Upland Software, Inc. Form 10-K March 15, 2019

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES

EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

OR

" TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 001-36720

Upland Software, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 27-2992077

(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization) Identification Number)

401 Congress Ave., Suite 1850

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 960-1010

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class Name of each exchange on which registered

Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share The Nasdaq Global Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes "No x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes "No x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes x No "

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

x

Non-accelerated filer "Smaller reporting company"

Emerging growth company x

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes "No x

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$568 million based upon the closing price of \$34.37 of such common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on June 29, 2018 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter). Shares of common stock held as of June 29, 2018 by each director and executive officer of the registrant, as well as shares held by each holder of 10% of the common stock known to the registrant, have been excluded for purposes of the foregoing calculation. This determination of affiliate status is not a conclusive determination for other purposes.

As of March 1, 2019, 21,494,738 shares of the registrant's Common Stock were outstanding.

Documents incorporated by reference:

Certain portions, as expressly described in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders, to be filed not later than 120 days after the end of the year covered by this Annual Report, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report where indicated.

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PART I

Special Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

Forward-looking statements generally relate to future events or our future financial or operating performance.

Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "anticipate," "believe," "may,"

"will," "continue," "seek," "estimate," "intend," "hope," "predict," "could," "should," "would," "project," "plan," "expect" or plural of these words or similar expressions, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. These

forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the following:

our financial performance and our ability to achieve or sustain profitability or predict future results;

our plans regarding future acquisitions and our ability to consummate and integrate acquisitions;

our ability to obtain financing in the future on acceptable terms or at all;

our expectations with respect to revenue, cost of revenue and operating expenses in future periods;

our ability to attract and retain customers;

our ability to successfully enter new markets and manage our international expansion;

our ability to comply with privacy laws and regulations;

our ability to deliver high-quality customer service;

the growth of demand for enterprise work management applications;

our plans regarding, and our ability to effectively manage, our growth;

maintaining our senior management team and key personnel;

our ability to maintain and expand our direct sales organization;

the performance of our resellers;

our ability to adapt to changing market conditions and competition;

our ability to adapt to technological change and continue to innovate;

economic and financial conditions;

our ability to integrate our applications with other software applications;

maintaining and expanding our relationships with third parties;

costs associated with defending intellectual property infringement and other claims;

our ability to maintain, protect and enhance our brand and intellectual property;

our expectations with regard to trends, such as seasonality, which affect our business;

our expectations with regard to revenue from perpetual licenses and professional services;

our beliefs regarding the sufficient duration of our patents;

our plans with respect to foreign currency exchange risk and inflation;

our beliefs regarding how our applications benefit customers and what our competitive strengths are; and

other risk factors included under "Risk Factors" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

the operation and reliability of our third-party data centers; and

our expectations as to the payment of dividends;

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. We have based the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K primarily on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects. The outcome of the events described in these forward-looking statements is subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors, including those described in the section titled "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all risks and uncertainties that could have an impact on the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We cannot assure you that the results, events, and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements will be achieved or occur, and actual results, events, or circumstances could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this Annual Report on Form 10-K relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements made in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K or to reflect new information or the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions, or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures, or investments we may make. All references to "Upland," "we," "us" or "our" mean Upland Software, Inc.

Item 1. Business

Upland provides cloud-based enterprise work management software that enables organizations to plan, manage and execute projects and work. Our software applications address enterprise work challenges in the following enterprise solution categories:

Customer Experience Management. Upland Customer Experience Management, or CXM, solutions enable organizations to manage customer relationships across multiple channels - including email, short message service, or SMS, multimedia messaging service, or MMS, web, social, and mobile apps. Upland products within this solution suite include Upland Mobile Messaging, Rant & Rave, Adestra, and RightAnswers.

Sales Enablement. Upland Sales Enablement solutions enable sales organizations to automate delivery of processes, sales activities, content, systems, and metrics at multiple stages of the sales process. Upland products within this solution suite include Qvidian, RO Innovation, and LeadLander.

Professional Services Automation. Upland Professional Services Automation, or PSA, solutions enable service organizations to manage professional services delivery and related functions. Upland products within this solution suite include Tenrox, RightAnswers, FileBound, RO Innovation, and Qvidian.

Project and Financial Management. Upland Project and Financial Management solutions enable enterprises to manage project portfolios and track, analyze and manage information technology ("IT"), cloud, and telecom spending. Upland products within this solution suite include PowerSteering, Eclipse PPM, RightAnswers, and ComSci.

Enterprise Knowledge Management. Upland Enterprise Knowledge Management, or KM, solutions enable knowledge-sharing across different departments within an enterprise. Upland products within this solution suite include RightAnswers, Tenrox, and PowerSteering.

