

CNET NETWORKS INC
Form S-3
October 26, 2004
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 26, 2004

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CNET NETWORKS, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

13-3696170
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

235 Second Street
San Francisco, California 94105

(Address of Principal Executive Offices including Zip Code)

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Sharon Le Duy, Esq.

Senior Vice President & General Counsel

CNET Networks, Inc.

235 Second Street

San Francisco, California 94105

(415) 344-2513

(Name, address, including ZIP code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Ora T. Fisher, Esq.

Latham & Watkins LLP

135 Commonwealth Drive

Menlo Park, California 94025-3656

(650) 328-4600

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement, as determined by the Registrant.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. ..

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)(2)(3)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(1)(2)(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
Debt Securities (4), Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (5), Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (6) and Equity Warrants	\$ 300,000,000	(7)	(7)
Total	\$ 300,000,000	\$ 300,000,000	\$ 38,010

- (1) In U.S. dollars or the equivalent thereof in one or more foreign currencies or composite currencies. The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance of the securities registered by this registration statement.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. In no event will the aggregate maximum offering price of all securities issued under this registration statement exceed \$300,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in one or more foreign currencies or composite currencies or, if any debt securities are issued with original issue discount, such greater amount as shall result in proceeds of \$300,000,000 to the registrant.
- (3) With respect to debt securities, excluding accrued interest and accrued amortization of discount, if any, to the date of delivery.
- (4) Debt securities may be issued in primary offerings and/or upon conversion of another series of debt securities registered by this registration statement.
- (5) Shares of common stock may be issued in primary offerings, upon conversion of debt securities and/or preferred stock registered by this registration statement and/or upon exercise of warrants registered by this registration statement.
- (6) Shares of preferred stock may be issued in primary offerings, upon conversion of debt securities and/or another series of preferred stock and/ or other securities registered by this registration statement, and/or upon exercise of warrants registered by this registration statement.
- (7) Not specified as to each class of securities to be registered hereunder pursuant to General Instruction II(D) to Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with section 8(a) of the securities act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the securities and exchange commission, acting pursuant to said section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated October 26, 2004

PROSPECTUS

\$300,000,000

CNET NETWORKS, INC.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Equity Warrants

We may, from time to time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell up to \$300,000,000 in the aggregate of:

our secured or unsecured debt securities, in one or more series, which may be either senior, senior subordinated or subordinated debt securities;

shares of our common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share;

shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in one or more series;

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

warrants to purchase our preferred stock or our common stock;

any combination of the foregoing.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

See RISK FACTORS beginning on page 3 for a discussion of material risks that you should consider before you invest in our securities being sold with this prospectus.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol CNET . On October 25, 2004, the last reported sale price for our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$8.37 per share.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2004.

Table of Contents

We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor does this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is correct on any date after their respective dates, even though this prospectus or a prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Available Information</u>	3
<u>Incorporation by Reference</u>	4
<u>The Company</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	5
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	5
<u>General Description of Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	14
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	17
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	17
<u>Certain Anti-Takeover Provisions</u>	19
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	19
<u>Validity of the Securities</u>	20
<u>Experts</u>	20

When used in this prospectus, the terms CNET, we, our, and us refer to CNET Networks, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified.

CNET, ZDNet, TechRepublic, MP3.com, GameSpot, CNET Download.com, CNET News.com, Webshots, Computer Shopper and CNET Channel are our trademarks. All other trademarks, service marks or trade names appearing in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Under this registration statement, we may sell, from time to time, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total public offering price of \$300,000,000 (or its equivalent in foreign or composite currencies). This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the securities being offered and the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings Available Information and Incorporation by Reference before making an investment decision.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Our disclosure and analysis in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplements and information incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are any statements about our future that are not statements of historical fact. Examples of forward-looking statements include projections of earnings, revenues or other financial items, statements of the plans and objectives of management for future operations, statements concerning proposed new products or services, statements regarding future economic conditions or performance, and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. In some cases, you can identify these statements by the use of words such as may, will, expects, should, believes, predicts, plans, anticipates, estimates, potential, continue these terms, or any other words of similar meaning.

These statements are only predictions. Any or all of our forward-looking statements in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplements and information incorporated by reference herein and in any of our other public statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions we might make or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties, some of which are outlined below under Risk Factors, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Securities Exchange Act, and elsewhere in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and each accompanying prospectus supplement. Many risk factors will be important in determining future results. Consequently, no forward-looking statement can be guaranteed. Actual events or results may differ materially from the outcomes we predict.

