

3D SYSTEMS CORP
Form S-3
February 24, 2010

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 24, 2010
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
3D SYSTEMS CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)*

95-4431352
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

333 Three D Systems Circle
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
(803) 326-3900
*(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive
Offices)*

Robert M. Grace, Jr.
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
3D Systems Corporation
333 Three D Systems Circle
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
(803) 326-3900

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

Please send copies of all notices, orders and communications to:

Andrew A. Gerber, Esq.
Hunton & Williams LLP
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 3500
Charlotte, N.C. 28280
704-378-4700

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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, 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, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)	Registration Fee(2)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value(3)				
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value				
Debt Securities(4)				
Warrants				
Units(5)				
Total			\$75,000,000	\$5,348

(1) There is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities and an indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, warrants and units as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, exchange, exercise or settlement of any securities registered hereunder, for which separate consideration may or may not be received. Information as to the amount, the proposed maximum offering price per unit and proposed maximum aggregate offering price of each class of securities being registered is not specified in accordance with General Instruction II.D. to Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933. Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act, there is also being registered such indeterminate number of shares of our common stock as may be issued from time to time with respect to shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The aggregate public offering price of the securities registered hereunder will not exceed \$75,000,000.
- (3) Securities registered on this registration statement also includes the preferred stock purchase rights attached to and traded with the shares of common stock being registered hereunder. The value attributable to the preferred stock purchase rights, if any, is reflected in the value attributable to the common stock.
- (4) If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as may be sold for an aggregate initial offering price of up to the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.
- (5) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement, indenture, or other agreement and will represent an interest in one or more shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, debt securities or warrants in any combination.

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 Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until 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 FEBRUARY 24, 2010

PROSPECTUS

3D SYSTEMS CORPORATION

\$75,000,000

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants
Units**

This prospectus relates solely to our offer and sale, from time to time, of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants to purchase debt or equity securities or units of such securities of 3D Systems Corporation (3D Systems).

We may offer the securities from time to time in amounts and on terms as we may determine in the manner described in this prospectus, at prevailing market prices or at prices different than prevailing market prices. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a delayed or continuous basis. A prospectus supplement will provide the specific terms of the plan of distribution.

Each time our securities are offered under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing more specific information about the particular offering. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, together with the documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Market under the ticker symbol TDSC. The last reported sale price of our common stock on February 23, 2010 was \$13.64 per share. We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system or over-the-counter system. If we decide to seek a listing for any of those securities, that will be disclosed in a prospectus supplement.

Investing in these securities involves substantial risks. See Risk Factors on page 6 herein and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference herein, updated and supplemented by our periodic reports and other information filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated by reference herein. The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the particular type of securities we are offering under that prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2010.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	2
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	3
<u>Our Company</u>	5
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	6
<u>Description of the Securities We May Offer</u>	7
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	7
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	12
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	22
<u>Description of Units</u>	23
<u>Global Securities</u>	24
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	25
<u>Legal Matters</u>	28
<u>Experts</u>	28
<u>EX-4.1</u>	
<u>EX-4.6</u>	
<u>EX-5.1</u>	
<u>EX-12.1</u>	
<u>EX-23.1</u>	

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, offer and/or sell the securities referenced in this prospectus in one or more offerings. Each time we offer our securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. We may also provide you a free writing prospectus at the time our securities are offered. The prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will contain more specific information about the offering. The prospectus supplement and free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any statement that we make in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement made by us in a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference**.

We have filed or incorporated by reference exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You should read the exhibits carefully for provisions that may be important to you. Any statement made in this prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual document. You may obtain a copy of any document summarized in this prospectus at no cost by writing to or telephoning us at the address and telephone number given below. Each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual document. See **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, free writing prospectus or incorporated by reference herein. This prospectus may be used only where it is legal to sell these securities. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, in any state where the offer or sale is prohibited. The information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated herein or therein by reference is accurate as of the date contained on the cover of such documents. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, nor any sale made under this prospectus or any prospectus supplement will, under any circumstances, imply that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is correct as of any date after the date of this prospectus or any such prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we have filed with the Commission. This means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. Our Commission filing number is 001-34220. All documents that we subsequently file with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to below as the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of this offering, will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed below or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the Commission under its rules and regulations, including information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be

incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the Commission, and any filings that we will make with the Commission in the future, under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until this offering is terminated:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 2, 2010 and February 16, 2010;

Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 31, 2009; and

Our Registration Statement on Form 8-B, filed with the Commission on August 13, 1993, as amended by Form 8-B/A, filed with the Commission on February 4, 1994, describing our common stock, and any amendment or report filed with the Commission for the purpose of updating the description.

