# IPO and Direct Listing Planning Checklist

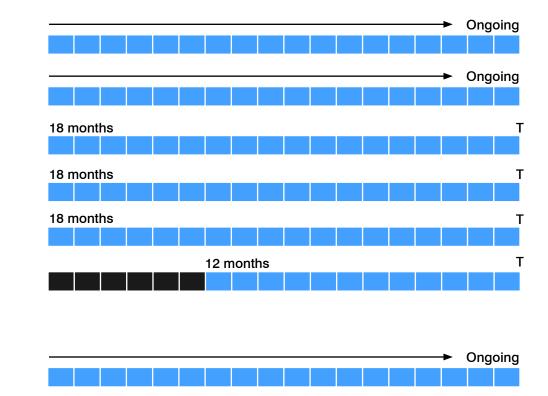


Responsible Parties Task Timeline (from 18 months prior to IPO/Direct listing organizational meeting)<sup>1</sup>

# **Corporate Governance**

### Board Composition and Committee Matters

Directors and officers (D&O)	• CC	Prepare and distribute questionnaires to existing and new directors and
questionnaires	Company Legal	officers.
D&O background checks	Company	Obtain background checks on new directors and officers.
Board composition	CC     Company Legal	Prepare Board composition matrix, including desired functional areas and analysis of public-company independence and composition requirements.
		Discuss with investor directors plans with respect to service on Board or its committees following offering.
	Company	Consider hiring a Board recruitment firm to assist with sourcing director candidates.
Board committees	• CC	Discuss formation of Board committees in advance of public listing.
	Company Legal	Consider committee composition with respect to current Board members and review of new director candidates.
		Prepare draft Board committee charters.
Director orientation	Company Legal	Develop onboarding policies and procedures for new directors, including background checks.



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

# Responsible Parties

# **Corporate Governance**

# Company Policies

□ Draft and adopt corporate policies	<ul> <li>CC</li> <li>Company</li> <li>Company Legal</li> </ul>	Review existing and/or draft corporate policies. Implement and train on corporate policies. Focus primarily on policies that have current application/value as it relates to the current operations of the company.  • Anti-money-laundering policy (recommended for companies that have payment processing or fintech functions).  • Code of business conduct and ethics.  • Corporate communications policy.  • Corporate governance guidelines (only need this post-IPO).  • Employee handbook.  • Equity grant guidelines (only need this post-IPO).  • Export controls policy (recommended for companies that sell outside of the United States).  • FCPA/anti-bribery policy (recommended for companies with foreign operations).  • Indemnification agreement.  • Insider trading policy (recommend adopting pre-offering for companies with active secondary markets).  • Investment policy.  • Related-party transaction policy.  • Signature authority policy/matrix.  • Social media policy.  • Whistleblower policy.
--------------------------------------	--	--

Task



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

### $\checkmark$

### Responsible Parties

# **Corporate Governance**

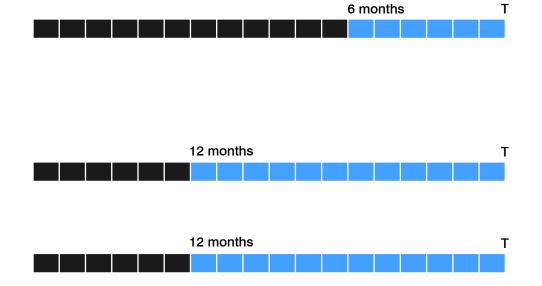
# Other Governance

Environmental, social and	•	CC	Discuss current ESG landscape and best practices, including principles and
governance (ESG)	•	Company	goals and how those will play into transition into being a public company.
	•	Company Legal	Consider hiring internal ESG function.
			Engage ESG consultant to assist in developing an ESG framework.

Task

# Pre-IPO Stock/Control Issues

Review existing venture financing documents	<ul><li>CC</li><li>Company</li><li>Company Legal</li></ul>	Confirm applicability of qualified IPO definition (including with respect to a direct listing) and auto termination provision of existing venture financing documents.  Evaluate anti-dilution provisions (if applicable).
Founder control mechanisms	• CC	Review and prepare presentation on founder control mechanisms. Timing of
	Company     Company Legal	implementation to be determined but can occur up until the time of the public listing.