These forward-looking statements are made only as of the date of this prospectus, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You are advised, however, to consider any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our reports to the SEC. You may obtain copies of these documents as described under Available Information below. You may obtain copies of these documents as described under Available Information below. Also note that we provide the preceding cautionary discussion of risks, uncertainties and possibly inaccurate assumptions relevant to our businesses. These are factors that we think could cause our actual results to differ materially from expected and historical results. Other factors besides those listed here could also adversely affect us.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in CNET Networks, Inc. and to the particular types of securities that we are offering under that prospectus supplement. Before you decide whether to purchase any of our securities, in addition to the other information in this prospectus, you should carefully consider the risk factors set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Securities Exchange Act. For more information, see the section entitled "Incorporation by Reference."

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We are subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act and we therefore file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC relating to our business, financial statements and other matters. The reports, proxy statements and other information we file may be inspected and copied at prescribed rates at the SEC's Public Reference Room at Room 1024, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding issuers like us that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's Internet site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

This prospectus constitutes part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed under the Securities Act with respect to the securities. As permitted by the SEC's rules, this prospectus omits some of the information, exhibits and undertakings included in the registration statement. You may read and copy the information omitted from this prospectus but contained in the registration statement, as well as the periodic reports and other information we file with the SEC, at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC in Washington, D.C.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and in each instance we refer you to the copy of the contract or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

We have elected to incorporate by reference certain information into this prospectus. By incorporating by reference, we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document we have filed separately with the SEC. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including any filings from the date of this prospectus to the termination of any offering of securities under this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except that any statement in a document incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this prospectus. The information relating to us contained in this prospectus does not purport to be comprehensive and should be read together with the information contained in the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, including information specifically incorporated by reference into our Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders filed with the SEC on March 18, 2004;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2004 and June 30, 2004;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 23, 2004, July 21, 2004, August 9, 2004, October 15, 2004 and October 20, 2004; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on July 2, 1996, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating that information.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of offered securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The delivery of this prospectus together with a prospectus supplement relating to particular offered securities in any jurisdiction shall not constitute an offer in the jurisdiction of any other securities covered by this prospectus.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered a copy of any or all of the information that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus. To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, call or write to:

CNET Networks, Inc.

Attention: Investor Relations

235 Second Street

San Francisco, California 94105

Telephone: (415) 344-2000

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Our periodic and current reports are also available, free of charge, on our website, <http://www.cnetnetworks.com>, as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

CNET Networks, Inc. (CNET) is a leading global interactive media company. Known for our editorial expertise, we combine our award-winning content with the power of interactive technology to inform and connect buyers, users and sellers of personal technology, games and entertainment, and business technology. We have a strong online presence in the United States and in 15 countries internationally.

Our portfolio of online brands encompasses three distinct content categories personal technology, games and entertainment, and business technology and includes such leading brands as CNET, ZDNet, TechRepublic, MP3.com, GameSpot, CNET Download.com, CNET News.com, Webshots, Computer Shopper magazine, and CNET Channel.

CNET Networks, Inc. was incorporated in the state of Delaware in December 1992. Our principal executive offices are located at 235 Second Street, San Francisco, California 94105. Our phone number is (415) 344-2000.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, which may include funding research, development, acquisitions, sales and marketing, increasing our working capital, reducing indebtedness, and capital expenditures. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we expect to invest the proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND

EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the last five fiscal years and the six months ended June 30, 2004. Ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For purposes of computing this ratio, earnings consists of pretax income (loss) from continuing operations adjusted by adding fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest, including amortization of deferred financing costs and the estimated interest component of rent expense. Earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges by approximately \$593.6 million, \$2.1 billion, \$380.9 million and \$25.6 million for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively, and by approximately \$1.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004.

Fiscal Year Ended December 31,					Six Months
					Ended
					June 30,
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

68.3

0.8

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the last five fiscal years and the six months ended June 30, 2004. Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is computed by dividing earnings by the sum of fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. For purposes of computing this ratio, earnings consists of pretax income (loss) from continuing operations adjusted by adding fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. Fixed charges consist of interest, including amortization of deferred financing costs and the estimated interest component of rent expense. Earnings were inadequate to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by approximately \$593.6 million, \$2.1 billion, \$380.9 million and \$25.6 million for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively, and by approximately \$1.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. We have not paid any preferred stock dividends in any of the periods presented below.

