

ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP INC
Form 8-K
February 24, 2016

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): February 24, 2016

ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware	000-26489	48-1090909
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 103, San Diego, California		92108
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)		(Zip Code)
(877) 445-4581		
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)		

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On February 24, 2016, Encore Capital Group, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing its financial results for the fourth quarter and full fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein.

The information in Item 2.02 of this Current Report on Form 8-K, including the information contained in Exhibit 99.1, is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Item 2.02, and shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by a specific reference in such filing.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On February 24, 2016, the Company issued a press release announcing that the Company had entered into an agreement to sell its wholly owned subsidiary Propel Financial Services. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.2 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press release dated February 24, 2016
99.2	Press release dated February 24, 2016

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP, INC.

Date: February 24, 2016

/s/ Jonathan C. Clark

Jonathan C. Clark

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press release dated February 24, 2016
99.2	Press release dated February 24, 2016

nce Share as described below, but only if an event described below under this “—Anti-dilution Adjustments” section occurs with respect to that Reference Share and only if the relevant event occurs during the period described under the applicable subsection. The Initial Share Price for each Reference Share will be subject to the adjustments described below, independently and separately, with respect to the dilution events that affect that Reference Share.

If more than one anti-dilution event requiring adjustment occurs with respect to the Initial Share Price for any Reference Share, the calculation agent will adjust the Initial Share Price of that Reference Share for each event, sequentially, in the order in which the events occur, and on a cumulative basis. As a result, having adjusted the Initial Share Price for a Reference Share for the first event, the calculation agent will adjust the Initial Share Price for that same Reference Share for the second event, applying the required adjustment to the Initial Share Price as already adjusted for the first event, and so on for each event. If an event requiring an anti-dilution adjustment occurs, the calculation agent will make the adjustment in an attempt to offset, to the extent practical, any change in the economic position of the holder and us, relative to the notes, that results solely from that event. The calculation agent may also adjust the Initial Share Price, the Final Share Price or the Dividend Amount of the applicable Reference Share in order to ensure an appropriate result. The calculation agent may, in its sole discretion, modify the anti-dilution adjustments set forth in this section as necessary to ensure an equitable result.

Stock Splits and Stock Dividends

A stock split is an increase in the number of a corporation’s outstanding shares of stock without any change in its stockholders’ equity. When a corporation pays a stock dividend, it issues additional shares of its stock to all holders of its outstanding stock in proportion to the shares they own. Each outstanding share will be worth less as a result of a stock split or stock dividend.

If a Reference Share is subject to a stock split or receives a stock dividend, then the calculation agent will adjust its Initial Share Price by dividing the prior Initial Share Price — that is, the Initial Share Price before the stock split or stock dividend — by an amount equal to: (1) the number of shares of the applicable Reference Share outstanding immediately

after the stock split or stock dividend becomes effective; divided by (2) the number of shares of the applicable Reference Share outstanding immediately before the stock split or stock dividend becomes effective. The Initial Share Price for a Reference Share will not be adjusted, however, unless:

in the case of a stock split, the first day on which that Reference Share trades without the right to receive the stock split occurs after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date; or

PS-14

·in the case of a stock dividend, the ex-dividend date occurs after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date.

The ex-dividend date for any dividend or other distribution with respect to a Reference Share is the first day on which that Reference Share trades without the right to receive that dividend or other distribution.

If the holder of a Reference Share is entitled to choose additional shares of stock or a cash payment in lieu of such shares, the dividend in question will be deemed to be made in cash for purposes of this section.

Reverse Stock Splits

A reverse stock split is a decrease in the number of a corporation's outstanding shares of stock without any change in its stockholders' equity. Each outstanding share will be worth more as a result of a reverse stock split.

If a Reference Share is subject to a reverse stock split, then the calculation agent will adjust its Initial Share Price by multiplying the prior Initial Share Price by an amount equal to: (a) the number of shares of that Reference Share outstanding immediately before the reverse stock split becomes effective; divided by (b) the number of shares of that Reference Share outstanding immediately after the reverse stock split becomes effective. The Initial Share Prices of a Reference Share will not be adjusted, however, unless the reverse stock split becomes effective after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date.

Transferable Rights and Warrants

If the Reference Share Issuer issues transferable rights or warrants to all holders of that Reference Share to subscribe for or purchase that Reference Share at an exercise price per share that is less than the closing price of the Reference Share on the business day before the ex-dividend date for the issuance, then the applicable Initial Share Price will be adjusted in such manner as the calculation agent reasonably determines to be necessary in order to reflect the economic impact of such transaction.

The Initial Share Price will not be adjusted, however, unless the ex-dividend date described above occurs after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date.

Reorganization Events

If a Reference Share Issuer undergoes a reorganization event in which property other than the applicable Reference Share — e.g., cash and securities of another issuer — is distributed in respect of that Reference Share, then, for purposes of calculating its Reference Share Performance, the calculation agent will determine the closing price of that Reference Share on the valuation date to equal the value of the cash, securities and other property distributed in respect of one share of that Reference Share.

