

Confluent Announces Third Quarter 2021 Financial Results

November 4, 2021

- Total revenue of \$103 million, up 67% year over year
- Confluent Cloud revenue of \$27 million, up 245% year over year
- Remaining performance obligations of \$385 million, up 75% year over year
- 664 customers with \$100,000 or greater in ARR, up 48% year over year

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 4, 2021-- **Confluent, Inc. (NASDAQ: CFLT)**, the platform for data in motion, today announced financial results for its third quarter 2021, ended September 30, 2021.

"Harnessing the power of data in motion is a major factor in determining which organizations win in the modern era," said Jay Kreps, co-founder and CEO, Confluent. "This imperative - combined with the massive cross-industry migration to the public cloud - has driven an acceleration to 245% year-over-year growth for Confluent Cloud as organizations look for a platform that connects and processes all of their data, everywhere it is."

"We delivered our first quarter with more than one hundred million dollars in total revenue, a milestone for our business, and saw continued year-over-year growth acceleration in total revenue, Confluent Cloud revenue, and remaining performance obligations," said Steffan Tomlinson, CFO, Confluent. "Our strong dollar-based net retention rate, which once again exceeded 130% in the third quarter, is a testament to the power of our data-inmotion platform and the strength of our go-to-market model."

Third Quarter 2021 Financial Highlights

(In millions, except per share data and percentages)

	Q3 2021	Q3 2020	Y/Y Change
Total Revenue	\$102.6	\$61.5	67%
Remaining Performance Obligations	\$385.0	\$220.2	75%
GAAP Operating Loss ⁽¹⁾	\$(94.8)	\$(140.0)	\$45.2
Non-GAAP Operating Loss	\$(42.6)	\$(19.7)	\$(22.9)
GAAP Net Loss Per Share ⁽¹⁾	\$(0.37)	\$(1.34)	\$0.97
Non-GAAP Net Loss Per Share	\$(0.17)	\$(0.18)	\$0.01
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	\$(18.0)	\$(9.2)	\$(8.8)
Free Cash Flow	\$(20.6)	\$(10.3)	\$(10.3)

A reconciliation of each non-GAAP financial measure to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure is provided in the financial statement tables included in this press release. For a description of these non-GAAP financial measures, including the reasons management uses each measure, please see the section titled "Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

(1) Includes the one-time impact of \$111.9 million of stock-based compensation expense in connection with a tender offer and secondary sales of our common stock and convertible founder stock in Q3 2020.

Financial Outlook

For the fourth quarter and fiscal year 2021, Confluent expects:

	Q4 2021 Outlook	Fiscal 2021 Outlook
Total Revenue	\$108-\$110 million	\$376-\$378 million
Non-GAAP Operating Loss	\$(59)-\$(57) million	\$(170)-\$(168) million
Non-GAAP Net Loss Per Share	\$(0.23)-\$(0.21)	\$(0.92)-\$(0.90)

A reconciliation of forward-looking non-GAAP operating loss and non-GAAP net loss per share to the most directly comparable GAAP measures is not available without unreasonable effort, as certain items cannot be reasonably predicted because of their high variability, complexity and low visibility. In particular, the measures and effects of our stock-based compensation expense specific to our equity compensation awards and employer payroll tax-related items on employee stock transactions are directly impacted by the timing of employee stock transactions and unpredictable fluctuations in our stock price, which we expect to have a significant impact on our future GAAP financial results.

Conference Call Information

Confluent will host a video webcast to discuss the company's third quarter 2021 results as well as its financial outlook today at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time/1:30 p.m. Pacific Time. Open to the public, investors may access the webcast, earnings press release, supplemental financial information, and investor presentation on Confluent's investor relations website at investors.confluent.io before the commencement of the webcast. A replay of the webcast will also be accessible from Confluent's investor relations website a few hours after the conclusion of the live event.