Fiscal Year Ended December 31,					Six Months
					Ended
					June 30,
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
68.3					0.8

Table of Contents

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

We, directly or through agents, dealers or underwriters designated from time to time, may offer, issue and sell, together or separately, up to \$300,000,000 in the aggregate of:

our secured or unsecured debt securities, in one or more series, which may be either senior, senior subordinated or subordinated debt securities;

shares of our common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share;

shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in one or more series;

warrants to purchase our preferred stock or our common stock; or

any combination of the foregoing, either individually or as units consisting of one or more of the foregoing, each on terms to be determined at the time of sale.

We may issue the debt securities as exchangeable for or convertible into shares of common stock, preferred stock or other securities. The preferred stock may also be exchangeable for and/or convertible into shares of common stock, another series of preferred stock or other securities. The debt securities, the preferred stock, the common stock and the warrants are collectively referred to in this prospectus as the securities. When a particular series of securities is offered, a supplement to this prospectus will be delivered with this prospectus, which will set forth the terms of the offering and sale of the offered securities.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a supplement to this prospectus. The following description of debt securities will apply to the debt securities offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement and in a supplement to the indenture, a board resolution, or an officers' certificate delivered pursuant to the indenture. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities may specify different or additional terms.

We may offer under this prospectus up to \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of secured or unsecured debt securities, or if debt securities are issued at a discount, or in a foreign currency or composite currency, such principal amount as may be sold for gross proceeds to us in U.S. dollars of up to \$300,000,000. The debt securities may be either senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities or subordinated debt securities.

The debt securities offered by this prospectus will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee, as trustee. We have filed a copy of the form indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement and you should read the indenture for provisions that may be important to you. We have summarized select portions of the indenture below. The summary is not complete. In the summary below, we have included references to

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

the section numbers of the indenture so that you can easily locate these provisions. Capitalized terms used in the summary below have the meanings specified in the indenture.

Table of Contents

General

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and detailed or determined in the manner provided in a board of directors resolution, an officers certificate or by a supplemental indenture. (Section 2.2) The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the series, including any pricing supplement.

We can issue an unlimited amount of debt securities under the indenture that may be in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium, or at a discount. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement (including any pricing supplement) relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the initial offering price, the aggregate principal amount and the following terms of the debt securities:

the title of the debt securities;

the price or prices (expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount) at which we will sell the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which we will pay the principal on the debt securities;

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum or the method used to determine the rate or rates (including any commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index) at which the debt securities will bear interest, the date or dates from which interest will accrue, the date or dates on which interest will commence and be payable and any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where the principal of, premium, and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

the terms and conditions upon which we may redeem the debt securities;

any obligation we have to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities;

the dates on which and the price or prices at which we will repurchase the debt securities at the option of the holders of debt securities and other detailed terms and provisions of these repurchase obligations;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities or global debt securities;

the portion of principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the principal amount;

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

the currency of denomination of the debt securities;

the designation of the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of principal of, premium and interest on the debt securities will be made;

if payments of principal of, premium or interest on the debt securities will be made in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to these payments will be determined;

the manner in which the amounts of payment of principal of, premium or interest on the debt securities will be determined, if these amounts may be determined by reference to an index based on a currency or currencies other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or designated to be payable or by reference to a commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index;

Table of Contents

any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;

any addition to or change in the Events of Default described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities and any change in the acceleration provisions described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any addition to or change in the covenants described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any other terms of the debt securities, which may modify or delete any provision of the indenture as it applies to that series; and

any depositories, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities. (Section 2.2)

We may issue debt securities that provide for an amount less than their stated principal amount to be due and payable upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity pursuant to the terms of the indenture. We will provide you with information on the federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any of these debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we denominate the purchase price of any of the debt securities in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, or if the principal of and any premium and interest on any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, we will provide you with information on the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to that issue of debt securities and such foreign currency or currencies or foreign currency unit or units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Payment of Interest and Exchange

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, as Depository, or a nominee of the Depository (we will refer to any debt security represented by a global debt security as a book-entry debt security), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (we will refer to any debt security represented by a certificated security as a certificated debt security), as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as described under Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System below, book-entry debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

Certificated Debt Securities. You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at the trustee's office or paying agencies in accordance with the terms of the indenture. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

You may transfer certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal of, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the old certificate representing those certificated debt securities and either we or the trustee will reissue the old certificate to the new holder or we or the trustee will issue a new certificate to the new holder.

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System. Each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the Depositary, and registered in the name of the Depositary or a nominee of the Depositary.