If the calculation agent determines that, by valuing such cash, securities and other property, a commercially reasonable result is not achieved, then the calculation agent will, in its sole discretion make such other adjustments as it deems to be necessary, or may substitute another stock for that Reference Share.

Each of the following is a reorganization event with respect to a Reference Share:

the Reference Share is reclassified or changed;

the Reference Share Issuer has been subject to a merger, consolidation or other combination and either is not the surviving entity or is the surviving entity but all the outstanding stock is exchanged for or converted into other property;

a statutory share exchange involving the outstanding stock and the securities of another entity occurs, other than as part of an event described in the two bullet points above;

the Reference Share Issuer sells or otherwise transfers its property and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to another entity;

the Reference Share Issuer effects a spin-off — that is, issues to all holders of that Reference Share equity securities of another issuer, other than as part of an event described in the four bullet points above;

the Reference Share Issuer is liquidated, dissolved or wound up or is subject to a proceeding under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law; or

one or more persons or entities complete a tender or exchange offer for all or substantially all of the outstanding stock of the Reference Share Issuer.

For the avoidance of doubt, a “going private” transaction, whether or not in the form of one of the transactions above, will be a reorganization event.

Valuation of Distribution Property

If a reorganization event occurs with respect to a Reference Share, and the calculation agent does not substitute another stock for that Reference Share as described in “—Substitution” below, then the calculation agent will determine the applicable closing price on the valuation date so as to equal the value of the property — whether it be cash, securities or other property — distributed in the reorganization event in respect of one share of that Reference Share, as that Reference Share existed before the date of the reorganization. We refer to the property distributed in a reorganization event as distribution property, a term we describe in more detail below. The calculation agent will not make any determination for a reorganization event, however, unless the event becomes effective (or, if the event is a spin-off, unless the ex-dividend date for the spin-off occurs) after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date.

For the purpose of making a determination required by a reorganization event, the calculation agent will determine the value of each type of distribution property, in its sole discretion. For any distribution property consisting of a security, the calculation agent will use the closing price for the security on the relevant date. The calculation agent may value other types of property in any manner it determines, in its sole discretion, to be appropriate. If a holder of a Reference Share may elect to receive different types or combinations of types of distribution property in the reorganization event, the distribution property will consist of the types and amounts of each type distributed to a holder that makes no election, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion.

If a reorganization event occurs and the calculation agent adjusts the closing price of a Reference Share on a valuation date to equal the value of the distribution property distributed in the event, as described above, the calculation agent will make further determinations for later events that affect the distribution property considered in determining the closing price. The calculation agent will do so to the same extent that it would make determinations if that Reference Share were outstanding and were affected by the same kinds of events.

For example, if a Reference Share Issuer merges into another company and each share of that Reference Share is converted into the right to receive two common shares of the surviving company and a specified amount of cash, then on the valuation date the closing price of that Reference Share will be determined to equal the value of the two common shares of the surviving company plus the specified amount of cash. The calculation agent will further determine the common share component of that closing price to reflect any later stock split or other event, including any later reorganization event, that affects the common shares of the surviving company, to the extent described in this “—Anti-dilution Adjustments” section or as described above in the “—Reorganization Events” subsection as if the common shares were that Reference Share. In that event, the cash component will not be redetermined but will continue to be a component of the closing price.

When we refer to “distribution property,” we mean the cash, securities and other property distributed in a reorganization event in respect of a Reference Share. If an adjustment resulting from a prior reorganization had occurred, the “distribution property” will mean the cash, securities and other property distributed in respect of any securities whose value determines the closing price of the Reference Share on a valuation date. In the case of a spin-off, the distribution property also includes the Reference Share in respect of which the distribution is made.

If a reorganization event occurs, the distribution property distributed in the event will be substituted for the Reference Share as described above. Consequently, in this pricing supplement, when we refer to a Reference Share, we mean any distribution property that is distributed in a reorganization event in respect of that Reference Share. Similarly, when we refer to a Reference Share Issuer, we mean any successor entity in a reorganization event.

Substitution

If the calculation agent determines that a commercially reasonable result is not achieved by valuing distribution property with respect to the applicable Reference Share upon becoming subject to a reorganization event, then the calculation agent will, in its sole discretion, substitute another stock for that Reference Share. In such case, the adjustments described above under “—Valuation of Distribution Property” will not apply.

If the calculation agent so determines, it may choose, in its sole discretion, the stock of a different company listed on a national securities exchange as a substitute for that Reference Share. For all purposes, the substitute stock will be deemed to be that Reference Share for all purposes of the notes. The calculation agent will determine, in its sole discretion, the Initial Share Price, each Dividend Amount and/or the manner of valuation of the substitute stock. The calculation agent will have the right to make such adjustments to the calculation of the applicable Reference Share Performance and Dividend Amount as it determines in its sole discretion are necessary to preserve as nearly as possible our and your relative economic position prior to the reorganization event.

