# Plus500

Results for the six months ended 30 June 2017 London Stock Exchange Symbol: PLUS



# **Record HY results**

stores

Plus500 in numbers:





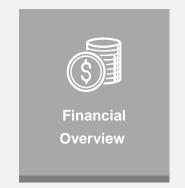
# **H1 2017 Financial and Operating Highlights**

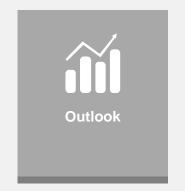
- Record first half results, significantly ahead of original and recent expectations, benefitting from:
  - ♣ Active Customers¹ increased 8% to a record level of 112,317
  - ➡ New Customers² significant growth of 43% to 31,671 in Q2 2017 (Q1 2017: 22,210)
  - ARPU increased 10% due to proportion of high value customers, providing potential for increased future revenues
  - AUAC meaningful decrease of 37% in cost per new customer acquired due to optimisation of marketing activity
- 🖷 Increased level of shareholder return as percentage of net profit with the adoption of additional share buy back programme
- ₱ Enhanced mobile proposition resulted in mobile representing 74% of total revenues
- Already compliant with the latest updates from its different regulators
- <sup>1</sup> Active Customers Customers who made at least one real money trade during the period
- <sup>2</sup> New Customers Customers depositing for the first time during the period















# **New and active customer KPIs**

	H1 2017	H1 2016		Q2 2017	Q2 2016	2016 Total
Active Customers	112,317	104,119		80,526	70,958	155,956
% Growth H1 2017/H1 2016	8%		% Growth Q2 2017/Q2 2016	13%		
ARPU	1,678	1,525		1,377	1,037	2,103
% Growth H1 2017/H1 2016	10%		% Growth Q2 2017/Q2 2016	33%		
New Customers	53,881	56,929		31,671	28,137	104,432
% Growth (Reduction) H1 2017/H1 2016	(5%)		% Growth Q2 2017/Q2 2016	13%		
AUAC	836	1,328		787	1,347	1,195
% Reduction H1 2017/H1 2016	37%		% Reduction Q2 2017/Q2 2016	42%		

- Consistent growth in active customers
- Efficient Marketing spend focused on higher value customer set





# **Key Business Model Strengths**

- Self-developed, user friendly and robust trading platform based on proprietary technology
- Analytics driven, returns focused customer acquisition model driven by "Marketing Machine" and affiliate programme
- ₱ Strong international brand awareness driven by successful marketing initiatives and developing international footprint
- User protection founding principle that customers cannot lose more than their account balance
- ₱ Enhanced customer support and retention initiatives achieved through significant investment in personnel and processes
- Strong regulatory compliance procedures achieved through significant investment in personnel and processes
- Effective, comprehensive risk management capabilities— achieved through significant investment in personnel and processes
- Attractive financial profile generated by significant operational flexibility and ongoing focus on shareholder returns

Highly differentiated from our peers with significant competitive advantages





# **Strong Product Platform**

### **CFD** Financial Instruments

2,100 CFD financial instruments

# Stocks Commodities Plus500 Product Portfolio FOREX

**Options** 

### Platform and Devices

Supporting 32 languages in more than 50 countries



### **Unified Trading Platform**

Retail customers only

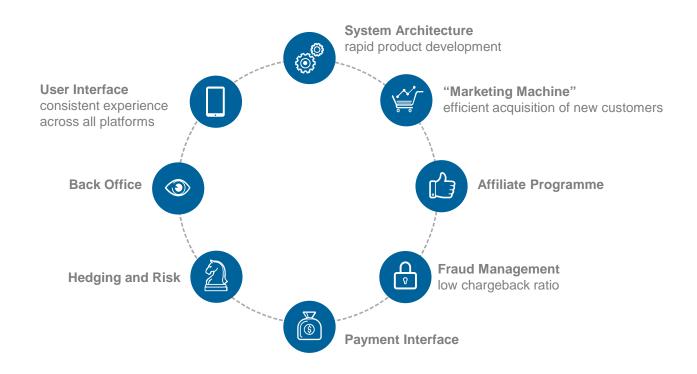






# **Market Leading Technology**

Proprietary technology, developed in-house: key differentiator and flexible advantage





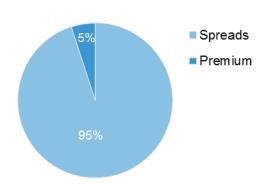


# Flexible Business Model

### Revenue Split

- Dealing Spreads Difference between the buy price and the sell price of a CFD
- Overnight Premiums
   Charges on open customer positions held overnight
- Market Positions Principal gains (offset by losses) on customers' trading positions