The Depositary has indicated it intends to follow the following procedures with respect to book-entry debt securities.

Table of Contents

Ownership of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities will be limited to persons that have accounts with the Depository for the related global debt security (we shall refer to these persons as participants) or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a global debt security, the Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal amounts of the book-entry debt securities represented by the global debt security beneficially owned by such participants. The accounts to be credited will be designated by any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the book-entry debt securities. Ownership of book-entry debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of the ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the Depository for the related global debt security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants). The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities.

So long as the Depository for a global debt security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of that global debt security, the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the book-entry debt securities represented by such global debt security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as described in this prospectus, beneficial owners of book-entry debt securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of a certificate in definitive form representing securities and will not be considered the owners or holders of those securities under the indenture. Accordingly, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture, each person beneficially owning book-entry debt securities must rely on the procedures of the Depository for the related global debt security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest.

We understand, however, that under existing industry practice, the Depository will authorize the persons on whose behalf it holds a global debt security to exercise certain rights of holders of debt securities, and the indenture provides that we, the trustee and our respective agents will treat as the holder of a debt security the persons specified in a written statement of the Depository with respect to that global debt security for purposes of obtaining any consents or directions required to be given by holders of the debt securities pursuant to the indenture. (Section 2.14.6)

We will make payments of principal of, and premium and interest on book-entry debt securities to the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the related global debt security. (Section 2.14.5) We, the trustee and any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will not have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the Depository, upon receipt of any payment of principal of, premium or interest on a global debt security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to the respective amounts of book-entry debt securities held by each participant as shown on the records of the Depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities held through those participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

We will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for each global debt security if the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as Depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act, and a successor Depository registered as a clearing agency under the Securities Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have any of the book-entry debt securities of any series represented by one or more global debt securities and, in that event, we will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for the global debt securities of that series. Global debt securities will also be exchangeable by the holders for certificated debt securities if an event of default with respect to the book-entry

Table of Contents

debt securities represented by those global debt securities has occurred and is continuing. Any certificated debt securities issued in exchange for a global debt security will be registered in such name or names as the Depositary shall instruct the trustee. We expect that such instructions will be based upon directions received by the Depositary from participants with respect to ownership of book-entry debt securities relating to such global debt security.

We have obtained the foregoing information in this section concerning the Depositary and the Depositary's book-entry system from sources we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions which may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control).

Covenants

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any restrictive covenants, including covenants restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from incurring, issuing, assuming or guarantying any indebtedness secured by a lien on any of our or our subsidiaries' property or capital stock, or restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from entering into any sale and leaseback transactions.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may not consolidate with or merge into, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, any person (a successor person), and we may not permit any person to merge into, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us, unless:

the successor person is a corporation, partnership, trust or other entity organized and validly existing under the laws of any U.S. domestic jurisdiction and expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing under the indenture; and

certain other conditions are met. (Section 5.1)

Events of Default

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, event of default means with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

default in the payment of any interest upon any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable, and continuance of that default for a period of 90 days (unless the entire amount of such payment is deposited by us with the trustee or with a paying agent prior to the expiration of the 90-day period);

default in the payment of principal of or premium on any debt security of that series when due and payable;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment, when and as due in respect of any debt security of that series;

Table of Contents

default in the performance or breach of any other covenant or warranty by us in the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default continues uncured for a period of 90 days after we receive written notice from the trustee or we and the trustee receive written notice from the holders of at least 51% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;

certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and

any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of that series that is described in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus.

No event of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities (except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization) necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities. (Section 6.1) An event of default may also be an event of default under our bank credit agreements or other debt securities in existence from time to time and under certain guaranties by us of any subsidiary indebtedness. In addition, certain Events of Default or an acceleration under the indenture may also be an event of default under some of our other indebtedness outstanding from time to time.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series at the time outstanding occurs and is continuing (other than certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization), then the trustee or the holders of not less than 51% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, by written notice to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), declare to be due and payable immediately the principal (or, if the debt securities of that series are discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) and premium of all debt securities of that series. In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal (or such specified amount) and premium of all outstanding debt securities will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series has been made, but before the trustee has obtained a judgment or decree for payment of the money due, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, subject to our having paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay overdue interest and principal which has become due other than by acceleration and certain other conditions, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and premium with respect to debt securities of that series, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. (Section 6.2) For information as to waiver of defaults see the discussion under Modification and Waiver below. We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of the discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default and the continuation of an event of default.