Copies of any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are available free of charge by writing 3D Systems Corporation, 333 Three D Systems Circle, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730, Attention: Investor Relations Coordinator, or by telephoning us at (803) 326-3900.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file quarterly, annual and other periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. Copies of our reports, proxy statements and other information may be inspected and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Commission maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding 3D Systems and other issuers that file electronically with the Commission. The address of the Commission internet site is www.sec.gov. This information is also available on our website at www.3DSystems.com. Information contained on these websites is not incorporated by reference into and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with the Commission with respect to the securities to be sold hereunder. This prospectus has been filed as part of that registration statement. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement because certain parts of the registration statement are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission. The registration statement is available for inspection and copying as set forth above.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements made in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement that are not statements of historical or current facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from historical results or from any future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Certain of these risks and uncertainties are discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" below and in our other Commission filings. All forward looking statements should be read with caution.

In addition to statements that explicitly describe such risks and uncertainties, you are urged to consider statements in future or conditional tenses or that include terms such as "believes," "belief," "expects," "intends," "anticipates" or "plans" uncertain and forward-looking. Forward-looking statements may include statements as to our beliefs and expectations as to future events and trends affecting our business. Forward-looking statements are based upon our current

expectations concerning future events and trends and are necessarily subject to uncertainties, many of which are outside of our control. The factors incorporated by reference under the heading **Risk Factors** below and those described in our other Commission reports, as well as other factors, could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected or predicted in forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those reflected in or suggested by forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement you read in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement reflects our views with respect to future events and is subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. You should specifically consider the factors identified or referred to in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and our other Commission reports, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which could cause actual results to differ from those referred to in forward-looking statements.

Any forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs and assumptions, using information currently available to us. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to revise or publicly release the results of any revision to any forward-looking statements. You are advised, however, to consult any additional disclosures we make in our periodic reports to the Commission. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

OUR COMPANY

This summary description of us and our business highlights selected information about us contained elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated herein by reference. This summary may not contain all of the information about us that you should consider before buying securities in this offering. You should carefully read this entire prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including each of the documents incorporated herein by reference, before making an investment decision. As used herein, we, us, and our refer to 3D Systems Corporation and its subsidiaries.

We are a holding company that operates through subsidiaries in the United States, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. We design, develop, manufacture, market and service 3-D printing, rapid manufacturing, and prototyping systems and related products and materials that enable complex three-dimensional objects to be produced directly from computer data without tooling. We also operate 3D propartstm, a comprehensive service that offers our customers rapid prototyping and direct rapid manufacturing services for the production of precision parts.

Our customers use our proprietary systems to produce physical objects from digital data using commonly available computer-aided design software, often referred to as CAD software, or other digital-media devices such as engineering scanners and MRI or CT medical scanners. Our systems' ability to produce functional parts from digital art enables customers to create detailed prototypes or production-quality parts quickly and effectively without a significant investment in expensive tooling, greatly reducing the time and cost required to produce prototypes or to customize production parts.

Our systems use additive part-production processes for applications that require rapid design iterations, prototyping and manufacturing. We believe that our systems enable our customers to develop better quality, higher functionality new products faster and more economically than other more traditional methods.

Our product development efforts are focused on expanding our portfolio of 3-D printing and rapid manufacturing solutions, which we believe represent significant growth opportunities for our business. We also believe that our core rapid prototyping business continues to provide us with significant growth opportunities. In recent years, we have worked to develop new systems and materials and have enhanced our overall technology to rejuvenate and reshape our core business while developing new products that address our 3-D printing and rapid manufacturing growth initiatives. With respect to the uses of our systems:

In rapid manufacturing applications, our systems are used to manufacture end-use parts that have the appearance and characteristics of high-quality injection-molded parts. Customers who adopt our rapid manufacturing solutions avoid the significant costs of complex set-ups and changeovers and eliminate the costs and lead-times associated with conventional tooling methods or hand labor. Rapid manufacturing enables our customers to produce optimized designs since they can design for function, unconstrained by normal design-for-manufacture considerations.