Secure Document Services. Upland Secure Document Services solutions enable enterprises to manage and automate document intensive business processes with data security through scan and fax platforms, data monitoring and breach prevention capabilities, and the automated routing of content to its final destination. Upland products within this solution suite include AccuRoute, FileBound, and InterFAX.

Document Lifecycle Automation. Upland Document Lifecycle solutions enable users to digitize, organize, automate, integrate, analyze and optimize high volume processes. Upland products within this solution suite include AccuRoute, FileBound, Qvidian, and RO Innovation.

Our customers currently use our applications in the following functional areas:

Project Management. Business leaders and Project Management Offices, or PMOs, use our applications to optimize project portfolios, balance capacity against demand, improve financial-based decision making, align execution of projects to strategy across large organizations, and manage the entire project delivery lifecycle. Our applications deliver value to project management across a variety of use cases including continuous improvement, enterprise IT, new product development, and services departments along with industry depth in higher education, public sector, and healthcare IT.

Information Technology. IT departments use our applications to manage a variety of IT activities and resources across the enterprise. Our applications help information technology departments ensure they are delivering against the objectives of the business by helping them select and prioritize the right investments, gain greater control of resource demand and allocation, and track and report benefit realization. Our applications enable executives to gain better insight into IT spending to help prevent cost overruns and understand the nature of consumption.

Business Operations. Different functional departments use our applications to streamline operations and accelerate business performance across their value chain. Upland solutions in this area range from supply chain collaboration and factory management, back office document and vendor management, to applications that improve sales responsiveness.

Sales and Marketing. Sales and marketing teams employ our applications to drive growth through deeper customer engagement, reduced sales cycle times, and overall improved collaboration between sales, marketing, and other customer-facing functions. We offer applications that help organizations to build their online and mobile brand presence, engage their target audiences across multiple communications channels, collaborate on the creation and publication of content, and gain increased control over marketing workflows, activities, and budgets.

Call Center. Customer service and support environments use our applications to enable agents to resolve issues and to engage customers. We offer applications that improve customer experience and reduce call volume and cycle times through customer self-service tools and Voice of Customer, or VoC, technology that captures customer sentiment in real-time. Upland also offers tools that improve call center agent productivity by providing more direct access to knowledge and to customer sentiment thereby improving both inbound call outcomes and proactive outbound success. Additional solutions help call center leadership to manage agent performance and measure real-time performance relative to call resolution and customer sentiment, improve performance through gamification, and gather agent feedback to keep employee engagement high.

Human Resources and Legal. Human resources, or HR, legal departments, and law firms use our applications to improve collaboration and operational control and streamline routine processes. We offer applications that automate document management and workflow including, contracts, records, and other documentation that require enhanced security and compliance requirements. Other applications support HR-specific workflows including onboarding, employee management, termination, HR support, and time and expense management.

Through a series of acquisitions and integrations, we have built a diverse family of software applications under the Upland brand that are delivered through seven enterprise solution suites, each of which addresses a specific enterprise work management need. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2017, our total revenue grew from \$98.0 million to \$149.9 million, representing a 53% period-over-period growth rate. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2017, our subscription and support revenue grew from \$85.5 million to \$136.6 million, representing a 60% period-over-period growth rate. See Note 12 Revenue Recognition, of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for more information regarding our revenue as it relates to domestic and foreign operations. To support continued growth, we intend to continue to pursue acquisitions within our core enterprise solution suites of complementary technologies and businesses. This will expand our customer base and market access, resulting in increased benefits of scale. Consistent with our growth strategy, we have made a total of 20 acquisitions in the 7 years ending December 31, 2018.

The operating platform that we use to transform acquired companies and maintain a consistently high level of operating performance is called UplandOne. This platform consists of six key areas:

High-Touch Customer Success Program. Customer success is a continuous journey based on open communication and establishing clear goals towards value realization and maximum customer success. To achieve this, we have institutionalized a set of unique customer commitments and deliverables we call the Upland Customer Success Program that includes onboarding and training, a dedicated customer success representative, upgraded success plans, quarterly virtual user conferences, periodic executive outreach and Net Promoter Score, or NPS, surveys, and an ongoing customer feedback loop.

Quality-Focused R&D. Our approach to R&D at Upland is straight-forward: prioritize customer need, leverage a metrics-driven agile approach with visibility and accountability, and deploy the most up-to-date development systems to ensure quality is built into every step of development.

Customer-Driven Innovation. Customer feedback is at the heart of the Upland customer experience. New features are added and prioritized in our product roadmaps, and then fine-tuned, based on direct customer input. Requests from our Premier Success Plan customers are given additional priority weighting for new features and minor issue resolution. Product feedback outlets include customer success account management, quarterly virtual user conferences, annual customer advisory boards, and Upland's online communities.