The indenture provides that the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any holder of outstanding debt securities, unless the trustee receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. (Section 7.1(e)) Subject to certain rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series. (Section 6.12)

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, no holder of any debt security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

that holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series; and

Table of Contents

the holders of at least 51% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the trustee shall not have received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request and has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days. (Section 6.7)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, premium and any interest on that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment. (Section 6.8)

The indenture requires us, within 90 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture. (Section 4.3) The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities. (Section 7.5)

Modification and Waiver

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we and the trustee may modify and amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments. We and the trustee may not make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each affected debt security then outstanding if that amendment will:

change the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest (including default interest) on any debt security;

reduce the principal of or premium on or change the fixed maturity of any debt security or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the payment of any sinking fund or analogous obligation with respect to any series of debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;

waive a default in the payment of the principal of, premium or interest on any debt security (except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from that acceleration);

make the principal of or premium or interest on any debt security payable in currency other than that stated in the debt security;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, the right of holders of debt securities to receive payment of the principal of, premium and interest on those debt securities, the right of the holders to institute suit for the enforcement of the payment, the right of holders to waive past defaults or amendments to the limitations described in this bullet point; or

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security or change any of the provisions with respect to the redemption of any debt securities. (Section 9.3)

Except for certain specified provisions, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive our compliance with provisions of the indenture. (Section 9.2) The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all the debt securities of that series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series and its

Table of Contents

consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, premium or any interest on any debt security of that series; *provided, however*, that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind an acceleration and its consequences, including any related payment default that resulted from the acceleration. (Section 6.13)

Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances

Legal Defeasance. The indenture provides that, unless the terms of the applicable series of debt securities provide otherwise, we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series, and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by paying agents). We will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations (as described at the end of this section), that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of such payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable United States federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that holders of the debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred. (Section 8.3)

Defeasance of Certain Covenants. The indenture provides that, unless the terms of the applicable series of debt securities provide otherwise, upon compliance with certain conditions, we may omit to comply with the restrictive covenants contained in Sections 4.2 (SEC Reports), 4.3 through 4.6 (Compliance Certificate; Stay, Extension and Usury Laws; Corporate Existence; Taxes) and Section 5.1 (When We May Merge, Etc.) of the indenture, as well as any additional covenants contained in a supplement to the indenture, a board resolution or an officers' certificate delivered pursuant to the indenture.

The conditions include:

depositing with the trustee money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay principal, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities; and

delivering to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax in the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred. (Section 8.4)

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default. In the event we exercise our option not to comply with certain covenants of the indenture with respect to any series of debt securities and the debt securities of that

Table of Contents

series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and/or U.S. government obligations or foreign government obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. However, we will remain liable for those payments.

Foreign government obligations means, with respect to debt securities of any series that are denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars:

direct obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued such currency for the payment of which obligations its full faith and credit is pledged, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof; or

obligations of a person controlled or supervised by or acting as an agency or instrumentality of that government the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by that government, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The debt securities may be exchanged for or converted into shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or other securities. The terms, if any, on which the debt securities may be exchanged for or converted will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion, either mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, in which case the number of shares of common stock, preferred stock or other securities to be received by the holders of the debt securities would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the prospectus supplement.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York. (Section 10.10)

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

We have authority to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of October 21, 2004, none of our preferred stock was issued and outstanding.

The following description of the terms of the preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate and will apply to the preferred stock offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of preferred stock may specify different or additional terms. The description of certain provisions of the preferred stock set forth below and in any prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to each series of the preferred stock.

Under our certificate of incorporation, our board of directors is authorized without further stockholder action to provide for the issuance of up to the remaining authorized but unissued shares of our preferred stock, in one or more series, with such voting powers, full or limited, and with such designations, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as shall be stated in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issue of a series of such stock adopted, at any time or from time to time, by our board of directors. As used in this prospectus, the term board of directors includes any duly authorized committee thereof. The issuance of the preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of our common stock and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation and could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

Table of Contents

The preferred stock shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights set forth below unless we provide otherwise in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of the preferred stock offered thereby for specific terms, including:

the designation and stated value per share of such preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

the amount of liquidation preference per share;

the initial public offering price at which such preferred stock will be issued;

the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends shall be payable and the dates from which dividends shall commence to cumulate, if any;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions;

any conversion or exchange rights; and

any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights. The rights of the holders of each series of the preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

Dividend Rights

Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of our funds legally available therefor, cash dividends on such dates and at such rates as set forth in, or as are determined by the method described in, the prospectus supplement relating to such series of the preferred stock. Such rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each such dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on such record dates, fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock.