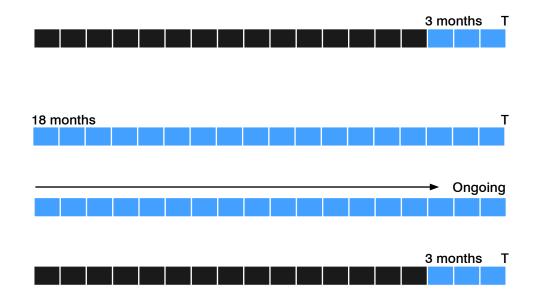


CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

Responsible Parties	Task	Timeline (from 18 months prior to IPO/Direct listing organizational meeting)¹
ricopondible railio	Idolt	Timolino (nom to montrio phor to in o/birott noting organizational motting)

# Compensation/HR

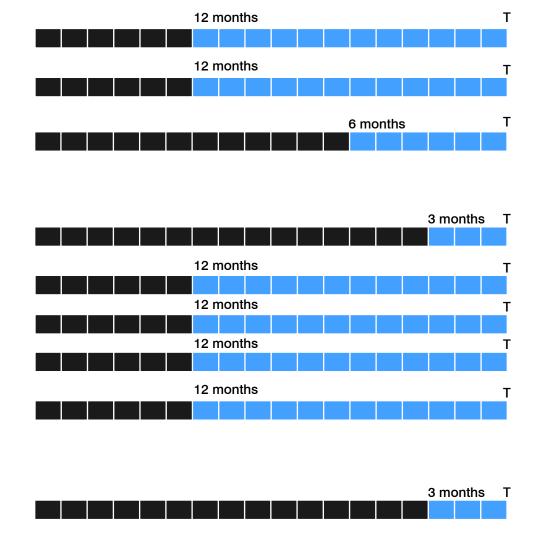
Compensation strategy	• CC	Engage compensation consultant to assist in benchmarking and setting
	Company HR	compensation strategy, including non-employee director compensation.
	Company Legal	Discuss potential modifications to compensation practices, including equity compensation (i.e., change from options to RSUs, RSU vesting, etc.).
Management and personnel review	Company	Review current management team and legal, finance, FP&A and accounting personnel to determine whether additional staff is necessary to support being publicly listed.
Rule 701 disclosure packet, if applicable	<ul><li>CC</li><li>Company Finance</li><li>Company Legal</li></ul>	Prepare or review and revise current Rule 701 disclosure packet.
Review employment arrangements/offer letters	CC     Company Legal	Review current employment agreements and offer letters and current change in control terms for executives and directors and determine whether agreements will need to be amended prior to offering.



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

# **Accounting/Finance**

Audit firm	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Ensure you have audit firm and team that are suitable for public company reporting. Consider implications for required audit partner rotation.
PCAOB standards	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Ensure the Company is able to meet the more rigorous requirements of an audit performed under PCAOB standards that will be required in connection with the listing.
Key metrics	Company Finance	Determine key metrics to be disclosed to investors. Evaluate existing key metrics that are presented to the Board and/or made available broadly within the company. Establish tracking and control mechanisms that can accurately validate these key metrics – e.g., get them off spreadsheets, minimize human involvement.
Financial statements <sup>2</sup>	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Prepare annual and quarterly financial statements.  Audit and review of annual and quarterly historical financial statements.
Financial models	Company Finance	Create multi-year financial model and track performance against model.
Accounting system updates	Company Finance	Update accounting systems (e.g., ERP), as necessary.
Review internal controls <sup>3</sup>	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Determine adequacy of, and necessary improvements to, Company's internal controls and begin planning for SOX compliance.
Acquired company financial statements	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>CC</li><li>Company Finance</li><li>Company Legal</li></ul>	Identify material acquisitions that require disclosure of acquired company's financial statements pursuant to Rule 3-05 of Regulation S-X.  For more information, visit our article.
Outstanding preferred stock and warrants	<ul><li>Auditors</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Evaluate proper accounting treatment for outstanding preferred stock and warrants.