IPO Lock-up Termination

As previously announced, beginning at the opening of trading on Monday, November 08, 2021, the lock-up agreements that Confluent's directors, officers, and holders of substantially all of Confluent's pre-IPO common stock and securities exercisable for or convertible into common stock, entered into with Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, as representatives of the underwriters for Confluent's recent initial public offering, will terminate.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release and the earnings call referencing this press release contain forward-looking statements including, among other things, statements regarding our financial outlook; increased adoption of our platform; growth in total revenue, Confluent Cloud revenue, remaining performance obligations and dollar-based net retention rate; our ability and position to capitalize on the shift to cloud; and our market opportunity. The words "believe," "may," "will," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "seek," "plan," "project," "target," "looking ahead," "look to," "move into," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements represent our current beliefs, estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this press release and information contained in this press release should not be relied upon as representing our estimates as of any subsequent date. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties, and assumptions. If the risks materialize or assumptions prove incorrect, actual results could differ materially from the results implied by these forward-looking statements. Risks include, but are not limited to: (i) the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on our business, as well as our customers, prospects, partners, and service providers, (ii) our ability to sustain and manage our rapid growth, (iii) our limited operating history, (iv) our ability to attract new customers and retain and sell additional features and services to our existing customers, (v) our ability to increase consumption of our offering, including by existing customers and through the acquisition of new customers, and successfully add new features and functionality to our offering, (vi) our ability to achieve or sustain profitability, (vii) the estimated addressable market opportunity for our offering, (viii) our ability to compete effectively in an increasingly competitive market, including achieving market acceptance over competitors and open source alternatives, (ix) our ability to attract and retain highly qualified personnel, (x) breaches in our security measures or unauthorized access to our platform, our data, or our customers' or other users' personal data, (xi) our reliance on third-party cloud-based infrastructure to host Confluent Cloud, and (xii) general market, political, economic, and business conditions. These risks are not exhaustive. Further information on these and other risks that could affect Confluent's results is included in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2021, and our future reports that we may file from time to time with the SEC. Additional information will be made available in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2021 that will be filed with the SEC, which should be read in conjunction with this press release and the financial results included herein. Confluent assumes no obligation to, and does not currently intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This press release includes the following non-GAAP financial measures: non-GAAP operating loss, non-GAAP net loss per share and free cash flow. We use these non-GAAP financial measures and other key metrics internally to facilitate analysis of our financial and business trends and for internal planning and forecasting purposes. We believe these non-GAAP financial measures, when taken collectively, may be helpful to investors because they provide consistency and comparability with past financial performance by excluding certain items that may not be indicative of our business, results of operations, or outlook. However, non-GAAP financial measures have limitations as an analytical tool and are presented for supplemental informational purposes only. They should not be considered in isolation from, or as a substitute for, financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. In particular, other companies, including companies in our industry, may report non-GAAP operating loss, non-GAAP net loss per share, free cash flow or similarly titled measures but calculate them differently, which reduces their usefulness as comparative measures. Further, free cash flow is not a substitute for cash used in operating activities. The utility of free cash flow is limited as such measure does not reflect our future contractual commitments and does not represent the total increase or decrease in our cash balance for any given period. Investors are encouraged to review the reconciliation of these non-GAAP measures to their most directly comparable GAAP financial measures, as presented below. We define non-GAAP operating loss and non-GAAP net loss per share as the respective GAAP balances, adjusted for, as applicable, stock-based compensation expense; employer taxes on employee stock transactions; common stock charitable donation expense; and income tax effects associated with these adjustments. We define free cash flow as net cash used in operating activities less capitalized internal-use software costs and capital expenditures. We believe that free cash flow is a useful indicator of liquidity that provides information to management and investors about the performance of core operations and future ability to generate cash that can be used for strategic opportunities or investing in our business.

Other Business Metrics

Remaining performance obligations ("RPO") represent the amount of contracted future revenue that has not yet been recognized as of the end of each period, including both deferred revenue that has been invoiced and non-cancelable committed amounts that will be invoiced and recognized as revenue in future periods. RPO excludes pay-as-you-go arrangements. RPO may also fluctuate due to a number of factors, including the timing of renewals, average contract terms, seasonality, and dollar amount of customer contracts. RPO as a metric is not necessarily indicative of future revenue growth because it does not account for the timing of customers' consumption or their consumption of more than their contracted capacity.

Customers with \$100,000 or greater in annual recurring revenue ("ARR") represent the number of customers that contributed \$100,000 or more in ARR as of period end. ARR is the subscription revenue contractually expected to be received from customers over the following 12 months assuming no increases or reductions in subscriptions. ARR excludes services and pay-as-you-go arrangements. For purposes of determining our customer count, we treat all affiliated entities with the same parent organization as a single customer and include pay-as-you-go customers. Our customer count is subject to adjustments for acquisitions, consolidations, spin-offs, and other market activity.

Dollar-based net retention rate ("NRR") as of a period end is calculated by starting with the ARR from the cohort of all customers as of 12 months prior to such period end ("Prior Period Value"). We calculate the ARR from these same customers as of the current period end ("Current Period Value"), which includes any growth in the value of subscriptions and is net of contraction or attrition over the prior 12 months. Services and pay-as-you-go arrangements are excluded from the calculation of ARR. We then divide the Current Period Value by the Prior Period Value to arrive at our dollar-based NRR. The dollar-based NRR includes the effect, on a dollar-weighted value basis, of our subscriptions that expand, renew, contract, or attrit, but excludes ARR from new customers in the current period. Our dollar-based NRR is subject to adjustments for acquisitions, consolidations, spin-offs, and other market activity.

