ISSUER DIRECT CORP Form 10-K February 28, 2019 Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For The Year Ended: December 31, 2018

ISSUER DIRECT CORPORATION

(Name of small business issuer in its charter)

Delaware 1-10185 26-1331503

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

500 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite D, Morrisville, NC 27560 (Address of Principal Executive Office) (Zip Code)

(919) 481-4000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 \$0.001 per share NYSE American.

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

None

(Title of Class)

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

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

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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, 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 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.

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

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Emerging growth company

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

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

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2018, the last business day of the registrant's second fiscal quarter, was approximately \$61,726,026 based on the closing price reported on the NYSE American as of such date.

As of February 28, 2019, the number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock was 3,830,738.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement relating to its 2019 annual meeting of stockholders (the "2019 Proxy Statement") are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K where indicated. The 2019 Proxy Statement will be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the end of the year to which this report relates.

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EX-101.INS	XBRL INSTANCE DOCUMENT
EX-101.SCH	XBRL TAXONOMY EXTENSION SCHEMA
EX-101.CAL	XBRL TAXONOMY EXTENSION CALCULATION LINKBASE
EX-101.DEF	XBRL TAXONOMY EXTENSION DEFINITION LINKBASE
EX-101.LAB	XBRL TAXONOMY EXTENSION LABEL LINKBASE
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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included in this Form 10-K, including without limitation the statements under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Description of Business," are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements involve assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Issuer Direct Corporation, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements contained in this Form 10-K.

In our capacity as Company management, we may from time to time make written or oral forward-looking statements with respect to our long-term objectives or expectations which may be included in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), reports to stockholders and information provided in our web site.

The words or phrases "will likely," "are expected to," "is anticipated," "is predicted," "forecast," "estimate," "project," "plans continue," "believes," or similar expressions identify "forward-looking statements." Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical earnings and those presently anticipated or projected. We wish to caution you not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. We are calling to your attention important factors that could affect our financial performance and could cause actual results for future periods to differ materially from any opinions or statements expressed with respect to future periods in any current statements.

The following list of important risk factors is not all-inclusive, and we specifically decline to undertake an obligation to publicly revise any forward-looking statements that have been made to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events. Among the factors that could have an impact on our ability to achieve expected operating results and growth plan goals and/or affect the market price of our stock are:

Dependence on key personnel.

Fluctuation in quarterly operating results related to transaction-based revenue.

Our ability to raise capital to fund potential acquisitions or other growth initiatives.

Our ability to successfully integrate and operate acquired or newly formed entities, ventures and or subsidiaries.

Changes in laws and regulations that affect our operations and demand for our products and services.

Available Information

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Financial Data in XBRL, Current Reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available, free of charge, in the investor relations section of our website at www.issuerdirect.com.

The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. The public

may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

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PART I

ITEM 1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS.

Company Overview

Issuer Direct Corporation (Issuer Direct Corporation and its subsidiaries are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Issuer Direct", the "Company", "We" or "Our" unless otherwise noted). Our corporate offices are located at 500 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite D, Morrisville, North Carolina, 27560.

We announce material financial information to our investors using our investor relations website, Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings, investor events, news and earnings releases, public conference calls, webcasts and social media. We use these channels to communicate with our investors and the public about our company, our products and services and other related matters. It is possible that information we post on some of these channels could be deemed to be material information. Therefore, we encourage investors, the media and others interested in our company to review the information we post to all of our channels, including our social media accounts.

Issuer Direct is an industry-leading global communications and compliance company focusing on the needs of corporate issuers. Issuer Direct's principal platform, Platform id.TM, empowers users by thoughtfully integrating the most relevant tools, technologies and products, thus eliminating the complexity associated with producing and distributing their business communications and financial information.

We work with a diverse customer base, which not only includes corporate issuers and private companies, but also banks, professional firms, such as investor relations and public relations firms, as well as the accounting and legal communities. We also sell products and services to others in the financial services industry, including brokerage firms, investment banks and mutual funds. Corporate issuers and their service providers utilize Platform id. and related services from document creation all the way to dissemination to regulatory bodies, platforms and shareholders. Private companies primarily use our news distribution and webcasting products and services to disseminate their message globally.

In order to provide a good representation of our business and reflect our platform first engagement strategy, we report revenue in two revenue streams: (i) Platform and Technology and (ii) Services. Due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 606 Revenue from Contracts with Customers effective as of January 1, 2018, we reclassified revenue associated with the Company's shareholder outreach offering that included both electronic dissemination and physical delivery of a customer's annual report. Historically, revenue from these bundled contracts was reported in the Services revenue stream because an allocation between electronic and physical hardcopy distribution was not made, however, under ASC 606, a portion of the revenue from these contracts is required to be allocated to the Platform and Technology revenue stream in accordance with stand-alone contracts for the shareholder outreach subscription. As a result, revenue of \$683,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017, was reclassified from Services revenue to Platform and Technology revenue.