### Revenues FY 2016



- Trade Time Median trade time is less than 1 hour
- Market PL Revenues from Market PL was nil in both FY 2016 and in FY 2015

# International Footprint Plus500UK FCA UK-regulated Plus500CY Plus500 Ltd. Plus500IL subsidiary Plus500AU Australian regulated subsidiary (ASIC), **New Zealand** Regulated (FMA) South Africa Regulated (FSB)

Quality of Earnings Vast majority of revenues from regulated markets





# Plus500 is an attractive proposition to retail customers

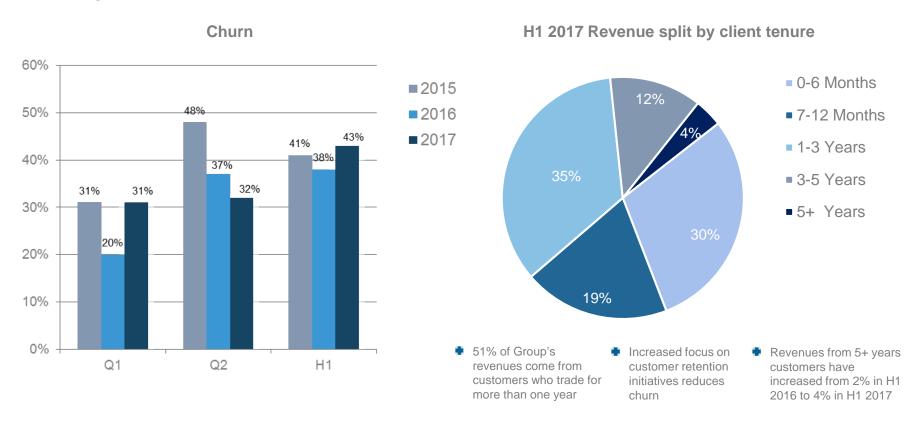
	Plus 500	Peer Company A	Peer Company B
Product portfolio	CFDs only (2,100 instruments, 6 asset classes)	CFD, Spread betting, Binary Options	CFD, Spread betting, Binary Options
Technology platform	-Unified simple platform -Core expertise -Marketing Machine	Multi-layer platform with third-party (Metatrader) software	Combination of third-party (Metatrader) and proprietary software
UX (User experience)*	iOS App:	**** ****	***
User friendliness	<ul><li>✓ Unlimited Demo</li><li>✓ Negative balance protection for all customers</li></ul>	<ul><li>Limited Demo</li><li>Negative balance allowed for majority of accounts</li></ul>	<ul> <li>✓ Unlimited Demo</li> <li>➤ Negative balance allowed for majority of accounts</li> </ul>
Pricing	✓ No commission, including shares	Do charge commission on shares	Do charge commission on shares
Other	-Diversified brand across Europe -Strong online presence	-Strong brand in UK & APAC (71%) -Strong offline presence	-Strong brand in UK & APAC & Canada (70%) -Strong offline presence

\*Source: Google Play Store (29 July 2017); AppAnnie.com (iPad; Finance; 29 July 2017)





# **Analysis of customer churn**



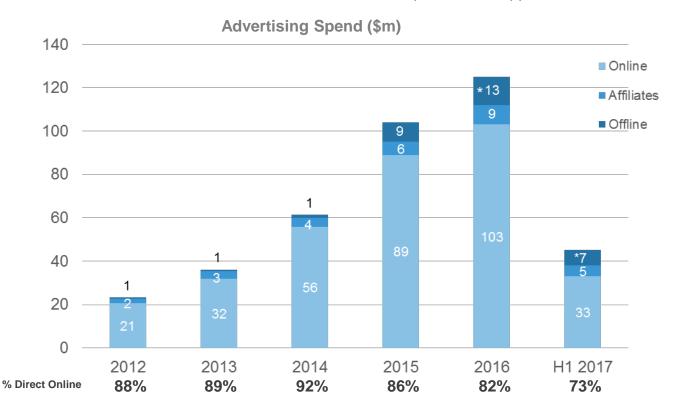
Churn – [(Active customers (T) + New customers (T+1)) - Active customers (T+1)]/ Active customers (T)