Adjustments Relating to ADSs

The Reference Share may consist of ADSs of a Reference Share Issuer, as in the case of BABA. As a result, for purposes of this section, the calculation agent will consider the effect of any of the relevant events on the holders of the applicable Reference Share. For example, if a spin-off occurs and the Reference Share represents both the spun-off security as well as the existing Reference Share, the calculation agent may determine not to effect the anti-dilution adjustments set forth in this section. More particularly, the calculation agent may not make an adjustment (a) if holders of the Reference Share are not eligible to participate in any of the events that would otherwise require anti-dilution adjustments as set forth in this section or (b) to the extent that the calculation agent determines that the Reference Share Issuer or the depository for the ADSs has adjusted the number of common shares of the Reference Share Issuer represented by each Reference Share so that the market price of the Reference Share would not be affected by the corporate event in question.

If the Reference Share Issuer or the depository for the ADSs, in the absence of any of the events described in this section, elects to adjust the number of common shares of the Reference Share Issuer represented by each Reference Share, then the calculation agent may make the appropriate anti-dilution adjustments to reflect such change. The depository for the ADSs may also make adjustments in respect of the ADSs for share distributions, rights distributions, cash distributions and distributions other than shares, rights, and cash. Upon any such adjustment by the depository, the calculation agent may adjust those terms and conditions of the notes as the calculation agent determines appropriate to account for that event.

Other Events and Adjustments

The calculation agent may make such adjustments to the terms of the notes with respect to any of the events described above, as it deems in its discretion is necessary to ensure an equitable result, for example, if an event of the type described in this section occurs on the pricing date or on the valuation date.

Delisting of ADSs or Termination of ADS Facility

If a Reference Share is an ADS that is no longer listed or admitted to trading on a U.S. securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act, or included in the OTC Bulletin Board Service operated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), or if the ADS facility between the Reference Share Issuer and the ADS depository is terminated for any reason, then, on and after the date that the Reference Share is no longer so listed or admitted to trading or the date of that termination, as applicable (the “termination date”), the notes will be deemed to be linked to the common shares of the Reference Share Issuer, and the calculation agent will determine the payment at maturity by reference to those common shares. Under these circumstances, the calculation agent may modify any terms of the

notes as it deems necessary, in its sole discretion, to ensure an equitable result. On and after the termination date, for all purposes, including the determination of the applicable Final Share Price, the closing price of the Reference Share Issuer's common shares on their primary exchange will be converted to U.S. dollars using the exchange rate as the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, determines to be commercially reasonable.

Events of Default

In case an event of default with respect to the notes shall have occurred and be continuing, the amount declared due and payable on the notes upon any acceleration of the notes will be determined by the calculation agent and will be an amount of cash equal to the amount payable as described under the caption “—Payment at Maturity,” calculated as if the date of acceleration were the final valuation date. The Dividend Amount for each Reference Share will only include dividends declared and paid through that date.

If the maturity of the notes is accelerated because of an event of default, we will, or will cause the calculation agent to, provide written notice to the trustee at its New York office, on which notice the trustee may conclusively rely, and to the depository, of the amount due with respect to the notes as promptly as possible and in no event later than two business days after the date of acceleration.

PS-17

Role of the Calculation Agent

The calculation agent will make all determinations regarding the prices of the Reference Shares, the Redemption Amount, the Dividend Amounts of the Reference Shares, trading days, business days, market disruption events, any required anti-dilution adjustments, the default amount, and the amounts payable on your notes. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent. You will not be entitled to any compensation from us for any loss suffered as a result of any of the above determinations or calculations by the calculation agent.

Our subsidiary, BMOCM, is expected to serve as the calculation agent for the notes. We may change the calculation agent for your notes at any time after the date of this pricing supplement without notice and BMOCM may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days written notice to us.

Listing

Your notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

PS-18

The Basket

The composition of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Shares were selected by Raymond James. Neither we nor our affiliates take any responsibility for the selection of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Shares or otherwise endorses such stocks and none of such entities (or Raymond James) makes any representation as to the performance of any Reference Share or the Basket.

There are a number of risks that will affect each of the companies that comprise the Basket, including, but not limited to, industry specific risks, risks relating to major competitors or new product expectations, unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies or practices of the company, and external factors that could affect the U.S. economy, interest rates, the U.S. dollar or particular segments of the economy. Any of these changes may have an adverse effect on the company, the performance of its stock, investor confidence in the stock and the company's business prospects.

PS-19

Description of the Reference Shares

Companies with securities registered under the Exchange Act, are required to file periodically financial and other information specified by the SEC. Information provided to or filed with the SEC can be obtained through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

This pricing supplement relates only to the notes offered hereby and does not relate to any Reference Shares or other securities of any Reference Share Issuer. We derived all disclosures in this pricing supplement regarding the Reference Share Issuers from publicly available documents described in the preceding paragraph. In connection with the offering of the notes, none of us, Raymond James, or our respective affiliates have participated in the preparation of such documents or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to any Reference Share Issuer. None of us, Raymond James, or any of our respective affiliates makes any representation that such publicly available documents or any other publicly available information regarding any Reference Share Issuer is current, accurate or complete. None of such documents shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this pricing supplement.