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Set forth below is an infographic depicting the modules included in Platform id. and the services we provide:

Platform and Technology

As we continue our transition to a cloud-based subscription business, we expect the Platform and Technology portion of our business to continue to increase over the next several years, both in terms of overall revenue and as compared to the Services portion of our business. Platform and Technology revenue grew to 60% of total revenue for 2018, compared to 56% of our revenue for 2017 and approximately 44% of our revenue in 2016. Our ACCESSWIRE® news distribution offering represented a majority of the year over year growth in our Platform and Technology revenue during 2017 and 2018 and continues to lead our transition to a full platform solution. Also contributing to the growth in the percentage of Platform and Technology revenue is our focus on our platform first engagement strategy and converting customers which historically relied on us for services work to utilizing Platform id.

As part of our Platform and Technology strategy, we have been working with several select stock exchanges, whereby we make available certain parts of Platform id. under agreement, to integrate our offerings. Such partnerships should yield increased exposure to a targeted customer base that could impact our revenue and overall brand in the market.

Additionally, we plan to continue to invest in both our current Platform id. offering as well as additional offerings that we plan to incorporate into Platform id., which we believe provide long term opportunities for our platform business. We believe understanding the shareholder composition of a company is an opportunity that is underserved by the market today. We believe we have addressed that gap by releasing a new module during the fourth quarter of 2018 centered around the professional conference organizer (PCO). This subscription is being licensed to investor conference organizers which together hold an estimated 1,000 plus events a year. This product is integrated with and enhances our communications module subscription offerings of newswire, newsrooms, webcasting and shareholder targeting. In addition, we have developed an insight and analytics subscription add-on module to Platform id., which enables our customers to better understand their shareholder and investor engagement profile. This module is targeted to be initially rolled out in the first quarter of 2019. Both modules are expected to broaden our presence in the market by providing our customers the ability to monitor the shareholder from when they first meet an investor to when they become an actual shareholder. These advancements leverage our current application technology framework and give us an opportunity to further expand our customer and user base.

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Platform id.

Platform id. is our primary cloud-based subscription platform that efficiently and effectively helps manage the events of our customers seeking to distribute their messaging to key constituents, investors, markets and regulatory systems around the globe. Currently, Platform id. consists of several related but distinct shareholder communications and compliance modules. Certain of these capabilities were historically part of our disclosure management and shareholder communications offerings, but are now included into our fully integrated platform.

Within most of our target markets, customers require several individual services and/or software providers to meet their investor relations, communications and compliance needs. We believe Platform id. can address all those needs in a single, secure, cloud-based platform - one that offers a company control, increases efficiencies, demonstrates clear value and, most importantly, delivers consistent and compliant messaging from one centralized platform.

While the complete platform is available for a single subscription fee, companies also have the flexibility to choose one or more of the specific modules that fit their needs.

Communications Modules

Our press release offering, which is marketed under the brand, ACCESSWIRE, is a cost-effective, Regulation Fair Disclosure ("FD"), news dissemination and media outreach service. The ACCESSWIRE product offering focuses on press release distribution for both private and publicly held companies globally. ACCESSWIRE is fast becoming a competitive alternative to the traditional newswires because we have been able to integrate customer editing features and improve our targeting and growing analytics reporting systems, which we believe will enable us to add new customers for 2019 and beyond. We have also been able to maintain flexible pricing by offering our customers the option to pay per release or enter into longer-term subscriptions. Currently, approximately 55% of our ACCESSWIRE revenue is on a subscription basis.

On July 3, 2018, we completed the acquisition of Filing Services Canada Inc. ("FSCwire"), which not only increased our customer base, but more importantly increased our global footprint, distribution capabilities and editorial team. We recently completed the integration of FSCwire and rebranded it as ACCESSWIRE Canada, and will now begin to focus on offering those customers the full suite of products included in Platform id.

We will continue to brand our press release offerings under the name ACCESSWIRE, which we believe will solidify our market position in the newswire business. Our ACCESSWIRE news editing offering is available within our core Platform id. subscription or as a stand-alone module.

ACCESSWIRE is dependent upon several key partners for news distribution, some of which are also partners that we rely on for other investor outreach offerings. A disruption in any of these partnerships could have a materially adverse impact on our business.