In 3-D printing applications, our systems are used to produce three-dimensional shapes, primarily for visualizing and communicating concepts, various design applications and other applications, including supply-chain management, functional modeling, architecture, art, surgical modeling, medical end use applications such as hearing aids and dental uses, and entertainment.

In rapid prototyping applications, our systems are used to generate quickly and efficiently product-concept models, functional prototypes to test form, fit and function, master patterns and expendable patterns for investment casting that are often used as a cost-effective means of evaluating product designs and short run

production.

Our products offer our customers an integrated systems solution consisting of equipment and embedded software, integrated consumable materials and customer service. Our extensive solutions portfolio is based on four distinct and proprietary technology platforms, discussed in greater detail below, that enable us to offer our customers a way to transform the manner in which they design, develop and manufacture their products.

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Our executive office is located at 333 Three D Systems Circle, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730. Our telephone number is (803) 326-3900. Our website is www.3Dsystems.com. Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference into and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risks that could affect us and our business as well as our industry generally. Please see the risk factors discussed herein and in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K which is incorporated by reference into this document, as such may be updated and supplemented by our Commission filings. Much of the business information as well as the financial and operational data contained in our risk factors is updated in our periodic reports and current reports, which are also incorporated by reference into this document. Although we have tried to discuss key factors, please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time, and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial condition or performance. Before purchasing any of our securities, you should carefully consider the risks discussed herein and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and the other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as any future filings that are incorporated by reference herein and any related free writing prospectus. Risks related to any specific securities we offer will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to those securities. Each of the risks described could result in a material decrease in the value of our securities and your investment in them.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of offered securities:

to finance future acquisitions of other entities or their assets; and

for working capital and general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of future indebtedness.

In the event that any net proceeds are not immediately applied, we may temporarily hold them as cash, deposit them in banks, or invest them in cash equivalents or securities that our investment policies permit us to invest in from time to time.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table contains our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. You should read these ratios in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to those statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.6x	*	*	*	4.0x

* Fixed charges exceeded earnings for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. The amount of the deficiency, or the fixed charge amounts in excess of earnings were approximately \$5.9 million, \$6.2 million and \$27.1 million in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

We have computed the ratio of earnings to fixed charges by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For the purposes of computing these ratios, earnings have been calculated by adding fixed charges to income (loss) before income taxes less minority interest and fixed charges as the sum of interest on debt and capitalized leases, amortization of debt discount and expense, and an imputed interest factor included in rentals.

Currently, we do not have any shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of our common stock (including their corresponding preferred stock purchase rights), preferred stock, debt securities, warrants to purchase debt or equity securities and units that we may offer from time to time. As further described in this prospectus, these summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and other offering material. The accompanying prospectus supplement may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the securities as described in this prospectus

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our capital stock is based upon our Certificate of Incorporation, our By-Laws and applicable provisions of law, in each case as currently in effect. The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of our capital stock set forth in our Certificate of Incorporation and our By-Laws, each as in effect as of the date of this prospectus, does not purport to be complete, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents, the information regarding our capital stock incorporated by reference herein from our Commission filings and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. The documents governing our capital stock have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The particular terms of any series of preferred stock we offer will be described in the related prospectus supplement. You should read that description, together with the more detailed provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to the particular series of preferred stock, for provisions that may be important to you. The certificate of designations relating to each particular series of preferred stock will be filed as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 60,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

As of December 31, 2009, we had the following equity securities outstanding:

22,699,937 million shares of common stock;

no shares of preferred stock; and

864,482 options to purchase a like number of shares of common stock.

The following description of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified by our Certificate of Incorporation, our Amended and Restated By-Laws, and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law, each as in effect as of the date of this prospectus.

Common Stock

Our common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol TDSC. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters voted upon by our stockholders, including the election of directors. Holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights or preemptive rights to purchase

additional shares of our common stock.

Subject to the rights of holders of any then outstanding shares of our preferred stock, our common stockholders are entitled to receive such dividends as may be declared from time to time by our Board of Directors from funds legally available therefor. We do not currently pay cash dividends on our common stock, and we currently intend to retain any future earnings for use in our business. Any future determination as to the declaration of dividends on our common stock will be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will depend on our earnings, operating and financial condition, capital requirements and other factors deemed

Table of Contents

relevant by the Board of Directors, including the applicable requirements of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which provides that dividends are payable only out of surplus or current net profits. The payment of dividends on our common stock may be restricted by the provisions of credit agreements or other financing documents that we may enter into or the terms of securities that we may issue from time to time.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in our net assets upon our dissolution, liquidation or winding-up, after payment or provision for all liabilities and any pari passu or preferential liquidation rights of our preferred stock then outstanding.