The composition of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Shares were selected by Raymond James. Neither we nor our affiliates take any responsibility for the selection of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Shares or otherwise endorses those stocks and none of those entities makes any representation as to the performance of any Reference Share or the Basket.

There is no assurance that any particular company included in the Basket will be successful. Moreover, the business, results of operations, and prospects of these companies are subject to conditions outside of the control of us or Raymond James Equity Research Department, such as general economic conditions.

The composition of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Shares were selected by Raymond James. Neither we nor our affiliates take any responsibility for the selection of the Basket or the identity of the Reference Shares or otherwise endorses such stocks and none of such entities (or Raymond James) makes any representation as to the performance of any Reference Share or the Basket.

License Agreement

We have entered into a license agreement with Raymond James, under which we have obtained the right to use the stocks discussed herein in connection with our issuance of the notes. Under the license agreement, we have agreed to pay Raymond James a fee of up to 0.87% of the principal amount of the notes.

The license agreement requires this section to state as follows:

Solely by participating in this offering, Raymond James makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Basket to track general or industry-specific stock market performance. Raymond James and its third party licensors have no obligation to take the needs of Bank of Montreal or the owners of the notes into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the Basket. BMOCM is calculation agent for the notes and will have discretion in making various determinations that affect the notes and Raymond James is not responsible for any such calculations or determinations. Raymond James has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration or trading of the notes.

Raymond James has licensed certain of its trademarks to us.

The mark "RAYMOND JAMES" is a trademark of Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and/or its affiliates, and has been licensed for our use.

PS-20

THE REFERENCE SHARES

Alarm.com Holdings, Inc.

Alarm.com Holdings, Inc. provides interactive security solutions for home and business owners. The company offers security systems such as image sensor, “crash and smash” protection, web control, mobile access, and video monitoring.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “ALRM.”

Arrow Electronics, Inc.

Arrow Electronics, Inc. distributes electronic components and computer products to industrial and commercial customers. The company offers a variety of products including computer systems, peripherals, software, and mass storage products to original equipment manufacturers and commercial customers.

This Reference Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the symbol “ARW.”

Alibaba Group Holding Limited

Alibaba Group Holding Limited, through its subsidiaries, provides internet infrastructure, e-commerce, online financial, and internet content services. It is organized in the Cayman Islands, and operates principally in China.

This Reference Stock trades as ADSs on the NYSE under the symbol “BABA.”

Charter Communications, Inc.

Charter Communications, Inc. is a cable telecommunications company. The company offers cable broadcasting, internet, voice, and other business services. It serves customers in the United States.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “CHTR.”

Cisco Systems Inc.

Cisco Systems, Inc. designs, manufactures, and sells Internet Protocol-based networking and other products related to the communications and information technology industry and provide services associated with these products and their use. It provides products for transporting data, voice, and video within buildings, across campuses, and globally.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “CSCO.”

Alphabet Inc.

Alphabet Inc. operates as a holding company. The company, through its subsidiaries, provides web-based search, advertisements, maps, software applications, mobile operating systems, consumer content, enterprise solutions, commerce, and hardware products.

This Reference Stock, which is the company’s Class A common stock, trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “GOOGL.”

Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft Corporation develops, manufactures, licenses, sells, and supports software products. The company offers operating system software, server application software, business and consumer applications software, software development tools, and Internet and intranet software. It also develops video game consoles and digital music entertainment devices.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “MSFT.”

Netflix, Inc.

Netflix Inc. is an Internet subscription service for watching television shows and movies. Subscribers can watch unlimited television shows and movies streamed over the Internet to their televisions, computers, and mobile devices and in the United States and can receive standard definition DVDs and Blu-ray Discs delivered to their homes.

PS-21

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “NFLX.”

NETGEAR, Inc.

NETGEAR, Inc. provides networking products designed for small businesses and homes. The company offers a suite of products that enables small businesses and homes to share Internet access, peripherals, digital content, and applications among multiple personal computers and other Internet-enabled devices. It markets and sells its products through distributors to a network of resellers.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “NTGR.”

PayPal Holdings Inc.

PayPal Holdings, Inc. is a technology platform company that enables digital and mobile payments on behalf of consumers and merchants. The company offers online payment solutions.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “PYPL.”

QUALCOMM Incorporated

QUALCOMM Incorporated manufactures digital wireless communications equipment. The company licenses its code division multiple access (“CDMA”) and orthogonal frequency division multiplexing access intellectual property to other companies and produces CDMA-based integrated circuits, as well as equipment and software used to track workers, assets and software for wireless content enablement.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “QCOM.”

Sonos, Inc.

Sonos, Inc. designs, develops, and produces audio products. The company offers charging cradles, music players, alternating current adapters, controllers, wireless speakers, and loudspeakers.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “SONO.”

Spotify Technology S.A.

Spotify Technology S.A. provides music streaming services. The company offers commercial free music and ad-supported services to subscribers.

This Reference Stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol “SPOT.”