About Confluent

Confluent is pioneering a fundamentally new category of data infrastructure focused on data in motion. Confluent's cloud-native offering is the foundational platform for data in motion – designed to be the intelligent connective tissue enabling real-time data, from multiple sources, to constantly stream across the organization. With Confluent, organizations can meet the new business imperative of delivering rich, digital front-end customer experiences and transitioning to sophisticated, real-time, software-driven backend operations.

Confluent, Inc. Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(in thousands) (unaudited)

		eptember 30, 2021	December 31, 2020		
ASSETS					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	582,697	\$	36,789	
Marketable securities		448,245		251,756	
Accounts receivable, net of allowance		116,006		105,971	
Deferred contract acquisition costs		23,120		14,403	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		37,481		18,775	
Total current assets		1,207,549		427,694	
Property and equipment, net		11,892		6,718	
Operating lease right-of-use assets		39,705		48,273	
Deferred contract acquisition costs, non-current		43,748		33,196	
Other assets, non-current		6,926	_	10,238	
Total assets	\$	1,309,820	\$	526,119	
LIABILITIES, REDEEMABLE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK, AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQU	UITY (DEF	ICIT)			
Current liabilities:	•	•			
Accounts payable	\$	3,327	\$	1,646	
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		66,721		33,711	
Operating lease liabilities		9,819		10,492	
Deferred revenue		179,696		142,901	
Liability for early exercise of unvested stock options		13,238		5,049	
Total current liabilities		272,801		193,799	
Operating lease liabilities, non-current		33,720		40,440	
Deferred revenue, non-current		22,398		16,292	
Other liabilities, non-current		9,760		7,203	
Total liabilities		338,679		257,734	
Redeemable convertible preferred stock		-		574,634	
Stockholders' equity (deficit):		,		,	
Preferred stock		-		=	
Common stock		-		1	
Convertible founder stock		-		-	
Class A common stock		1		-	
Class B common stock		2		-	
Additional paid-in capital		1,605,341		99,575	
Accumulated other comprehensive income		212		228	
Accumulated deficit	_	(634,415)		(406,053)	
Total stockholders' equity (deficit)		971,141		(306,249)	
Total liabilities, redeemable convertible preferred stock, and stockholders' equity (deficit)	\$	1,309,820		526,119	

Confluent, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations

(in thousands, except share and per share data) (unaudited)

	Th	ree Months Er	tember 30,	Nine Months Ended September 30				
		2021		2020		2021		2020
Revenue:								
Subscription	\$	92,400	\$	54,498	\$	238,908	\$	145,414
Services		10,170		6,999		29,028		20,839
Total revenue		102,570		61,497		267,936		166,253
Cost of revenue:		-				-		

Subscription ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		25,489	12,373			61,538		35,121	
Services ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		11,810		6,683		29,608		19,438	
Total cost of revenue		37,299		19,056		91,146		54,559	
Gross profit	65,271		42,441			176,790		111,694	
Operating expenses:									
Research and development ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		47,701		44,921		105,239		83,538	
Sales and marketing ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		86,991		43,759		218,706		118,523	
General and administrative ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		25,330		93,758		78,785		110,507	
Total operating expenses		160,022		182,438		402,730		312,568	
Operating loss		(94,751)		(139,997)		(225,940)		(200,874)	
Interest income	299		1,259			1,831	3,005		
Other expense, net		(530)	(153)		(1,509)		(671)		
Loss before income taxes		(94,982)		(138,891)	(225,618)		(198,540)		
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes		684		(750)		2,744		(468)	
Net loss	\$	(95,666)	\$	(138,141)	\$	(228,362)	\$	(198,072)	
Net loss per share attributable to common stockholders, basic and diluted	\$	(0.37)	\$	(1.34)	\$	(1.40)	\$	(1.91)	
Weighted-average shares used to compute net loss per share attributable to common stockholders, basic and diluted	259,152,303		102,852,461		1	62,728,527	103,856,815		

(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense as follows:

	Th	ree Months Er	otember 30,	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
		2021		2021 2020		2021			2020
Cost of revenue - subscription	\$	3,945	\$	883	\$	7,092	\$	1,869	
Cost of revenue - services		1,790		671		3,389		1,333	
Research and development		16,310		26,522		28,753		30,818	
Sales and marketing		18,516		6,379		34,647		11,487	
General and administrative		9,122		85,619		23,671		88,090	
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$	49,683	\$	120,074*	\$	97,552	\$	133,597*	

^{*} In connection with a tender offer and secondary sales of our common stock and convertible founder stock, stock-based compensation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 included \$111.9 million of expense related to the amount paid in excess of the estimated fair value of common stock as of the date of the transactions.