Such dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. If our board of directors fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on such dividend payment date will be lost, and we will have no obligation to pay any dividend for such period, whether or not dividends on such series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on the shares of each series of preferred stock for which dividends are cumulative will accrue from the date on which we initially issue shares of such series.

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Bank credit agreements that we may enter into from time to time and debt securities that we may issue from time to time may restrict our ability to declare or pay dividends on our capital stock.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, so long as the shares of any series of the preferred stock are outstanding, unless:

full dividends (including if such preferred stock is cumulative, dividends for prior dividend periods) have been declared and paid in full or declared and consideration sufficient for payment

set apart for payment on all outstanding shares of the preferred stock of such series and all other classes and series of our preferred stock, other than junior stock, as defined below, and

we are not in default or in arrears with respect to the mandatory or optional redemption or mandatory repurchase or other mandatory retirement of, or with respect to any sinking or other analogous funds for, any shares of preferred stock of such series or any shares of any of our other preferred stock of any class or series, other than junior stock, as defined below,

Table of Contents

we may not declare any dividends on any shares of our common stock or any of our other stock ranking as to dividends or distributions of assets junior to such series of preferred stock (we refer to this common stock and any such other stock as junior stock), or make any payment on account of, or set apart money for, the purchase, redemption or other retirement of, or for a sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of junior stock or make any distribution in respect of any shares of junior stock, whether in cash or property or in obligations of our stock, other than in junior stock which is neither convertible into, nor exchangeable or exercisable for, any of our securities other than junior stock.

Liquidation Preferences

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each series of the preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of common stock or any other shares of our stock ranking junior as to such distribution to such series of the preferred stock, but after any required distributions to holders of any shares of our stock ranking senior as to such distribution to such series of preferred stock, the amount set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of the preferred stock. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up and after required distribution of our assets to holders of any shares of our stock ranking senior as to such distribution to the preferred stock of a particular series, the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of such series and any other shares of our preferred stock, including any other series of the preferred stock, ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of the preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of such series and of such other shares of our preferred stock will share ratably in any such distribution of our assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After payment to the holders of the preferred stock of each series of the full preferential amounts of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holders of each such series of the preferred stock will be entitled to no further participation in any distribution of our assets.

Redemption

A series of the preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or from time to time in part, at our option, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Shares of the preferred stock redeemed by us will be restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of our preferred stock.

In the event that fewer than all of the outstanding shares of a series of the preferred stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by lot or pro rata, subject to rounding to avoid fractional shares, as may be determined by us or by any other method as may be determined by us in our sole discretion to be equitable. From and after the redemption date, unless default is made by us in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any, dividends will cease to accumulate on the shares of the preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders thereof, except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any, will cease.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, so long as any dividends on shares of any series of the preferred stock or any other series of our preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends and distribution of assets with such series of the preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of the preferred stock or such other series of our preferred stock will be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, unless all such shares are simultaneously redeemed, and we will not purchase or otherwise acquire any such shares; *provided, however*, that the foregoing will not prevent the purchase or acquisition of such shares pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all such shares outstanding.

Table of Contents

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The terms, if any, on which shares of the preferred stock of any series may be exchanged for or converted into shares of common stock, another series of the preferred stock or any other security will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion, either mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, in which case the number of shares of common stock, the shares of another series of the preferred stock or the amount of any other securities to be received by the holders of the preferred stock would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the prospectus supplement.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock, or except as required by applicable law, the holders of the preferred stock will not be entitled to vote for any purpose.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

We have authority to issue 400,000,000 shares of common stock. As of October 21, 2004, 143,414,103 shares of our common stock were outstanding.

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by stockholders, including the election of directors. Stockholders are not entitled to cumulative voting rights, and, accordingly, the holders of a majority of the shares voting for the election of directors can elect our entire board of directors if they choose to do so and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any person to our board of directors.

The holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors, in its discretion, from funds legally available therefor and subject to prior dividend rights of holders of any shares of preferred stock which may be outstanding. Bank credit agreements that we may enter into from time to time and debt securities that we may issue from time to time may restrict our ability to declare or pay dividends on our common stock. We expect to continue our current policy of paying no cash dividends to holders of our common stock for the foreseeable future. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, subject to prior liquidation rights of the holders of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive on a pro rata basis our remaining assets available for distribution. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or other subscription rights, and there are no conversion rights or redemption or sinking fund provisions with respect to shares of our common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are, and all shares being offered by this prospectus will be, fully paid and not liable to further calls or assessment by us.