AT&T Inc.

AT&T Inc., through its subsidiaries and affiliates, provides local and long-distance phone service, wireless and data communications, Internet access and messaging, IP-based and satellite television, security services, telecommunications equipment, and directory advertising and publishing.

This Reference Stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol “T.”

T-Mobile US, Inc.

T-Mobile US, Inc. is a national wireless carrier in the U.S. The company was created as the combination of T-Mobile USA and MetroPCS.

This Reference Stock trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol “TMUS.”

PS-22

Supplemental Tax Considerations

Supplemental Canadian Tax Considerations

For a discussion of the Canadian federal income tax considerations relating to an investment in the notes, please see the section of the prospectus supplement, “Certain Income Tax Consequences— Certain Canadian Income Tax Considerations.”

Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following, together with the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement, is a general description of the material U.S. tax considerations relating to the notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their tax advisors as to the consequences under the tax laws of the country of which they are resident for tax purposes and the tax laws of Canada and the U.S. of acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving payments under the notes. This summary is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this pricing supplement and is subject to any change in law that may take effect after such date.

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement with respect to United States holders (as defined in the accompanying prospectus). It applies only to those holders who are not excluded from the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus. It does not apply to holders subject to special rules, including holders subject to Section 451(b) of the Code. This discussion applies only to holders that will purchase the notes upon original issuance and will hold the notes as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, the discussion below assumes that an investor in the notes will be subject to a significant risk that it will lose a significant amount of its investment in the notes.

You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and other tax consequences of your investment in the notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

NO STATUTORY, JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY DIRECTLY DISCUSSES HOW THE NOTES SHOULD BE TREATED FOR U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. AS A RESULT, THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES ARE UNCERTAIN. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR IN DETERMINING

THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF STATE, LOCAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN FEDERAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether a Reference Share Issuer would be treated as a “passive foreign investment company” within the meaning of Section 1297 of the Code or a “U.S. real property holding corporation” within the meaning of Section 897 of the Code. If a Reference Share Issuer were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply. You should refer to any available information filed with the SEC by Reference Share Issuers and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you in this regard.

In the opinion of our counsel, Morrison & Foerster LLP, it would generally be reasonable to treat a note with terms described in this pricing supplement as a pre-paid cash-settled derivative contract in respect of the Basket for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the terms of the notes require a holder and us (in the absence of a change in law or an administrative or judicial ruling to the contrary) to treat the notes for all tax purposes in accordance with such characterization. If the notes are so treated, subject to the discussion below concerning the potential application of the “constructive ownership” rules under Section 1260 of the Code, it would be reasonable for a United States holder to take the position that it will recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale or maturity of the notes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount a United States holder receives at such time and the United States holder’s tax basis in the notes. In general, a United States holder’s tax basis in the notes will be equal to the price the holder paid for the notes. Capital gain recognized by an individual United States holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year and is generally taxed at ordinary income rates where the property is held for one year or less. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. The holding period for notes of a United States holder who acquires the notes upon issuance will generally begin on the date after the issue date (i.e., the settlement date) of the notes. If the notes are held by the same United States holder until maturity, that holder’s holding period will generally include the maturity date. It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could assert that a United States holder’s holding period in respect of the notes should end on the date on which the amount the holder is entitled to receive upon the maturity of the notes is determined, even though the holder will not receive any amounts from us in respect of the notes prior to the maturity of the notes. In such case, a United States holder may be treated as having a holding period in respect of the notes that is one year or less even if the holder receives cash upon maturity of the notes at a time that is more than one year after the beginning of its holding period.

Potential Application of Section 1260 of the Code

While the matter is not entirely clear, to the extent a Reference Share is the type of financial asset described under Section 1260 of the Code (including, among others, any equity interest in pass-thru entities such as regulated investment companies (including certain exchange-traded funds), real estate investment trusts, partnerships, trusts and passive foreign investment companies, each a “Section 1260 Financial Asset”), an investment in the notes will likely, in whole or in part, be treated as a “constructive ownership transaction” to which Section 1260 of the Code applies. If Section 1260 of the Code applies, all or a portion of any long-term capital gain recognized by a United States holder in respect of a note will be recharacterized as ordinary income (the “Excess Gain”). In addition, an interest charge will also apply to any deemed underpayment of tax in respect of any Excess Gain to the extent such gain would have resulted in gross income inclusion for the United States holder in taxable years prior to the taxable year of the sale, exchange, or settlement (assuming such income accrued at a constant rate equal to the applicable federal rate as of the date of sale, exchange, or settlement).