Platform id. also includes our targeting and outreach database and intelligence analytics module. This module is centered around both our shareholder communications and news distribution offerings. We anticipate the analytics component will become a focal point for Platform id. in the future, as customers become increasingly interested in shareholder interest and real-time alerts to vital data points throughout the day.

Over the past two years, we have been focused on refining the model of digital distribution of our customers' message to the investment community and beyond. This has been accomplished by integrating our shareholder outreach module, formerly known as Investor Network, into and with Platform id. Most of the customers subscribing to this

module today are historical PrecisionIR ("PIR") – Annual Report Service ("ARS") users, as well as new customers purchasing the entire Platform id. subscription. We have migrated some of the customers from the traditional ARS business into this new digital subscription business. However, there can be no assurances these customers will continue using this digital platform in the long term if market conditions or shareholder interest is not present.

We estimate there are over 5,000 companies in North America conducting earnings events each quarter that include teleconference, webcast or both as part of their events. Platform id. also incorporates other elements of the earnings event, including earnings date/call announcement, earnings press release and SEC Form 8-K filings. There are a handful of our competitors that can offer this integrated full service solution today. However, we believe our real-time event setup and integrated approach offers a more effective way to manage the process as well as attract an audience of investors.

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The earnings event industry is a highly competitive space with the majority of the business being driven from practitioners in investor relations and communications firms. We have invested time and financial resources developing and integrating systems and processes within Platform id. by creating an application programming interface ("API"). This API will allow publishers to query an industry or a single company's current and past earnings calls and present those webcasts on their platforms, under a subscription to Platform id. Initially, this has been broadly distributed via our Investor Network platform, with expectations that partners and publishers will license this dataset for their platforms in the future. We believe this offering will further increase our brand awareness. Additionally, as a commitment to broadening the reach of our webcast platform, all events will be broadcast live within our shareholder outreach module, which will drive new audiences and give companies the ability to view their analytics and engagement of each event. We believe these analytics will increase the demand for our webcasting platform among the corporate issuer community.

On January 3, 2019, we acquired the VisualWebcaster Platform ("VWP") from Onstream Media Corporation. VWP is a leading cloud-based earnings webcast, webinar and training platform that delivers live and on-demand streaming of events to audiences of all sizes. VWP allows customers to create, produce and deliver events, which will integrate perfectly into Platform id. We believe by acquiring VWP, we have significantly strengthened our webcasting product and Platform id. offering as well as acquired over 120 customers, some of which are Fortune 500 companies.

Our investor relations content network is another component of Platform id., which is used to create the investor relations' tab of a public company's website. This investor relations content network is a robust series of data feeds including news feeds, stock feeds, fundamentals, regulatory filings, corporate governance and many other components that are aggregated from a majority of the major exchanges and news distribution outlets around the world. Customers can subscribe to one or more of these data feeds from us or as a component of a fully designed and hosted website for pre-IPO, reporting companies and partners seeking to display our content on their corporate sites. The clear benefit to our investor relations module is its integration into and with the rest of Platform id., meaning companies can produce content for public distribution and it is automatically linked to their corporate site, distributed to targeted groups and placed into and with our data feed partners.

Compliance Modules

Platform id.'s disclosure reporting module is a document conversion, editing and filing offering, which is designed for reporting companies and professionals seeking to insource the document drafting, editing and filing processes to the SEC's EDGAR system and SEDAR, which is the Canadian equivalent of EDGAR. This module is available in both a secure public cloud within our Platform id. subscription, as well as in a private cloud option for corporations, mutual funds and the legal community looking to further enhance their internal document process. As this module has begun to be adopted by our customers, we have seen a negative impact on our legacy disclosure conversion services business. However, the margins associated with our Platform and Technology business compared to our Services business are higher and align with our long-term strategy, and as such, we believe this module will have a positive impact on our compliance business going forward.

Toward the end of 2017, we completed upgrades to our disclosure reporting product to include tagging functionality that meets newly mandated SEC requirements. On June 28, 2018, the SEC voted to adopt rules mandating the use of Inline XBRL (Inline Extensible Business Reporting Language or "iXBRL") for the submission of financial statement information to the SEC. The new requirements for iXBRL will have a three-year phase in beginning for large accelerated filers that use U.S. GAAP to be compliant for fiscal periods ending on or after June 15, 2019, for accelerated filers to begin reporting for fiscal periods ending on or after June 15, 2020 and for all other filers to begin reporting for fiscal periods ending on or after June 15, 2021. These upgrades also include meeting new SEC mandates for foreign filers that compile financial statements using International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") to be able

to utilize our cloud-based platform. Foreign filers with fiscal year's ending on or after December 15, 2017, are now required to begin reporting their financial statements in XBRL with the SEC in 2018. Platform id. has adopted the new IFRS taxonomy into and with its new disclosure upgrade for iXBRL to ensure our customers are able to meet these new mandates.