Computershare Trust Company of New York is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue equity warrants to purchase preferred stock or common stock. The warrants may be issued independently or together with any securities and may be attached to or separate from the securities. If the warrants are issued pursuant to warrant agreements, we will so specify in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants being offered pursuant to the prospectus supplement. The following description of warrants will apply to the warrants offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of warrants may specify different or additional terms.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of equity warrants offered:

the title of the equity warrants;

the securities (i.e., preferred stock or common stock) for which the equity warrants are exercisable;

the price or prices at which the equity warrants will be issued;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the preferred stock or common stock with which the equity warrants are issued, and the number of equity warrants issued with each share of preferred stock or common stock; and

any other terms of the equity warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of equity warrants.

Holders of equity warrants will not be entitled, by virtue of being such holders, to vote, consent, receive dividends, receive notice as stockholders with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as our stockholders.

The exercise price payable and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon the exercise of each equity warrant will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common stock or preferred stock or a stock split, reverse stock split, combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock or preferred stock. In lieu of adjusting the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of each equity warrant, we may elect to adjust the number of equity warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement may provide that no adjustments in the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of the equity warrants will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% thereof. We may, at our option, reduce the exercise price at any time. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of equity warrants, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the applicable prospectus supplement may provide that, in case of any consolidation, merger, or sale or conveyance of our property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, the holder of each outstanding equity warrant shall have the right to the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property, including cash, receivable by a holder of the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock into which the equity warrant was exercisable immediately prior to the transaction.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such principal amount of securities or shares of stock at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

The warrants may be exercised as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered. Upon receipt of payment and the taking of other action specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon exercise. If less than all of the warrants represented by such warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. For purposes of Section 203, a business combination includes a merger, asset sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder, and an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and employees, owns or, within three years prior, did own 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws state that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by a majority of the total number of authorized directors or our chief executive officer. Special meetings of the stockholders of the Company may not be called by any other person or persons.

Our Board of Directors

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws also provide that directors may be removed only for cause by a vote of a majority of the stockholders and that vacancies on the board of directors created either by resignation, death, disqualification, removal or by an increase in the size of the board of directors may be filled by a majority of the directors in office, although less than a quorum. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws also provide for a classified board of directors and specify that the authorized number of directors may be changed only by resolution of the board of directors. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control or management.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

General

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities (1) through underwriters or dealers, (2) through agents, and/or (3) directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at:

a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

prices related to the prevailing market prices;

varying prices determined at the time of sale; or

negotiated prices.

We may solicit directly offers to purchase the securities being offered by this prospectus. We may also designate agents to solicit offers to purchase the securities from time to time. We will name in a prospectus supplement any agent involved in the offer or sale of our securities.

If we utilize a dealer in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, we will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

If we utilize an underwriter in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, we will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter at the time of sale and we will provide the name of any underwriter in the prospectus supplement which the underwriter will use to make resales of the securities to the public. In connection with the sale of the securities, we, or the purchasers of securities for whom the underwriter may act as agent, may compensate the underwriter in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions. The underwriter may sell the securities to or through dealers, and the underwriter may compensate those dealers in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions.

Table of Contents

With respect to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions and block trades, we will provide in the applicable prospectus supplement any compensation we pay to underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. We may enter into agreements to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments they may be required to make in respect thereof.

To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

The underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in other transactions with us, or perform other services for us, in the ordinary course of their business.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

Certain legal matters with respect to the validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park, California. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for any agents or underwriters by counsel for such agents or underwriters identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

Our consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003, and the related financial statement schedule, have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent auditors, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting. The audit reports dated January 26, 2004 contain an explanatory paragraph that refers to the Company's adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, on January 1, 2002.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The expenses to be paid by us in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered are as set forth in the following table:

Securities and Exchange Commission Fee	\$ 38,010
*Rating Agency Fees	150,000
*Legal Fees and Expenses	175,000
*Accounting Fees and Expenses	57,500
*Printing Expenses	30,000
*Blue Sky Fees	10,000
*Trustee/Issuing & Paying Agent Fees and Expenses	40,000
*Transfer Agent Fees & Expenses	5,000
*Miscellaneous	14,490
	<hr/>
*Total	\$ 520,000
	<hr/>

