not to exceed the limits of the Internal Revenue Code. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contributions plans.

The Company makes matching contributions based on a participant's deferrals into the plan up to a maximum of 4% of the participant's compensation. The Company may also make discretionary profit sharing contributions into the Plan as determined each year by the Company's President. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, no discretionary contributions were made to the plan.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and the Company's contributions and allocations of plan earnings, and is charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Plan earnings are allocated based on the participant's share of net earnings or losses of their respective elected investment options. Allocations of administrative expenses are based on the participant's account balances, as defined, or as an equal dollar amount based on the number of participants in the Plan. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions, the Company's matching contributions, plus actual earnings thereon. Employees who became participants prior to March 1, 2012 are fully vested in their profit sharing contributions, plus actual earnings

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

Vesting (Continued)

thereon. Employees who became participants on or after March 1, 2012 are vested in their profit sharing contributions under the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	
Less than 2	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5	80%
6	100%

Forfeitures

Forfeitures are used to reduce the Company's administrative expenses of the plan. During 2023 and 2022, \$931 and \$775 of forfeited contributions were used to reduce administrative expenses, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the balance in the forfeiture account was \$0 and \$340, respectively.

Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a maximum amount equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from one to five years or up to fifteen years if the loan is for the purchase of a principal residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a fixed rate of 1% above the prime interest rate as published by the Wall Street Journal. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. If a participant terminates employment with the Company, the loan becomes due and payable in full immediately. If the loan is not repaid, it will automatically be treated as a distribution to the participant on the last day of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the participant missed the scheduled payment.

Payment of Benefits

Distributions from the plan are permitted upon termination of service due to retirement, disability or death or attainment of age 59 ½. Participants may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. Upon termination, all vested account balances not exceeding \$5,000 will be automatically distributed as a lump-sum. Participants may elect to rollover monies to another qualified plan at any time.

Plan Fees and Administrative Expenses

The Company pays certain administrative expenses of the Plan such as legal fees and audit fees.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. However, no such action may deprive any participant or beneficiary under the Plan of any vested right.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 2 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid. At December 31, 2023, there were \$14,761 in amounts allocated to accounts of participants who have elected to withdraw from the Plan but have not yet been paid. There are no amounts allocated to accounts of participants who have elected to withdraw from the Plan, but have not yet been paid at December 31, 2022.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. Related fees are charged to the participant and expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Other Liabilities

Amounts payable for custodian and advisory fees are included in other liabilities at December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2022, there were none.

Use of Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes and supplemental schedules. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Registered investment company shares are valued at the daily closing price as reported by the registered investment companies.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in the registered investment company shares are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as a reduction of investment return for such investments.

Any unrealized appreciation or depreciation, as well as realized gains or losses for the year, are reflected as net appreciation or depreciation in fair value as shown on the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest is accrued on a daily basis. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 2 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through August 15, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. None were noted.

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

All investment information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule of assets held including investments held and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividend income and interest on notes receivable from participants for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was obtained or derived from information provided to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Mid Atlantic Trust Company, the trustee of the Plan.

NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2 - Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are inactive; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
- Level 3 - Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measure in its entirety.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

The following presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan investment assets at fair value, as of December 31, 2023.

<u>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023</u>	
	<u>Level 1</u>
Registered investment company shares	\$6,381,563

The following presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan investment assets at fair value, as of December 31, 2022.

<u>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023</u>	
	<u>Level 1</u>
Registered investment company shares	\$4,877,115

NOTE 5 - RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market volatility, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across all participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments within each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 15%, 14% and 11% of the plan's net assets were invested in Fidelity 500 Index, MFS Growth Allocation Class R4, and Vanguard Equity Income Fund Investor Shares, respectively. As of December 31, 2022, approximately 16%, 12%, 10% and 10% of the plan's net assets were invested in MFS Growth Allocation Class R4, Vanguard Equity Income Fund Investor Shares, American Funds 2050 Target Date Retirement Class R6, and Fidelity 500 Index, respectively.