If an investment in a note is treated as a constructive ownership transaction, it is not clear to what extent any long-term capital gain of a United States holder in respect of the note will be recharacterized as ordinary income. It is possible, for example, that the amount of the Excess Gain (if any) that would be recharacterized as ordinary income in respect of the note will equal the excess of (i) any long-term capital gain recognized by the United States holder in respect of the note and attributable to Section 1260 Financial Assets, over (ii) the “net underlying long-term capital gain” (as defined in Section 1260 of the Code) such United States holder would have had if such United States holder had acquired an amount of the corresponding Section 1260 Financial Assets at fair market value on the original issue date for an amount equal to the portion of the issue price of the note attributable to the corresponding Section 1260 Financial Assets and sold such amount of Section 1260 Financial Assets upon the date of sale, exchange, or settlement of the note at fair market value (and appropriately taking into account any leveraged upside exposure). To the extent any gain is treated as long-term capital gain after application of the recharacterization rules of Section 1260 of the Code, such gain would be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates that would have been applicable to the net underlying long-term capital gain. United States holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application of Section 1260 of the Code to an investment in the note.

Under Section 1260 of the Code, there is a presumption that the net underlying long-term capital gain is zero (with the result that the recharacterization and interest charge described above would apply to all of the gain from the notes that otherwise would have been long-term capital gain), unless the contrary is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence. Holders will be responsible for obtaining information necessary to determine the net underlying long-term capital gain with respect to the corresponding Section 1260 Financial Assets, as we do not intend to supply holders with such information. Holders should consult with their tax advisor regarding the application of the constructive ownership transaction to their notes and the calculations necessary to comply with Section 1260 of the Code.

Alternative Treatments

Alternative tax treatments of the notes are also possible and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, it is possible that a holder would be required to include the Dividend Amount (including any interest earned thereon) in income over the term of the notes even though the holder will not receive any payments from us until maturity of the notes. In addition, it would also be possible to treat the notes, and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that the notes should be treated, as a single debt instrument. Such a debt instrument would be subject to the special tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the notes are so treated, a United States holder would generally be required to accrue interest currently over the term of the notes even though that holder will not receive any payments from us prior to maturity. In addition, any gain a United States holder might recognize upon the sale or maturity of the notes would be ordinary income and any loss recognized by a holder at such time would be ordinary loss to the extent of interest that same holder included in income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of the notes, and thereafter, would be capital loss.

Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the notes, it is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in other tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize upon the sale or maturity of the notes should be treated as ordinary gain or loss. In addition, it is possible that the amount a holder receives upon sale or maturity that is attributable to the Dividend Amount (and any interest earned thereon) will be taxable as ordinary income. Holders should consult their tax advisors as to the tax consequences of such characterizations and any possible alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

PS-24

The Internal Revenue Service has released a notice that may affect the taxation of holders of the notes. According to the notice, the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering whether the holder of an instrument such as the notes should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, and they sought taxpayer comments on the subject. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital and whether the special “constructive ownership rules” of Section 1260 of the Code might be applied to such instruments. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations. We intend to treat the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described in this pricing supplement unless and until such time as the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

Non-U.S. Holders

The notes are not intended for purchase by any investor that is not a United States person, as that term is defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and no dealer may make offers of the notes to any such investor. Notwithstanding this intended restriction on purchases, the following discussion applies to non-U.S. holders of the notes. A non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a note that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a non-resident alien individual, a foreign corporation or a foreign estate or trust.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the U.S. and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a non-U.S. holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. Internal Revenue Service guidance provides that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will apply to specified ELIs that are delta-one instruments issued on or after January 1, 2017 and to all specified ELIs issued on or after January 1, 2021. Because the delta of the notes with respect to the Basket will be one, dividend equivalent payments will be subject to withholding. The dividend equivalent amounts may not necessarily be the same as the Dividend Amounts. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any dividend equivalent withholding.

Payments on the notes will not be subject to withholding if such payments are effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a trade or business in the United States (in which case, to avoid withholding, the non-U.S. holder will be required to provide a Form W-8ECI). To claim benefits under an income tax treaty, a non-U.S. holder must obtain a taxpayer identification number and certify as to its eligibility under the appropriate treaty’s limitations on benefits article, if applicable (which certification may generally be made on an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or a substitute or successor form). In addition, special rules may apply to claims for treaty benefits made by corporate non-U.S. holders. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal

withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service. Non-U.S. holders must consult their tax advisors in this regard.

Except as discussed below, a non-U.S. holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any gain (not including for the avoidance of doubt any dividend equivalent withholding, which would be subject to the rules discussed above) upon the sale or maturity of the notes, provided that (i) the holder complies with any applicable certification requirements (which certification may generally be made on an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or a substitute or successor form), (ii) the payment is not effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a U.S. trade or business, and (iii) if the holder is a non-resident alien individual, such holder is not present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the sale or maturity of the notes. In the case of (ii) above, the holder generally would be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to any income or gain in the same manner as if the holder were a U.S. holder and, in the case of a holder that is a corporation, the holder may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable U.S. income tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., subject to certain adjustments. Payments made to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and to backup withholding unless the holder complies with applicable certification and identification requirements as to its foreign status.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization, by reason of change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments as to the notes to become subject to withholding tax in addition to the withholding tax described above, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not be required to pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors in this regard.