The shares of our common stock are not subject to any redemption provisions and are not convertible into any other shares of our capital stock. All outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, those of the holders of preferred stock, and will be subject to those of the holders of any shares of our preferred stock that we may issue in the future, including our Series A Preferred Stock discussed below.

Preferred Stock

The Board of Directors may, from time to time, authorize the issuance of one or more classes or series of preferred stock without stockholder approval up to the maximum of 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock that are currently authorized. Subject to the provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, and limitations prescribed by law, the Board of Directors is authorized to adopt resolutions, without any action or vote by our stockholders, that set for the terms and rights of any future series of preferred stock. Those terms and rights may include:

the designation of the series;

the number of shares of the series, which number the Board of Directors may thereafter, except where otherwise provided in the applicable certificate of designation, increase or decrease, but not below the number of shares thereof then outstanding;

whether dividends, if any, will be cumulative or noncumulative, and, in the case of shares of any series having cumulative dividend rights, the date or dates or method of determining the date or dates from which dividends on the shares of such series shall be cumulative;

the rate of any dividends or method of determining such dividends payable to the holders of the shares of such series, any conditions upon which such dividends will be paid and the date or dates or the method for determining the date or dates upon which such dividends will be payable;

the redemption rights and prices, if any, for shares of the series;

the terms and amounts of any sinking fund provided for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series;

the amounts payable on and the preferences, if any, of shares of the series in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up;

whether the shares of the series will be convertible or exchangeable into shares of any other class or series, or any other security, of us or any other entity, and, if so, the specification of such other class or series or such other security, the conversion or exchange price or prices or rate or rates, any adjustments thereof, the date or dates as of which such shares will be convertible or exchangeable and all other terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange may be made;

restrictions on the issuance of shares of the same series or of any other class or series;
the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the shares of the series; and
any other relative rights, preferences, and limitations of such series.

Table of Contents

One of the effects of the Board of Directors' right to designate and issue preferred stock without stockholder approval may be to enable the Board of Directors to discourage an attempt to obtain control of the company by means of a tender offer, proxy contest, merger or otherwise. Furthermore, the issuance of preferred stock may adversely affect the rights of our common stockholders by, among other things:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

delaying or preventing a change in control without further action by the stockholders.

Series A Preferred Stock

Of the 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock authorized by our Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, our Board of Directors has designated 1,000,000 shares as Series A Preferred Stock. In 2008, our Board of Directors approved the creation of our Series A Preferred Stock and adopted a stockholders' rights plan pursuant to which it declared a dividend of one Series A Preferred Stock purchase right for each share of our common stock held by stockholders of record as of the close of business on December 22, 2008. These preferred share purchase rights also attach to any additional shares of common stock issued after December 22, 2008. These rights are not currently exercisable and trade with the shares of our common stock. Under the rights plan, these rights generally become exercisable only if a person or group acquires or commences a tender or exchange offer for 15 percent or more of our common stock. If the rights become exercisable, each right will permit its holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock for the exercise price of \$55.00 per right. The rights plan also contains customary flip-in and flip-over provisions such that if a person or group acquires beneficial ownership of 15 percent or more of our common stock, each right will permit its holder, other than the acquiring person or group, to purchase shares of our common stock for a price equal to the quotient obtained by dividing \$55.00 per right by one-half the then current market price of our common stock. In addition, if, after a person acquires such ownership, we are later acquired in a merger or similar transaction, each right will permit its holder, other than the acquiring person or group, to purchase shares of the acquiring corporation's stock for a price equal to the quotient obtained by dividing \$55.00 per right by one-half of the then current market price of the acquiring company's common stock, based on the market price of the acquiring corporation's stock prior to such merger. See Rights Plan below.

Rights Plan

As noted above, on December 9, 2008, our Board of Directors adopted a stockholder rights plan, as set forth in the Rights Agreement dated as of December 9, 2008, by and between us and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent (the Rights Agreement). Pursuant to the terms of the Rights Agreement, the Board declared a dividend of one Series A Preferred Stock purchase right (a Right) for each outstanding share of common stock. The dividend was distributed on December 22, 2008 to the stockholders of record on December 22, 2008.