# Efficient and flexible investment in marketing

Focus remains online but Plus500 will continue to explore offline opportunities



### **Online**

- Advertising
- Search engines
- Referrals

### Offline

- Mass Media (TV, print, radio)
- Word of Mouth
- Sport Sponsorship

<sup>\*</sup> Majority is Atletico Madrid sponsorship deal





# Mobile – a key growth driver

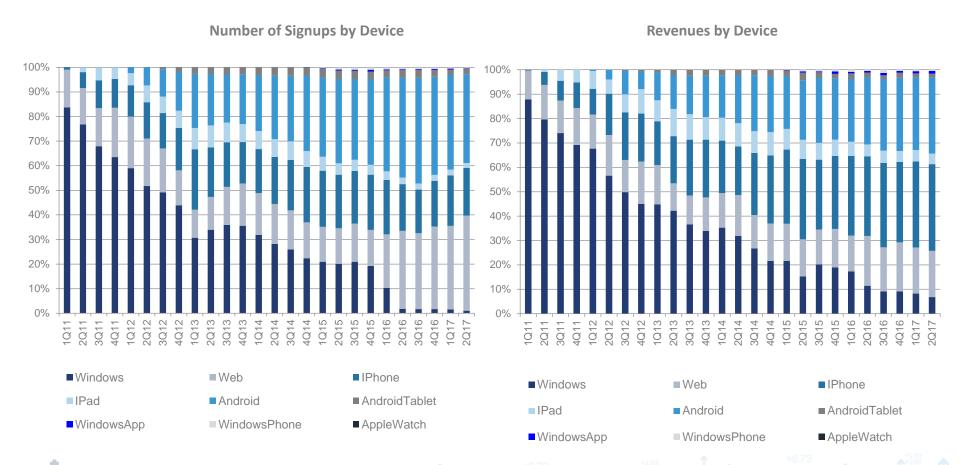
- Key driver of market growth and key acquisition channel for Plus500
- Mobile is a key access point for retail customers
- GUI developed for mobile, consistent with all platforms
- Features and portfolio of instruments on par with PC version
- Successfully launched a dedicated app for iOS 10, Android, Surface tablets, Windows Phone, and Apple Watch
- Majority of revenues and new sign ups from mobile

Market leading mobile proposition with mobile representing 74% of revenues





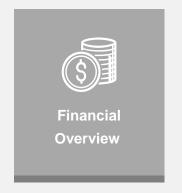
# Mobile revenues and sign ups by device

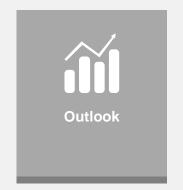








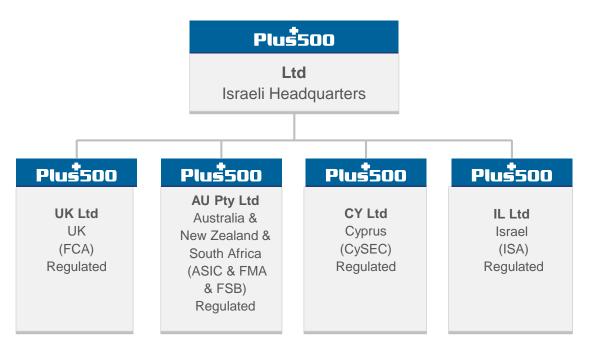








# **Regulatory framework**



- All EEA customers facilitated via "passporting mechanism"
- Regulatory weight increasing, although this increases barriers to enter the market

### **Best Practice Approach**

- Negative balance protection
- Enhanced appropriateness test
- No advice self execution venue
- No bonuses for majority of business
- Default leverage of 50
- No Binary Options
- No call center
- Initial & maintenance margins
- Client money kept in segregated accounts
- Customers must self-certify their understanding of the risks
- Financial promotions carries appropriate risk warnings





# Plus500 compliance landscape

- Plus500 welcomes a co-ordinated approach by regulators and consistent conduct rules across all European jurisdictions:
  - The FCA and ESMA conclusions are expected to create a more cohesive approach to protect customers from poor industry practices
  - Customer balance protection remains a core principle of Plus500's business model and has been since inception
  - Plus500 was already compliant with the outcomes of BaFin's recent consultation
- Plus500 has made the adjustments required to comply with all recent regulatory changes, including:
  - Plus500 is now compliant with the outcomes of AMF's recent consultation
  - Plus500 has fully implemented the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission ("CySEC") consultation conclusions (around leverage, bonuses, withdrawals and balance protection) and continues to trade well in this jurisdiction





# Commitment to regulatory, compliance and risk best practice

- Continuing focus on and investment in best practice reflected in the Company's regulatory culture
- Global compliance and support teams consists of c.170 permanent staff
- Local Compliance teams with significant experience and skills
- Enhanced appropriateness test
- Maintaining open dialog with the regulators
- No regulatory restrictions in any of the Group's regulated markets
- Board and governance changes:
  - Appointment of Penelope Judd as chairman of the Board ex UKLA, UBS and Nomura Head of Compliance
  - ---- Appointment of Steve Baldwin as a Non-Executive Director