Expert Professional Services. Through our Professional Services organization, Upland is committed to delivering the most value from a customer's Upland investment in the shortest possible time. Once we engage on a project, we dedicate a team to the planning, configuration, integration, launch, administration and maintenance of the application. 24x7 Global Support. Upland Global support includes: prioritized issue escalation and resolution; online and phone support, 24/7/365; access to a community to share and discuss best practices, support tips, training materials, and custom reports; a knowledge-base with alerts, service recommendations, and troubleshooting content; unlimited case submissions and real-time case updates; and full support across the globe. For customers

that have more urgent support requirements, Upland Premier Success Plans provide enhanced response times and availability for the most severe support requests.

Enterprise Cloud Platform. Upland's products run on an enterprise-class cloud environment - delivering power, reliability, and flexibility. We utilize Amazon Web Services, or AWS, for all our cloud-based products and move acquired products to AWS in connection with our acquisition integration program. Upland's cloud technology gives customers the freedom from legacy applications without having to compromise security or scalability. Our applications are scalable and can support large deployments while maintaining required performance levels. Our operating results in a given period can fluctuate based on the mix of subscription and support, perpetual license, and professional services revenue. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, our subscription and support revenue accounted for 91%, 87% and 88% of total revenue, respectively. Historically, we have sold certain of our applications under perpetual licenses, which also are paid in advance. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, our perpetual license revenue accounted for 3%, 4% and 2% of total revenue, respectively. The support agreements related to our perpetual licenses are typically one-year in duration and entitle the customer to support and unspecified upgrades. The revenue related to such support agreements is included as part of our subscription and support revenue. Professional services revenue consists of fees related to implementation, data extraction, integration and configuration, and training on our applications. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, our professional services revenue accounted for 6%, 9% and 10% of total revenue, respectively. Our Competitive Strengths

We believe the following competitive strengths are keys to our success:

Large, diversified customer base. Our customer base is highly diverse and spans a broad array of industries, including financial services, retail, technology, manufacturing, legal, education, consumer goods, media, telecommunications, government, non-profit, food and beverage, healthcare and life sciences. We service customers of varying size, ranging from large global corporations and government agencies to small- and medium-sized businesses. We have over 9,000 customers, with no customer accounting for more than 3% of our revenue.

Diversified family of software solutions. We offer a family of cloud-based enterprise work management software solutions that addresses a broad range of enterprise needs. We believe this benefits our customers as compared to many of our cloud-based competitors who offer only a single point solution for a more limited and discrete need. Recurring revenue model with high visibility. We believe we have an attractive operating model due to the recurring nature of our subscription revenue, which results in greater visibility and predictability of future revenue and enhances our ability to effectively manage our business. In addition, the cloud-based nature of our model accommodates significant additional business volume with limited incremental costs, providing us with opportunities to improve our operating margins.

Proven M&A capability. We have a proven ability to successfully identify, acquire and integrate complementary businesses to grow our company, as evidenced by the 20 acquisitions we have completed since the beginning of 2012. We believe that our acquisition experience and strategy give us a competitive advantage in identifying additional opportunities to expand our family of software applications to better serve our customers.

Experienced, proven management team. Our management team has significant operating experience and previously occupied key leadership roles at both private and public companies. In addition, our management's extensive knowledge of the industry and experience in building businesses has enabled us to quickly establish a leading position within the enterprise software market.

Cloud-based delivery. We deliver our software applications and functionality primarily through the cloud, with no hardware or software installation required by our customers. This delivery model allows us to provide reliable, cost-effective applications to our customers, add subscribers with minimal incremental effort and deploy new functionality and upgrades quickly and efficiently. We

believe our cloud-based delivery model provides us with a competitive advantage over legacy processes and on-premise systems.

Commitment to customer success. We have a dedicated customer success organization whose mission is to drive adoption, value realization, retention, and loyalty across our customer base. Our focus on enabling our customers' success is a key reason our annual net dollar retention rate, as defined in "Item 7. - Management's Discussion and Analysis" herein, was 98% as of December 31, 2018. Our commitment to customer success has enabled us to expand our footprint within customer organizations and facilitate the ongoing adoption of our enterprise software applications. We utilize NPS methodology to track our progress and drive continuous improvement. Our Strategy for Growth

We believe the key elements of our strategy for growth are as follows:

Acquire complementary software businesses. We intend to pursue acquisitions of complementary technologies, products, and businesses to expand our product families and customer base, and to provide access to new markets and increased benefits of scale. Our experienced corporate development team continually monitors a pipeline of potential acquisition candidates, many of which are smaller in scale or address only limited enterprise challenges, which often operate outside the scope of some of our larger competitors. We believe that our acquisition experience and strategy give us a competitive advantage in identifying additional opportunities to expand our family of cloud-based applications to better serve our customers. We intend to prioritize acquisitions within the solution categories we currently offer.