Currently, the Rights trade with, and are inseparable from, our common stock. The Rights will be issued in either certificated or uncertificated form. In uncertificated form, they are evidenced only by the balances indicated in the records of the transfer agent for our common stock or, in the case of certificated shares, by legends appearing on certificates issued after December 22, 2008 that represent such shares of common stock. Rights will also accompany any new shares of common stock that we issue after December 22, 2008 until the earlier of the Distribution Date, the Redemption Date or the Final Expiration Date of the Rights Agreement, each as described below.

Once the Rights become exercisable following a Distribution Date, each Right will permit its holder to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Preferred Stock (Series A Preferred Share) for \$55.00. Prior to the occurrence of a Distribution Date and the subsequent exercise of the Rights by the holders of record thereof, the Rights do not give their holders any rights with respect to Series A Preferred Shares, common stock or otherwise.

Table of Contents

The Rights are not exercisable until the earlier of the following (the Distribution Date):

10 days after the public announcement that a person or group has become an Acquiring Person by obtaining beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock; or

10 business days (or a later date determined by the Board before any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person) after a person or group begins a tender or exchange offer which, if completed, would result in that person or group becoming an Acquiring Person.

The Rights Agreement defines the term Acquiring Person generally to mean any person who, together with all affiliates and associates of such person, is the beneficial owner of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock, including common stock involved in certain derivative transactions described in the Rights Agreement. However, that definition does not generally include (i) 3D Systems Corporation, any subsidiary of 3D Systems Corporation, any employee benefit or stock ownership plan of 3D Systems Corporation or any such subsidiary, or any entity holding common stock for or pursuant to the terms of any such plan or (ii) any Exempt Person (as defined below). Our Board has the authority under the Rights Agreement to determine that a person who would otherwise be an Acquiring Person has become an Acquiring Person inadvertently, and to treat such person as not having become an Acquiring Person if such person divests as promptly as practicable a sufficient number of common stock so that such person would no longer be an Acquiring Person.

As noted above, until a Distribution Date occurs, the balances in the records of the transfer agent for our common stock or, in the case of certificated shares, legends on common stock certificates issued after December 22, 2008, will evidence the Rights, and any transfer of shares of common stock, or in the case of certificated shares, certificates for common stock, will constitute a transfer of the associated Rights. After any Distribution Date, the Rights will separate from the common stock and will be recorded in the records of the rights agent, either in certificated or uncertificated form. Only holders of record of outstanding Rights after the occurrence of a Distribution Date will be entitled to exercise any of the rights of a holder of Rights. Any Rights held by an Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate of an Acquiring Person will be deemed to be void and may not be exercised by any such person.

If a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person and a Distribution Date occurs, all holders of record of Rights except the Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate thereof, may purchase additional shares of our common stock for a price equal to the quotient obtained by dividing \$55.00 per right (subject to adjustment as provided in the plan) by one-half of the then current market price of our common stock. In addition, if, after a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, we are later acquired in a merger or similar transaction after a Distribution Date, all holders of record of Rights except the Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate thereof, may purchase shares of the acquiring corporation's stock for a price equal to the quotient obtained by dividing \$55.00 per right (subject to adjustment as provided in the plan) by one-half of the then current market price of the acquiring company's stock, based on the price of the acquiring corporation's stock prior to such merger.

The Rights Agreement defines the term Exempt Person generally to mean certain holders of our common stock who are known to us as being the beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock as long as they continue to hold such shares of common stock as passive investment in our securities. These persons include St. Denis J. Villere & Company, L.L.C., T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc., The Clark Estates, Inc., G. Walter Loewenbaum, II, Kevin S. Moore and any affiliate or associate of any of the foregoing.

Each Series A Preferred Share, if issued and outstanding:

will not be redeemable.

will entitle holders of record to cumulative cash dividends when , as and if declared by the Board in an amount equal to the amount, if any, of cash dividends paid on each share of common stock, and additional quarterly cash dividends equal to \$1.00 per whole Series A Preferred Share issued and outstanding less the per share amount of all dividends, if any, declared on common stock, if any, before giving effect to the application of a formula number (as defined, which unless adjusted will equal 100) since the immediately preceding quarterly dividend payment date.