Our whistleblower module is an add-on product within Platform id. This system delivers secure notifications and basic incident workflow management processes that align with a company's corporate governance whistleblower policy. As a supported and subsidized bundle product of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") offerings, we hope we will gain relationships with new IPO customers and other larger cap customers listed on the NYSE.

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A valued subscription add-on in our Platform id. offering is the ability for our customers to gain access to real-time information of their shareholders, stock ledgers, reports, and issue new shares from our cloud-based stock transfer module. Managing the capitalization table of a public company or pre-IPO company is the cornerstone of corporate governance and transparency, and as such companies and community banks have chosen us to assist with their stock transfer needs, including bond offerings and dividend management. This is an industry which has experienced declining overall revenues as it was affected by the replacement of paper certificates with digital certificates. However, we have recently been focused on selling subscriptions of the stock transfer component of our platform, allowing customers to gain access to our cloud-based system in order to move shares or query shareholders, which has resulted in a more efficient process for both our customers and us.

Our proxy module is marketed as a fully integrated, real-time voting platform for our customers and their shareholders of record. This module is utilized for every annual meeting and/or special meeting we manage for our customer base and offers both full-set mailing and notice of internet availability options.

Services

As we focus on expanding our cloud-based subscription business, we expect to see a decrease in the overall revenues associated with our Services business. Typically, Services revenues relate to activities where substantial resources are required to perform the work for our customers and/or hard goods are utilized as part of the engagement. To date, most of our Services have been related to converting and editing SEC documents and XBRL tagging, which has been our core disclosure business over the last 12 years. Services also include telecommunications services and print, fulfillment and delivery of stock certificates, proxy materials or annual reports depending on each customer's engagement. Services are not required, but are optional for customers that utilize our Platform id.

Our investor outreach and engagement offering, formerly known as the ARS, was acquired from PIR in 2013. The ARS business has existed for over 20 years primarily as a physical hard copy delivery service of annual reports and prospectuses. We continue to operate a portion of this legacy system for those who opt to take advantage of physical delivery of material. Additionally, we continue to attempt to migrate the install base over to subscriptions of our digital outreach engagement module within Platform id. We believe we will continue to see further attrition of both customers and revenues in this category as we focus our efforts on our Platform and Technology business.

Our vision - To be the trusted platform that brings the issuer and investor together.

Our overall strategy includes:

Expansion of Current Customers

We expect to continue to see demand for our products within our customer base. As we transition from a services oriented business, our focus is to migrate customer contracts over to subscription-based contracts for our entire Platform id. offering. This will naturally help us move from a transaction based revenue model to a recurring subscription-based revenue model, which gives us more consistent, predictable revenue patterns and hopefully creates longer lasting customer relationships. Additionally, as part of our customer expansion efforts, we are committed to working beyond the single point of contact and into the entire C suite (CEO, CFO, IRO, Corporate Secretary, etc.) of an organization which will help us further drive user subscription revenues on top of Platform id. subscriptions.

Focus on Organic Growth

Our primary growth strategy continues to be selling our cloud-based offerings via Platform id. to new customers under a subscription arrangement, whereas in the past we were inclined to sell a single point solution. Selling a single subscription to our entire platform allows us to provide our customers with a competitively priced, complete solution for their communications and compliance needs. Our strategy of selling our cloud-based offerings via Platform id. to all customers under a subscription agreement should benefit us by moving away from selling individual solutions within highly commoditized markets that are experiencing pricing pressures.

New Offerings

During 2019 and going forward, we will continue to innovate, improve and build new applications into and with our platform, with the ultimate objective of developing applications in combination, that are not offered by our competitors. As a company focused on technology offerings, we understand the importance of advancements and fully appreciate the risks and consequences of losing our market position - a very common mistake many technology companies have made. The pursuit of technological innovation is and has been a part of our overall strategy as an organization over the last several years.

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This year we plan to bring to market several new enhancements and platform upgrades targeted at both our current install base as well as new customers. The first of our new offerings is our Professional Conference Organizer (PCO), which was released in the fourth quarter of 2018. It is an investor conference marketing, planning and event scheduling cloud-based module integrated within Platform id.

The PCO subscription module includes the following:

Front end website, event promotion and email marketing
Real-time dashboards
Limitless Agenda and tracks for virtually any event

Custom questions and survey tools