(2) Includes employer taxes on employee stock transactions as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,					Nine Months Ended September 30,				
		2021		2020		2021		2020		
Cost of revenue - subscription	\$	117	\$	8	\$	155	\$	9		
Cost of revenue - services		49		16		337		16		
Research and development		601		45		999		54		
Sales and marketing		1,236		35		1,949		57		
General and administrative		436		92		697		141		
Total employer taxes on employee stock transactions	\$	2,439	\$	196	\$	4,137	\$	277		

Confluent, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands) (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,					Nine Months Ended September			
	2021		2020		2021			2020	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		_							
Net loss	\$	(95,666)	\$	(138,141)	\$	(228,362)	\$	(198,072)	
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to cash used in operating activities:									
Depreciation and amortization		897		488		2,440		1,187	
Net amortization of premiums or discounts on marketable securities		536		436		1,500		778	
Amortization of deferred contract acquisition costs		6,739		4,125		18,322		10,253	
Non-cash operating lease costs		2,962		2,943		8,566		9,045	

Common stock charitable donation expense	-	-	13,290	-
Stock-based compensation, net of amounts capitalized	49,683	120,074	97,552	133,597
Deferred income taxes	(1)	(906)	1,729	(1,038)
Other	1,023	110	1,671	379
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable	979	1,738	(10,874)	(23,599)
Deferred contract acquisition costs	(11,244)	(9,548)	(37,592)	(23,475)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(2,616)	(3,829)	(17,339)	(3,977)
Accounts payable	1,366	1,530	1,737	(105)
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	18,597	5,915	31,490	8,199
Operating lease liabilities	(2,834)	(2,726)	(8,216)	(8,493)
Deferred revenue	11,550	8,616	42,902	33,659
Net cash used in operating activities	(18,029)	(9,175)	(81,184)	(61,662)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Capitalization of internal-use software costs	(2,052)	(870)	(3,863)	(2,967)
Purchases of marketable securities	(322,941)	(52,730)	(378,912)	(283,420)
Sales of marketable securities	- -	-	-	4,988
Maturities of marketable securities	57,693	70,226	180,667	106,986
Purchases of property and equipment	(563)	(209)	(2,236)	(693)
Other	3	-	12	-
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(267,860)	16,417	(204,332)	(175,106)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Proceeds from initial public offering, net of underwriting				
discounts and commissions	-	-	786,600	-
Proceeds from issuance of common stock upon				
exercise of vested options	10,421	4,413	29,126	7,000
Proceeds from issuance of common stock upon early exercise of unvested options, net of repurchases	24	2,493	18,567	3,331
Proceeds from issuance of redeemable convertible				
preferred stock, net of issuance costs	-	10,000	-	259,865
Payments of deferred offering costs	(2,205)		(3,125)	
Net cash provided by financing activities	8,240	16,906	831,168	270,196
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, cash				
equivalents, and restricted cash	(1)	51	(11)	18
Net (decrease) increase in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(277,650)	24,199	545,641	33,446
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	861,097	29,218	37,806	19,971
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$ 583,447	\$ 53,417	\$ 583,447	\$ 53,417
Reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents, and restricte				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 582,697	\$ 52,400	\$ 582,697	\$ 52,400
Restricted cash included in other assets, non-current	750	1,017	750	1,017
	\$ 583,447	\$ 53,417	\$ 583,447	\$ 53,417
Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	φ 505,441	Ψ 55,417	Ψ 505,447	Ψ 33,417

Confluent, Inc.