Table of Contents

will entitle holders upon liquidation to receive an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends and distributions on Series A Preferred Shares, whether or not declared, plus an amount equal to the greater of (i) \$0.01 per whole Series A Preferred Share and (ii) an aggregate amount per whole Series A Preferred Share equal to a formula number (as defined, which unless adjusted will equal 100) then in effect times the aggregate amount to be distributed to per share holders of common stock.

will generally have the same voting power as one share of common stock, will generally vote as a single class with our common stock and will have the right to vote as a single class with respect to such matters as are required by law.

if shares of our common stock are exchanged via merger, consolidation, or a similar transaction, will entitle holders to a per share payment equal to the payment made on one share of common stock.

The Rights will expire on the earlier to occur of (i) December 22, 2011, or such later date as approved by the independent members of our Board of Directors (so long as such determination is made prior to December 22, 2011), or (ii) December 22, 2018 (the Final Expiration Date). No payment will be made to the holder of any Right upon its expiration.

The Board may redeem the Rights for \$0.001 per Right at any time prior to 10 days after such time that any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person (the Redemption Date). If the Board redeems any Rights, it must redeem all of the Rights that are not deemed to be void. Once the Rights are redeemed, the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the redemption price of \$0.001 per Right. The redemption price will be adjusted if we have a stock split or stock dividends of our common stock.

After a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, but before an Acquiring Person owns 50% or more of our outstanding common stock, the Board may extinguish the Rights by exchanging one share of common stock or an equivalent security for each Right, other than Rights held by the Acquiring Person and its associates and affiliates.

The Board may adjust the purchase price of the Series A Preferred Shares to be paid upon the exercise of Rights, the number of Series A Preferred Shares issuable and the number of outstanding Rights from time to time to prevent dilution that may occur from a stock dividend, a stock split or reclassification of the issued and outstanding Series A Preferred Shares or common stock or for certain other events set forth in the Rights Agreement. No adjustments to the exercise price of any Right amounting to less than 1% will be made, but any such adjustment will be carried forward and applied with respect to any subsequent anti-dilution adjustment.

The Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board in its sole discretion until such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person. After such time the Board may, subject to certain limitations set forth in the Rights Agreement, amend the Rights Agreement only to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, to shorten or lengthen any time period, or to make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of Rights holders (excluding the interests of an Acquiring Person or its associates or affiliates).

In addition, the Board may, at any time prior to the time at which any person becomes an Acquiring Person, amend the Rights Agreement to lower the threshold at which a person becomes an Acquiring Person to not less than 10%; provided, however, that the Board may not cause a person or group to become an Acquiring Person by lowering this threshold below the percentage interest that such person or group already owns.

The Certificate of Designations of our Series A Preferred Stock and the Rights Agreement are filed as exhibits to the registration statement to which this prospectus forms a part and are incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing

description of the terms of the Rights Agreement and the Rights is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Certificate of Designations and the Rights Agreement.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services, 250 Royall Street MS 3B, Canton, Massachusetts 02021.

Table of Contents

Limitation of Director Liability

Our Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, contains a provision that limits the liability of our directors as permitted under Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law. The provision eliminates a director's personal liability to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (A) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders, (B) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (C) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law or (D) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The Debt Securities offered by this prospectus will be our direct unsecured general obligations. This prospectus describes certain general terms of the Debt Securities offered through this prospectus. When we offer to sell a particular series of Debt Securities, we will describe the specific terms of that series in a prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. The Debt Securities will be issued under an open-ended Indenture (for Debt Securities) between us and a trustee to be elected by us at or about the time we offer our Debt Securities. The open-ended Indenture (for Debt Securities) is incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. In this prospectus we refer to the Indenture (for Debt Securities) as the Debt Securities Indenture. We refer to the trustee under any Debt Securities Indenture as the Debt Securities Trustee.

The prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus applicable to a particular series of Debt Securities may state that a particular series of Debt Securities will be our subordinated obligations. The form of Debt Securities Indenture referred to above includes optional provisions (designated by brackets ([])) that we would expect to appear in a separate indenture for subordinated debt securities in the event we issue subordinated debt securities. In the following discussion, we refer to any subordinated obligations as the Subordinated Debt Securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus provides otherwise, we will use a separate Debt Securities Indenture for any Subordinated Debt Securities that we may issue. Our Debt Securities Indenture will be, qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and you should refer to the Trust Indenture Act for the provisions that apply to the Debt Securities.