PS-25

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Please see the discussion under “United States Federal Income Taxation—Other Considerations—Backup Withholding and Information Reporting” in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of the backup withholding and information reporting rules to payments made on your notes.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on certain U.S. source payments, including interest (and OID), dividends, other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gain, profits, and income, and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of property of a type which can produce U.S. source interest or dividends (“Withholdable Payments”), if paid to a foreign financial institution (including amounts paid to a foreign financial institution on behalf of a holder), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury Department to collect and provide to the Treasury Department substantial information regarding U.S. account holders, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, with such institution. A note may constitute an account for these purposes. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on Withholdable Payments made to a non-financial foreign entity unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS have announced that withholding on payments of gross proceeds from a sale or redemption of the notes will only apply to payments made after December 31, 2018. However, recently proposed regulations eliminate the requirement of withholding on gross proceeds from the sale or disposition of financial instruments. The U.S. Treasury Department has indicated that taxpayers may rely on these proposed regulations pending their finalization. If we determine withholding is appropriate with respect to the notes, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate, and we will not pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding. Account holders subject to information reporting requirements pursuant to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act may include holders of the notes. Foreign financial institutions and non-financial foreign entities located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act may be subject to different rules. Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in the notes.

Use of Proceeds and Hedging

We will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the notes for the purposes we describe in the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement under “Use of Proceeds.” We or our affiliates may also use those proceeds in transactions intended to hedge our respective obligations under the notes as described below.

We or our affiliates expect to enter into hedging transactions involving, among other transactions, purchases or sales of one or more of the Reference Shares, or listed or over-the-counter options, futures and other instruments linked to the Reference Shares. In addition, from time to time after we issue the notes, we or our affiliates expect to enter into additional hedging transactions and to unwind those we have entered into in connection with the notes. Consequently, with regard to the notes, we or our affiliates from time to time expect to acquire or dispose of the Reference Shares or positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to one or more of the Reference Shares.

We or our affiliates may acquire a long position in securities similar to the notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold, resell or repurchase those securities.

In the future, we or our affiliates expect to close out hedge positions relating to the notes and possibly relating to other securities or instruments with returns linked to one or more of the Reference Shares. We expect these steps to involve sales of instruments linked to the Reference Shares on or shortly before the valuation date. These steps may also involve transactions of the type contemplated above. Notwithstanding the above, we are permitted to and may choose to hedge in any manner not stated above; similarly, we may elect not to enter into any such transactions. Investors will not have knowledge about our hedging positions.

We have no obligation to engage in any manner of hedging activity and will do so solely at our discretion and for our own account. No holder of any notes will have any rights or interest in our hedging activity or any positions we or any counterparty may take in connection with our hedging activity.

PS-27

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We, either ourselves or through BMOCM as agent, have entered into an arrangement with Raymond James, whereby Raymond James will act as an agent in connection with the distribution of the notes. Such distribution may occur on or subsequent to the Issue Date. The notes sold by Raymond James to investors will be offered at the issue price of \$1,000 per note. Raymond James will receive licensing fees for its research related to the Reference Shares, as described in "Description of the Reference Shares—License Agreement."

We own, directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding equity securities of BMOCM, the agent for this offering. In accordance with FINRA Rule 5121, BMOCM may not make sales in this offering to any of its discretionary accounts without the prior written approval of the customer.

We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify the offering of the notes and to reject orders in whole or in part. You may cancel any order for the notes prior to its acceptance.

You should not construe the offering of the notes as a recommendation of the merits of acquiring an investment linked to any of the Reference Shares or investment advice, or as to the suitability of an investment in the notes.

We will deliver the notes on a date that is greater than three business days following the pricing date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the notes more than two business days prior to the issue date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

BMOCM may, but is not obligated to, make a market in the notes. BMOCM will determine any secondary market prices that it is prepared to offer in its sole discretion.

We may use the final pricing supplement relating to the notes in the initial sale. In addition, BMOCM or another of our affiliates may use the final pricing supplement in market-making transactions in any notes after their initial sale. ***Unless BMOCM or we inform you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, the final pricing supplement is being used by BMOCM in a market-making transaction.***

No Prospectus (as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the “Prospectus Directive”)) will be prepared in connection with the notes. Accordingly, the notes may not be offered to the public in any member state of the European Economic Area (the “EEA”), and any purchaser of the notes who subsequently sells any of the notes in any EEA member state must do so only in accordance with the requirements of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that member state.

The notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, any retail investor in the EEA. For these purposes, the expression “offer” includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, and a “retail investor” means a person who is one (or more) of: (a) a retail client, as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, “MiFID II”); or (b) a customer, within the meaning of Insurance Distribution Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (c) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive. Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared, and therefore, offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

Additional Information Relating to the Estimated Initial Value of the Notes

Our estimated initial value of the notes on the date of this preliminary pricing supplement, and that will be set forth on the cover page of the final pricing supplement relating to the notes, equals the sum of the values of the following hypothetical components:

- a fixed-income debt component with the same tenor as the notes, valued using our internal funding rate for structured notes; and

- one or more derivative transactions relating to the economic terms of the notes.

