Search engines: A timeline

April 4, 1996
Excite goes public at $8.50.

May 1999
Excite merges with AtHome for $6.5 bln.

Sept. 28, 2001
ExciteAtHome goes bankrupt.

June 1999
Ask Jeeves goes public at $14.

March 4, 2003
Ask Jeeves says it's buying Interactive Search Holdings for $343 mln.

April 21, 2003
Ask Jeeves unveils its new look.

April 1, 1996
Lycos goes public at $4.

Oct. 30, 2000
Terra Networks buys Lycos for $46.40 per share or $5.1 bln.

Dec. 1998
InfoSpace goes public at $15.

Aug. 1999
LookSmart goes public at $12.

June 19, 2003
Microsoft tests its own Web crawler.

July 1, 2004
MSN to recast search to make algorithmic searches more prominent.

Jan. 1996
Google founders collaborate on search engine called BackRub.

Sept. 7, 1998
Google opens its doors.

Oct. 7, 1998
Google answers 10,000 search queries.

Jan. 2001
Google answers more than 100 million searches per day.

March 29, 2004
Google launches Froogle.

April 29, 2004
Google files for $2.7 bln IPO.

July 26, 2004
Google updates IPO filing.It plans to raise $3.3 billion by offering shares priced between $108 and $135.

Week of Aug. 9, 2004
Official launch of Google IPO.

April 11, 1996
Yahoo prices at $1.83.

Dec. 2002
Yahoo announces purchase of Inktomi for $233 mln in cash.

March 20, 2003
Yahoo completes purchase of Inktomi.

April 7, 2003
Yahoo revamps its search functionality.

Oct. 7, 2003
Yahoo completes purchase of Overture for $2.2 bln in stock and cash.

March 11, 2004
Yahoo maps meet Yellow Pages.

June 1998
Inktomi goes public at $4.15. Market cap at IPO was $370 mln.

1995
Alta Vista search launches inside Digital Equipment.

Aug. 1999
CMGI buys 83 percent of Alta Vista for $2.3 bln in stock, plus bonds.

Nov. 13, 2002
Alta Vista relaunches its search site.

April 28, 2003
Overture completes purchase of Alta Vista for $106 mln in stock and cash.

June 1999
GoTo.com goes public at $4.15 (market cap at IPO was $370 mln).

Oct. 8, 2001
GoTo.com changes its name to Overture Services.

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