* Estimated.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

We are a Delaware corporation. Subsection (b)(7) of Section 102 of the Delaware General Corporation Law enables a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment thereto to eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of the director's fiduciary duty, except (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) pursuant to Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions) or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Subsection (a) of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law empowers a corporation to indemnify any present or former director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or any individual serving at the corporation's request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another organization, who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation), against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding provided that such director, officer, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, provided further that such director, officer, employee or agent had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

Subsection (b) of Section 145 empowers a corporation to indemnify any present or former director, officer, employee or agent who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses (including attorneys fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit provided that such director, officer, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, except

II-1

Table of Contents

that no indemnification may be made in respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which such director, officer, employee or agent shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all of the circumstances of the case, such director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Section 145 further provides that to the extent a director, officer, employee or agent has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith; that indemnification and advancement of expenses provided for, by, or granted pursuant to, Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and empowers the corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a present or former director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or any individual serving at the corporation's request as a director, officer or employee of another organization, against any liability asserted against him or incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liabilities under Section 145.

We provide indemnity insurance pursuant to which officers and directors are indemnified or insured against liability or loss under certain circumstances which may include liabilities or related loss under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act.

Our bylaws and certificate of incorporation provide for the mandatory indemnification of our directors, officers, and to the extent authorized by the board of directors, employees and other agents, to the maximum extent permitted by the Delaware Corporation Law, and we have entered into agreements with our officers, directors and certain key employees implementing such indemnification.

Item 16. Exhibits.

- 1.1* Form of Underwriting Agreement.
- 4.1 Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.3 to CNET's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001).
- 4.2 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to CNET's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, Registration No. 333-4752-LA).
- 4.3 Amended and Restated Bylaws of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to CNET's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2004).
- 4.4 Form of Indenture.
- 4.5* Form of Debt Securities.
- 4.6* Form of Warrant Agreement, if any, including form of Warrant.
- 4.7* Form of Preferred Stock Certificate.
- 4.8 Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (Incorporated by reference from CNET's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, registration No. 333-4752-LA)
- 5.1 Opinion of Latham & Watkins LLP.
- 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.

Table of Contents

- 23.1 Consent of Independent Auditors.
- 23.2 Consent of Latham & Watkins LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto).
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in signature page hereto).
- 25.1** Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1.

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K.

** To be filed pursuant to Rule 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; *provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act and (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment

Table of Contents

by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(i) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

(1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(j) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act (the "Act") in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of San Francisco, State of California, on October 26, 2004.

CNET Networks, Inc.

By: /s/ Douglas N. Woodrum

Douglas N. Woodrum
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial

Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know All Persons By These Presents, that each individual whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Shelby W. Bonnie and Douglas N. Woodrum, and each or any one of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement and any related registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file this registration statement, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his substitutes or substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. This power of attorney may be executed in counterparts.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the 26th day of October, 2004.

Signature

Title

/s/ Shelby W. Bonnie

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

Shelby W. Bonnie

(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ Douglas N. Woodrum

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Douglas N. Woodrum

(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ David Overmyer

Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration

David P. Overmyer

(Principal Accounting Officer)

Edgar Filing: CNET NETWORKS INC - Form S-3

<u>/s/ John C. Colligan</u>	Director
John C. Colligan	
<u>/s/ Mitchell Kertzman</u>	Director
Mitchell Kertzman	
<u>/s/ Jarl Mohn</u>	Director
Jarl Mohn	
<u>/s/ Betsey Nelson</u>	Director
Betsey Nelson	
<u>/s/ Eric Robison</u>	Director
Eric Robison	

II-5

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 1.1* Form of Underwriting Agreement.
- 4.1 Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.3 to CNET's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001).
- 4.2 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to CNET's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, registration No. 333 - 4752-LA).
- 4.3 Amended and Restated Bylaws of CNET (Incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to CNET's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2004).
- 4.4 Form of Indenture.
- 4.5* Form of Debt Securities.
- 4.6* Form of Warrant Agreement, if any, including form of Warrant.
- 4.7* Form of Preferred Stock Certificate.
- 4.8 Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (Incorporated by reference from CNET's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, Registration No. 333-4752-LA)
- 5.1 Opinion of Latham & Watkins LLP.
- 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.
- 23.1 Consent of Independent Auditors.
- 23.2 Consent of Latham & Watkins LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto).
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in signature page hereto).
- 25.1** Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1.

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K.

** To be filed pursuant to Rule 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.