# Recent and ongoing regulatory consultations

### **ESMA**

June 2017 statement on product intervention concerning CFDs; outcome expected in 2018

### FSMA (Belgium)

- New regulation
- Plus500 already compliant

### CySEC (Cyprus)

- Enhancing the conduct of business regime
- Plus500 has already adopted and implemented the new set of rules with regards to:
  - Leverage
  - Bonuses
  - Withdrawals
  - Balance protection

### FCA (UK)

- Enhancing the conduct of business regime
- Outcome of Consultation paper delayed until 2018 to coincide with ESMA consultation

### **BaFiN (Germany)**

- New regulation
- Plus500 already compliant and has implemented best practice since its foundation

### AMF (France)

- New marketing guidelines issued
- Plus500 already compliant and offers limited risk account





# Regulation – current situation and potential impact

Regulator focus	Plus500 compliance	Potential impact
Negative balance protection	$\sqrt{}$	Limited
Market P&L	$\sqrt{}$	Limited
Reduced leverage ratios	Industry standard	Subject to ESMA / FCA
No high pressure sales	$\sqrt{}$	None
No binary options	$\sqrt{}$	None
No bonuses	Already applied to vast majority of customer base	Limited

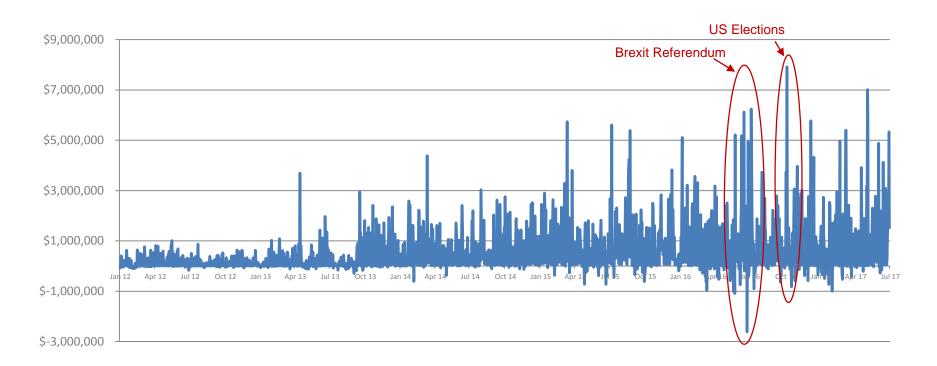
<sup>√</sup> Already applied





# Minimising downside risk: 87% profitable trading days in H1 2017

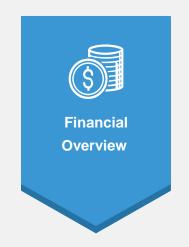
Strong track record in managing market risk demonstrated by looking at number of profitable trading days. In H1 2017 the Group made a profit on over 87% of the trading days with remaining 13% of trading days showing relatively immaterial losses.

















# **Income Statement**

Key Financial Indicators – Income Statement (\$'000):

	H1 2017	H1 2016	H1 17/H1 16 Growth	FY 2016
Trading income (net)	188,417	158,772	19%	327,927
Selling and marketing expenses	61,227	91,488	-33%	157,277
Administrative and general expenses	8,997	8,355	8%	20,132
EBITDA	118,535	59,123	100%	150,997
EBITDA margin	63%	37%	70%	46%
Financing expenses (income) - net	1,864	420	344%	(1,464)
Tax expense	25,620	14,009	83%	34,740
Net profit	90,709	44,500	104%	117,242

- Record H1 revenues driven by an increased level of active customers and new and ongoing high value customers using Plus500's trading platform
- Increased level of marketing efficiency – spending decrease of 40%
- Strong increase in EBITDA margins in H1 (H1 63% vs. H1 37%)





# Lean cost structure

Key Financial Indicators: (\$'000):

	H1 2017	H1 2016	H117/H116 Growth	FY 2016
Advertising and marketing costs	45,066	75,616	-40%	124,848
Processing costs	6,297	7,780	-19%	14,323
Salaries	11,456	8,024	43%	19,159
IT and data feeds costs	2,807	2,315	21%	4,451
Legal, professional and regulatory fees	1,367	2,015	-32%	5,486
Office expenses	1,738	1,377	26%	2,754
Other costs	1,493	2,716	-45%	6,388
Total costs	70,224	99,843	-30%	177,409

Healthy and efficient cost base – "Advertising and marketing costs" and "Processing costs" represent 73% of total H1 2017 expenses





# **Balance sheet remains strong**

Key Financial Indicators – Balance Sheet: (\$'000):