NOTE 6 - TAX STATUS

The Plan was established on October 1, 2009. The plan was amended and restated effective January 1, 2021 to comply with legislative and regulatory changes. The plan received a favorable opinion letter from the IRS dated November 30, 2020. The Plan has been amended since the effective date of the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits,

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 6 - TAX STATUS (CONTINUED)

to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

NOTE 7 - TRANSACTIONS WITH PARTIES-IN-INTEREST

The Plan allows for transactions with certain parties who may perform services or have fiduciary responsibilities to the Plan. Plan investments are managed by Mid Atlantic Trust Company, the trustee of the Plan. Sentinel Benefit & Financial Group is the appointed third party administrator (TPA) and the record-keeper of the Plan. The Plan issues loans to participants, which are secured by the balances in the participants' accounts. The Company paid certain administrative expenses of the Plan, including legal and audit fees. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules under ERISA.

NOTE 8 - PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS - DELINQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS

During the year ended December 31, 2023, certain employee contributions totaling \$36,407 were not remitted to the plan on a timely basis. The Plan remitted the lost earnings on these late remittances in January 2024.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, certain employee contributions totaling \$123,852 were not remitted to the plan on a timely basis. The Plan remitted the lost earnings on these late remittances in February 2023 and October 2023.

NOTE 9 - RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

Income, expenses, net assets, and changes in net assets per Schedule H of Form 5500 for 2023 and 2022 agree to the 2023 and 2022 audited financial statements of the Plan.

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
 PLAN NUMBER 001
 SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)
 EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 20-0304104
 December 31, 2023

		(c) Description of Investment, Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party			
*	Cash	Non interest-bearing cash	**	\$ 936
*	Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	Registered investment company	**	34,829
*	Fidelity 500 Index	Registered investment company	**	953,142
*	Fidelity Contrafund	Registered investment company	**	187,342
*	Fidelity Mid Cap Index	Registered investment company	**	66,540
*	Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	Registered investment company	**	182,573
*	MFS Mid Cap Value Fund Class R6	Registered investment company	**	41,163
*	MFS Mid Cap Growth Fund Class R6	Registered investment company	**	126,391
*	Principal Blue Chip Fund Class R6	Registered investment company	**	175,022
*	T Rowe Price New Horizons	Registered investment company	**	413,808
*	Schwab Small Cap Index Fund	Registered investment company	**	31,179
*	Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund Admiral	Registered investment company	**	2,471
*	Vanguard Equity-Income Fund Investor Shares	Registered investment company	**	695,240
*	Victory Sycamore Small Company Opportunity Fund	Registered investment company	**	143,557
*	MFS International Growth Fund Class R6	Registered investment company	**	267,552
*	MFS International Intrinsic Value Class R4	Registered investment company	**	105,245
*	Fidelity Inflation Protected Bond Index Fund	Registered investment company	**	15,973
*	PGIM Total Return Bond Fund Class Z	Registered investment company	**	63,818
*	PGIM High Yield Fund Class R6	Registered investment company	**	83,370
*	American Funds 2020 Target Date Retirement Fund	Registered investment company	**	56,834
*	American Funds 2030 Target Date Retirement Fund	Registered investment company	**	240,982
*	American Funds 2040 Target Date Retirement Fund	Registered investment company	**	415,279
*	American Funds 2050 Target Date Retirement Fund	Registered investment company	**	520,551
*	American Funds 2060 Target Date Retirement Fund	Registered investment company	**	181,140
*	MFS Growth Allocation Class R4	Registered investment company	**	924,369
*	MFS Conservative Allocation Class R4	Registered investment company	**	56,335
*	MFS Moderate Allocation Class R4	Registered investment company	**	396,858
*	Participant loans	Interest rates of 4.25%-9.5% with maturity dates through 6/15/2025	\$ -	21,617
				<u>\$ 6,404,116</u>
*	Party-in-interest			
**	Cost omitted for participant-directed accounts			

RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
 PLAN NUMBER 001
 SCHEDULE H, LINE 4a - SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS
 EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 20-0304104
 Year ended December 31, 2023

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are Included: ☒	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	

Participant contributions transferred late to the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023	\$	-	\$	36,407	\$	-	\$	-
Participant contributions transferred late to the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2022	\$	-	\$	123,852	\$	-	\$	-

Name of Plan: Ripple Effect Communications Retirement Savings Plan
Employer Identification No.: ► 20-0304104
Plan year (ending):► 12/31/2023 Plan number:► 001

[illegible]

Name of Plan:

Employer Identification Number: 20-0304104

Plan number:► 001

[illegible]