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

In S-1 registration statement, there will be at least two years (three years if not an emerging growth company (EGC)) of audited financial statements and typically at least eight quarters of SAS 100 reviewed quarterly information.

Company will be required to have its internal controls audited after it ceases to qualify as an EGC and qualifies as a "large accelerated filer" or "accelerated filer" (including if it ceases to be an EGC because it qualifies as a large accelerated filer due to having a public float in excess of \$700 million).

<b>✓</b>		Responsible Parties	Task
	Evaluate cheap stock issues	Auditors	Discuss best practices for 409A valuations. Evaluate existing 409A valuations.
		• CC	Determine the potential for any cheap stock issues and discuss best practices
		Company Finance	for financial reporting of stock-based compensation expense. Consider need
		Company Legal	for preemptive retrospective compensation charges.
	SEC preclearance of	Auditors	Identify any accounting issues requiring SEC preclearance.
	accounting matters	• CC	Prepare SEC preclearance letter.
		Company Finance	
		Company Legal	

# Timeline (from 18 months prior to IPO/Direct listing organizational meeting)¹ 12 months T 6 months T

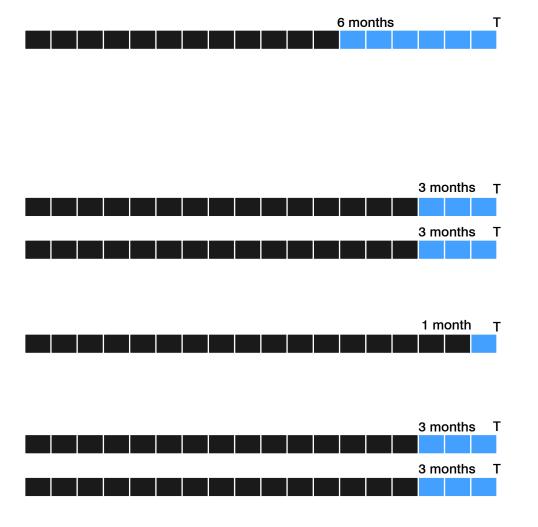
CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

### Task

Responsible Parties

# **Communication and Marketing**

0	Communication and warketing			
	Investor education	Company Finance     Investor Relations	Design and implement a marketing plan and investor education programs, including engaging in non-deal roadshow that can be done pre-organizational meeting.  Consider engaging in non-deal roadshow; gather investor feedback to refine story.  Consider hiring external investor relations consultant.  Develop relationships with investment banks and sell-side analysts.	
	Mock earnings calls	Company Finance     Company Legal	Hold mock earnings calls and prepare mock earnings releases.	
	Offering communications processes	CC     Company	Establish processes with internal and external legal and communication groups for preparation and dissemination of press releases and other communications in light of gun-jumping restrictions and Regulation FD compliance.  Present to management team and Board on Regulation FD and gun jumping.	
	Website review	CC     Company Legal	Review of Company website for mentions of, amongst other things, potential offering, forward-looking statements and projections, and other problematic statements.  Draft website memo and discuss removal of items as necessary.	
	Customer case studies	Company	Prepare customer case studies for S-1 registration statement and other offering materials.	
	Industry data	<ul><li>CC</li><li>Company</li><li>Company Legal</li></ul>	Begin compiling third-party statistical data for industry size for S-1 registration statement and other offering materials.	