	H1 2017	H1 2016	H1 17/H1 16 Growth	FY 2016
Cash and cash equivalents	220,651	96,176	129%	136,518
Other Current Assets	25,243	17,966	41%	14,193
Total Current Assets	245,894	114,142	115%	150,711
Non Current Assets	4,414	3,441	28%	3,997
Total Assets	250,308	117,583	113%	154,708
Current Liabilities	101,161	27,027	274%	18,708
Non Current Liabilities	638	598	7%	-
Total Liabilities	101,799	27,625	269%	18,708
Equity	148,509	89,958	65%	136,000

- Record level of cash balance. Stated before 2016 final dividend payment of \$75m paid on 3 July 2017
- Cash balances held on deposit at Barclays Plc, Credit Suisse and Bank Leumi
- Client money held in segregated accounts with Barclays, Credit Suisse and Commonwealth





# Strong cash generation funds attractive dividend

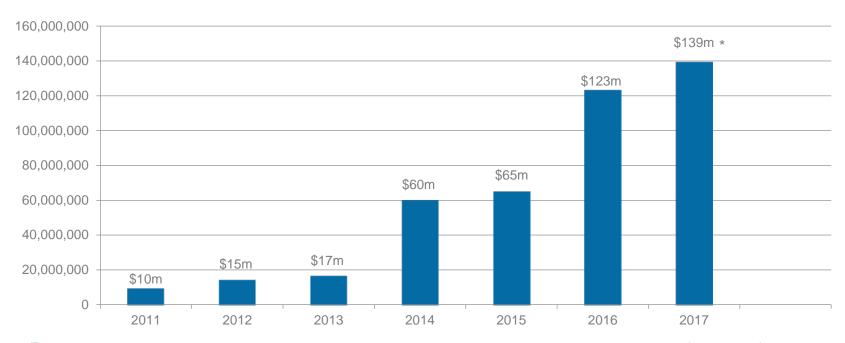
Key Financial Indicators – Cash Flow: (\$,000):

	H1 2017	H1 2016	H1 16/H1 17 Growth	FY 2016
Operating activities: Cash generated from operations	115,029	56,298	104%	153,455
Income tax paid - net	(30,474)	(19,502)	56%	(44,548)
Net cash provided by operating activities	84,555	36,796	130%	108,907
Net cash used in investing activities	(476)	(1,388)	-66%	(2,205)
Financing activities:  Dividend Paid Acquisition of the Company's shares by the Company	(3,200)	(96,564) -		(123,264)
Net cash used in financing activities	(3,200)	(96,564)	-97%	(123,264)
Exchange gains (losses) on cash and cash equivalents	3,251	796	308%	(3,454)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Period	220,611	96,137	129%	136,481

- Limited capex needs
- Low capital requirements
- High cash conversion available to pay dividend and purchase buy back shares



## Dividend and share buy back payouts (2017 proposed to date)

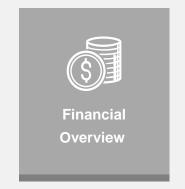


- An interim payout (60% of H1 2017 net profit) comprised of two equal components: 50% as a cash payment (\$27.21m or \$0.2387 per share) and 50% (\$27.21m) being used to buy back shares
- Interim dividend \$27.2m ex dividend date 7 September 2017; Record date 8 September 2017; Payment date 23 November
- \* Buy back programmes:
  - On 2 June 2017 announced a share buy back programme to purchase up to \$10m shares
  - On 4 August 2017 announced an additional share buy back programme to purchase up to \$27.21m shares. The new programme will run from 7 August 2017 to 1 February 2018















# Outlook - confident of another successful year

- Strong start to Q3 2017 with promising new customers, active customers, revenues and EBITDA margin performance
- Focus on organic growth through continuing investment, innovation and brand building
- Expect to broaden footprint and continue to diversify revenues including adding further new licences
- We will make the necessary changes to comply with any regulatory changes
- ♣ The Board's expectations are for strong growth in 2017 currently on track to significantly exceed market expectations for the year as a whole
- ♣ The Board believes that the Company will ride out this period of uncertainty and emerge a stronger business due to Plus500's:
  - strong financial position
  - geographically well diversified revenues
  - advanced trading platform
  - flexible and low cost business model





# **Investment Summary**

- Business model significantly differentiated from major peers
- Market leading in use of innovative technology, use of mobile, and marketing techniques
- Low cost, low risk and low capital intensive financial model
- Highly cash generative robust balance sheet and cash conversion
- Focus on regulatory framework and holding multiple licenses
- Strong organic growth prospects on back of growing international brand and footprint
- Focus on shareholder returns through dividend policy and / or share buy backs



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