Reconciliation of GAAP Measures to Non-GAAP Measures

(in thousands, except percentages, share and per share data) (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,					Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2021		2020		2021			2020		
Reconciliation of GAAP total gross profit to non-GAAP total gross profit:										
Total gross profit on a GAAP basis	\$	65,271	\$	42,441	\$	176,790	\$	111,694		
Total gross margin on a GAAP basis		63.6%		69.0%		66.0%		67.2%		
Add: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		5,735		1,554		10,481		3,202		
Add: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		166		24		492		25		
Non-GAAP total gross profit	\$	71,172	\$	44,019	\$	187,763	\$	114,921		
Non-GAAP total gross margin		69.4%		71.6%		70.1%		69.1%		

Reconciliation of GAAP operating expenses to non-GAAP operating expenses:

Research and development operating expense on a	•	47.704	•	44.004	•	405.000	•	00.500
GAAP basis	\$	47,701	\$	44,921	\$	105,239	\$	83,538
Less: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		16,310		26,522		28,753		30,818
Less: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		601		45		999		54
Non-GAAP research and development operating expense	\$	30,790	\$	18,354	\$	75,487	\$	52,666
Non-GAAP research and development operating expense as a percentage of total revenue		30.0%		29.8%		28.2%		31.7%
Sales and marketing operating expense on a GAAP basis	\$	86,991	\$	43,759	\$	218,706	\$	118,523
Less: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		18,516		6,379		34,647		11,487
Less: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		1,236		35		1,949		57
Non-GAAP sales and marketing operating expense	\$	67,239	\$	37,345	\$	182,110	\$	106,979
Non-GAAP sales and marketing operating expense as a percentage of total revenue		65.6%		60.7%		68.0%		64.3%
General and administrative operating expense on a GAAP basis	\$	25,330	\$	93,758	\$	78,785	\$	110,507
Less: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		9,122		85,619		23,671		88,090
Less: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		436		92		697		141
Less: Common stock charitable donation expense		<u>-</u>		-		13,290		
Non-GAAP general and administrative operating expense	\$	15,772	\$	8,047	\$	41,127	\$	22,276
Non-GAAP general and administrative operating expense as a percentage of total revenue		15.4%		13.1%		15.3%		13.4%
	Th	ree Months End	ded Sep	otember 30,	Ni	ine Months End	ded Se	otember 30,
		2021		2020		2021		2020
Reconciliation of GAAP operating loss to non-GAAP operating	eratin	g loss:						
Operating loss on a GAAP basis	\$	(94,751)	\$	(139,997)	\$	(225,940)	\$	(200,874)
Add: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		49,683		120,074		97,552		133,597
Add: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		2,439		196		4,137		277
Add: Common stock charitable donation expense				<u>-</u>		13,290		<u>-</u>
Non-GAAP operating loss	\$	(42,629)	\$	(19,727)	\$	(110,961)	\$	(67,000)
Non-GAAP operating margin		(41.6%)		(32.1%)		(41.4%)		(40.3%)
Reconciliation of GAAP net loss to non-GAAP net loss:								
Net loss on a GAAP basis	\$	(95,666)	\$	(138,141)	\$	(228,362)	\$	(198,072)
Add: Stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾		49,683		120,074		97,552		133,597
Add: Employer taxes on employee stock transactions		2,439		196		4,137		277
Add: Common stock charitable donation expense		-		-		13,290		-
Add: Income tax effects and adjustments		(20)		(987)		1,025		(1,414)
Non-GAAP net loss	\$	(43,564)	\$	(18,858)	\$	(112,358)	\$	(65,612)

(0.17)

259,152,303

(0.18)

102,852,461

\$

(0.69)

162,728,527

(0.63)

103,856,815

Non-GAAP net loss per share attributable to common

Weighted-average shares used to compute net loss per share attributable to common stockholders, basic and

stockholders, basic and diluted

diluted

The following table presents a reconciliation of free cash flow to net cash used in operating activities, the most directly comparable GAAP measure, for each of the periods indicated (unaudited, in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2021			2020		2021	2020		
Net cash used in operating activities	\$	(18,029)	\$	(9,175)	\$	(81,184)	\$	(61,662)	

⁽¹⁾ In connection with a tender offer and secondary sales of our common stock and convertible founder stock, stock-based compensation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 included \$0.6 million, \$23.9 million, \$3.5 million, and \$83.9 million of expense within cost of revenue, research and development expense, sales and marketing expense, and general and administrative expense, respectively, for an aggregate of \$111.9 million of expense related to the amount paid in excess of the estimated fair value of common stock as of the date of the transactions.

Capitalized internal-use software costs	(2,052)	(870)	(3,863)	(2,967)
Capital expenditures	(563)	(209)	 (2,236)	(693)
Free cash flow	\$ (20,644)	\$ (10,254)	\$ (87,283)	\$ (65,322)
Free cash flow margin	(20.1%)	(16.7%)	(32.6%)	(39.3%)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	\$ (267,860)	\$ 16,417	\$ (204,332)	\$ (175,106)

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Investor Contact
Shane Xie
investors@confluent.io

Media Contact Taylor Jones pr@confluent.io

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