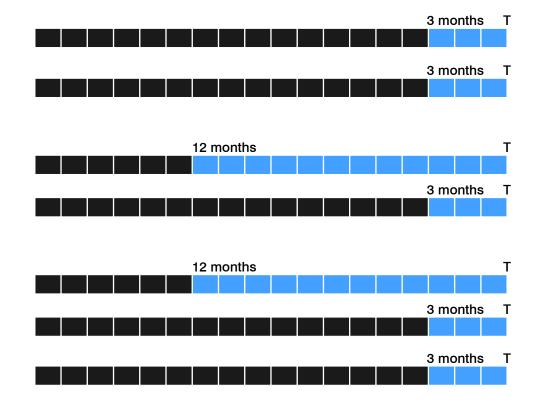
CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

### Responsible Parties

# Diligence

<b>.</b>			
Diligence preparation	• CC	Provide sample IPO due diligence request list and due diligence call agendas.	
	Company Legal	Hold mock due diligence call.	
IP portfolio and protection	• CC	Review IP portfolio and confirm status of all IP ownership.	
	Company		
	Company Legal		
Regulatory review	Company Legal	Work with regulatory counsel to determine any long-pole issues that may affect transaction process or ability to be a publicly traded company.	
Data room preparation	• CC	Populate and organize data room. Data room to be organized based on due	
	Company Finance	diligence request list provided by CC.	
	Company Legal		
Related-party transactions	Company Legal	Create a tracking spreadsheet of related-party transactions in prior three fiscal years.	
Identify material agreements	• CC	Identify current agreements material to the Company's business, which may	
	Company Legal	need to be publicly filed with the S-1 registration statement.	
Review legal proceedings	• CC	Review open legal matters to determine necessary disclosures for the S-1	
and related matters	Company Legal	registration statement.	

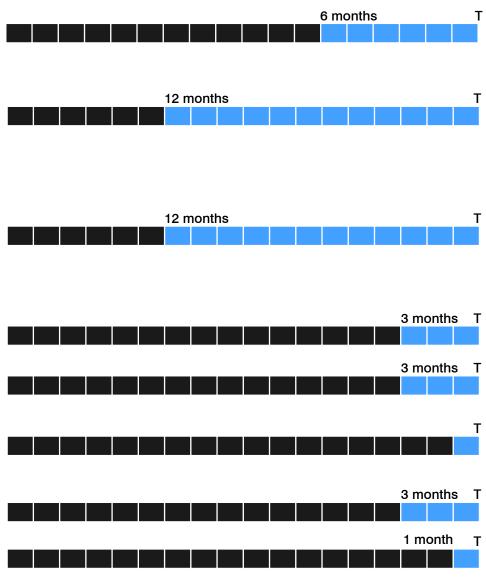
Task



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

# **Other Transaction Preparation**

 •			
Transaction structure	<ul><li>CC</li><li>Company Finance</li></ul>	Consider transaction structure (traditional IPO versus direct listing).	
	. ,		
	Company Legal		
Public-ready capital structure	• CC	Company to consider capital needs in lead-up to offering, including possible	
	Company Finance	additional private equity financing rounds.	
	Company Legal	Review charter for any applicable conversion provisions.	
		If a direct listing, consider whether to waive transfer restrictions to allow for a	
		secondary trading market.	
Reserve trading symbol	• CC	Identify desired symbol(s).	
	Company	Reserve symbol(s).	
		Ticker can be reserved for two years prior to renewal on both NYSE and Nasdag.	
EGC status	• CC	Confirm EGC status. <sup>4</sup>	
EGC status		Confirm EGC status.	
	Company	Discuss benefits and transition periods applicable to EGCs.	
Select IPO legal counsel	Company Finance	Select legal counsel, including underwriters'/advisors' counsel.	
	Company Legal		
Select underwriters/financial	Company	Prepare and solicit request for proposal (RFP) from investment banks.	
advisors		Hold investment banker bake-off and meet with and review possible	
		underwriters or financial advisors.	
Determine financial printer	Company Finance	Solicit proposals from and negotiate agreements with financial printer and data	
and data room provider	Company Legal	room providers.	
Conduct Investment	• CC	Analyze applicability of Investment Company Act and discuss available	
Company Act analysis	Company Finance	exemptions.	



CC	Company counsel	Company Finance	Finance department of issuer entity
Company	Issue entity	Company HR	Human Resources department of issuer entity
Company Legal	Legal department of issuer entity	Auditors	Audit firm

<sup>4</sup> Most issuers with less than \$1.07 billion of revenue in their most recently ended fiscal year qualify as EGCs, which permits them to benefit from certain reduced reporting requirements.