Increase sales to existing customers. We believe there is a significant opportunity to expand the adoption of our applications within our existing customer organizations, particularly within divisions or departments that have not previously used our applications. We also intend to cross-sell additional applications to our existing customers, as very few of our customers currently use more than one of our applications. In addition, we intend to add new applications to our family of applications that will address additional functions within the enterprise spectrum. We believe these initiatives will significantly increase the value of our platform to our customers, further strengthen our competitive position, and drive increased adoption of multiple applications by our customers.

Add new customers. We maintain direct sales and marketing capabilities to further grow our customer base. We also maintain indirect sales channels through alliances with strategic partners that can leverage our applications with their complementary services and technologies. In addition, we continue to expand the range of integrations between our software and third-party applications and platforms, which we believe make our applications more attractive to a broader audience of potential customers.

Expand globally. We believe there is an opportunity to grow sales of our applications globally. During the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, approximately 22%, 18%, and 16%, respectively, of our revenue was derived from sales outside the United States. Over the next several years, we plan to continue to evaluate growth opportunities outside the United States through selective acquisitions, the hiring of additional sales personnel, and entering into strategic partnerships.

Improve and enhance applications. We intend to continue to invest in research and development and work closely with our customers to identify and improve new applications, features and functionalities that address customer requirements across the enterprise spectrum. We also intend to continue to expand the breadth of our applications with additional analytics, third-party integrations, and social and mobile capabilities to meet the evolving needs of today's knowledge workers.

Customers

We service customers ranging from large global corporations and government agencies to small- and medium-sized businesses. Our customers operate in a wide variety of industries, including financial services, retail, technology, manufacturing, legal, education, consumer goods, media, telecommunications, government,

non-profit, food and beverage, healthcare and life sciences, chemicals, and travel and hospitality. For the year ended December 31, 2018 approximately 80% of our recurring revenue was generated from what we consider to be major accounts, those customers with contracted annual recurring revenue of \$25,000 or more. No customer represented more than 3% of our revenue for the year ended December 31, 2018. Sales

We sell primarily through a direct sales organization comprised of inside sales and field sales personnel. In addition to our direct sales organization, we have an indirect sales organization that sells to distributors and value-added resellers. We employ a land-and-expand go-to-market strategy. After we demonstrate the value of an initial application to a customer, our sales and account management teams work to expand the adoption of that initial application across the customer, and cross-sell additional applications to address other enterprise work management needs of the customer. Our customer success organization supports our direct sales efforts by managing the post-sale customer lifecycle. Our subscription agreements are typically sold either on a per-seat basis or on a minimum contracted volume basis with overage fees billed in arrears, depending on the application being sold. Contract terms typically range from one to three years and are prepaid annually in advance.

Marketing

Our marketing activities are designed to build awareness of the Upland brand and the solutions we offer, generate thought leadership, and create demand, resulting in leads and opportunities for our sales organizations. We focus a significant portion of our marketing activities on our existing installed base of customers to drive expansion and cross-sell opportunities. Our marketing programs target decision makers and influencers who participate in a buying cycle, including the chief information officer, the chief marketing officer, the chief financial officer, the director of process excellence, and other key technology and business managers. Our principal marketing programs include: use of our website to provide information about us and our software applications, as well as educational opportunities for potential customers;

field marketing events for customers and prospective customers;

participation in, and sponsorship of, executive events, trade shows, and industry events;

our online virtual user conferences;

integrated digital marketing campaigns, including email, online advertising, blogs, and webinars;

public relations, analyst relations, and social media initiatives; and

sales representatives who respond to incoming leads to convert them into new sales opportunities.

Customer Success

Our customer success organization is structured to manage all aspects of our post-sale customer lifecycle. This organization consists of dedicated teams with a mission to drive adoption of our products, value realization, retention, and loyalty across our customer base. Our customer success organization has four core functional areas with strategic focus on customer relationship management:

Customer Care. Our customer care team assists customers throughout their lifecycle with the Upland family of applications by making service offerings available to all customers as part of their standard customer agreements, including webinars, virtual user conferences, and online community engagement.

Professional Services. Our professional services team is responsible for coordinating all activities relating to the implementation, transition, and on-boarding of new customers and assisting new customers with the addition of new applications to their accounts. Typical professional services engagements vary in length from a few weeks to several months depending on the size and scope of the engagement and are in addition to services provided under our standard customer agreement and are fee-

based. In addition, our project managers and consultants work closely with our customers to provide services that help customers maximize the utility of our applications.