The internal funding rate used in the determination of the initial estimated value generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. The value of these derivative transactions are derived from our internal pricing models. These models are based on interest rates and other factors. As a result, the estimated initial value of the notes on the pricing date will be determined based on market conditions at that time.

Employee Retirement Income Security Act

A fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit plan subject to the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”) (each, a “Plan”), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the Plan’s particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the notes. Among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan, and whether the investment would involve a prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code.

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit Plans, as well as individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans any other plans that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code (also “Plans”), from engaging in certain transactions involving “plan assets” with persons who are “parties in interest” under ERISA or “disqualified persons” under the Code with respect to the Plan. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules may result in excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA or the Code for those persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption. Employee benefit plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and non-U.S. plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) (“Non-ERISA Arrangements”) are not subject to the requirements of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code but may be subject to similar provisions under applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S., or other laws (“Similar Laws”).

The acquisition of notes by a Plan or any entity whose underlying assets include “plan assets” by reason of any Plan’s investment in the entity (a “Plan Asset Entity”) with respect to which we or certain of our affiliates is or becomes a party in interest or disqualified person may result in a prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, unless the notes are acquired pursuant to an applicable exemption. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued five prohibited transaction class exemptions, or “PTCEs,” that may provide exemptive relief if required for direct or indirect prohibited transactions that may arise from the purchase or holding of notes. These exemptions are PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 95-60 (for transactions involving certain insurance company general accounts), and PTCE 96-23 (for transactions managed by in-house asset managers). In addition, ERISA Section 408(b)(17) and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide an exemption for the purchase and sale of securities offered hereby, provided that neither the issuer of notes offered hereby nor any of its affiliates have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any Plan involved in the transaction, and provided further that the Plan pays no more and receives no less than “adequate consideration” in connection with the transaction (the “Service Provider Exemption”). Any Plan fiduciary relying on the Service Provider Exemption and purchasing the notes on behalf of a Plan must initially make a determination that (x) the Plan is paying no more than, and is receiving no less than, “adequate consideration” in connection with the transaction and (y) neither we nor any of our affiliates directly or indirectly exercises any discretionary authority or control or renders investment advice with respect to the assets of the Plan which such fiduciary is using to purchase, both of which are necessary preconditions to reliance on the Service Provider Exemption. If we or any of our affiliates provides fiduciary investment management services with respect to a Plan’s acquisition of the notes, the Service Provider Exemption may not be available, and in that case, other exemptive relief would be required as precondition for purchasing the notes.

Any Plan fiduciary considering reliance on the Service Provider Exemption is encouraged to consult with counsel regarding the availability of the exemption. There can be no assurance that any of the foregoing exemptions will be available with respect to any particular transaction involving the notes, or that, if an exemption is available, it will cover all aspects of any particular transaction.

Because we or our affiliates may be considered to be a party in interest with respect to many Plans, the notes may not be purchased, held or disposed of by any Plan, unless such purchase, holding or disposition is eligible for exemptive relief, including relief available under PTCE 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1, or 84-14 or the Service Provider Exemption, or such purchase, holding or disposition is not otherwise prohibited. Except as otherwise set forth in any applicable pricing supplement, by its purchase of any notes, each purchaser (whether in the case of the initial purchase or in the case of a subsequent transferee) will be deemed to have represented and agreed by its purchase and holding of the notes offered hereby that either (i) it is not and for so long as it holds a note, it will not be a Plan, a Plan Asset Entity, or a Non-ERISA Arrangement, or (ii) its purchase and holding of the notes will not constitute or result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or, in the case of such a Non-ERISA Arrangement, under any Similar Laws.

In addition, any purchaser that is a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity or that is acquiring the notes on behalf of a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity, including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of a Plan or Plan Asset entity, will be deemed to have represented, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding of the notes that (a) neither we nor any of our respective affiliates or agents are a “fiduciary” (under Section 3(21) of ERISA), or under any final or proposed regulations thereunder, or with respect to a non-ERISA Arrangement under any Similar Laws with respect to the acquisition, holding or disposition of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by us or our affiliates or agents of any rights in connection with the notes, (b) no advice provided by us or any of our affiliates or agents has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes, and (c) such purchaser recognizes and agrees that any communication from us or any of our affiliates or agents to the purchaser with respect to the notes is not intended by us or any of our affiliates or agents to be impartial investment advice and is rendered in our or our affiliates’ or agents’ capacity as a seller of such notes and not a fiduciary to such purchaser.

Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing notes on behalf of or with the assets of any Plan, a Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement consult with their counsel regarding the availability of exemptive relief under any of the PTCEs listed above, the Service Provider Exemption or the potential consequences of any purchase or holding under Similar Laws, as applicable. Purchasers of notes have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase and holding of notes do not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any similar provisions of Similar Laws. The sale of any notes to a Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by any such Plans, Plan Asset Entities or Non-ERISA Arrangements generally or any particular Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement or that such investment is appropriate for such Plans, Plan Asset Entities or Non-ERISA Arrangements generally or any particular Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement.

PS-30