We have summarized selected provisions of the Debt Securities Indenture below. Each Debt Securities Indenture will be independent of any other Debt Securities Indenture unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. The summary that follows is not complete and the summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture. You should consult the applicable Debt Securities, Debt Securities Indenture, any supplemental indentures, officers' certificates and other related documents for more complete information on the Debt Securities. These documents appear as exhibits to, or are incorporated by reference into, the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will appear as exhibits to other documents that we will file with the Commission, which will be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. In the summary below, we have included references to applicable section numbers of the Debt Securities Indenture so that you can easily locate these provisions.

Ranking

Our Debt Securities that are not designated Subordinated Debt Securities will be effectively subordinated to all secured indebtedness that we have outstanding from time to time to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such secured indebtedness. Our Debt Securities that are designated Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinate

to all outstanding secured indebtedness as well as Debt Securities that are not designated Subordinated Debt Securities. As of December 31, 2009, we did not have any secured, senior unsecured or subordinated indebtedness outstanding. The Indenture (For Debt Securities) does not limit the amount of secured indebtedness that we may issue or incur.

Table of Contents

We are a holding company and conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries. Substantially all of our operating cash flow is generated by our subsidiaries. Our ability to meet our financial obligations with respect to any future Debt Securities, and cash needs generally, is dependent on our operating cash flow, our ability to access various sources of short- and long-term liquidity, including our bank facilities, the capital markets and distributions from our subsidiaries. Holders of our Debt Securities will effectively have a junior position to claims of creditors of our subsidiaries, including trade creditors, debt holders, secured creditors, taxing authorities and guarantee holders.

Provisions of a Particular Series

The Debt Securities may from time to time be issued in one or more series. You should consult the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus relating to any particular series of Debt Securities for the following information:

the title of the Debt Securities;

any limit on aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities or the series of which they are a part;

the date(s), or method for determining the date(s), on which the principal of the Debt Securities will be payable;

the rate, including the method of determination if applicable, at which the Debt Securities will bear interest, if any, and

the date from which any interest will accrue;

the dates on which we will pay interest;

our ability to defer interest payments and any related restrictions during any interest deferral period; and

the record date for any interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place where:

the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Debt Securities will be payable;

you may register transfer of the Debt Securities;

you may exchange the Debt Securities; and

you may serve notices and demands upon us regarding the Debt Securities;

the security registrar for the Debt Securities and whether the principal of the Debt Securities is payable without presentment or surrender of them;

the terms and conditions upon which we may elect to redeem any Debt Securities, including any replacement capital or similar covenants limiting our ability to redeem any Subordinated Debt Securities;

the denominations in which we may issue Debt Securities, if other than \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

the terms and conditions upon which the Debt Securities must be redeemed or purchased due to our obligations pursuant to any sinking fund or other mandatory redemption or tender provisions, or at the holder's option, including any applicable exceptions to notice requirements;

the currency, if other than United States currency, in which payments on the Debt Securities will be payable;

the terms according to which elections can be made by us or the holder regarding payments on the Debt Securities in currency other than the currency in which the Debt Securities are stated to be payable;

Table of Contents

if payments are to be made on the Debt Securities in securities or other property, the type and amount of the securities and other property or the method by which the amount shall be determined;

the manner in which we will determine any amounts payable on the Debt Securities that are to be determined with reference to an index or other fact or event ascertainable outside the applicable indenture;

if other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the Debt Securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity;

any addition to the events of default applicable to any Debt Securities and any additions to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of the Debt Securities;

the terms applicable to any rights to convert Debt Securities into or exchange them for other of our securities or those of any other entity;

whether we are issuing Debt Securities as global securities, and if so,

any limitations on transfer or exchange rights or the right to obtain the registration of transfer;

any limitations on the right to obtain definitive certificates for the Debt Securities; and

any other matters incidental to the Debt Securities;

whether we are issuing the Debt Securities as bearer securities;

any limitations on transfer or exchange of Debt Securities or the right to obtain registration of their transfer, and the terms and amount of any service charge required for registration of transfer or exchange;

any exceptions to the provisions governing payments due on legal holidays, or any variations in the definition of business day with respect to the Debt Securities;

any collateral security, assurance, guarantee or other credit enhancement applicable to the Debt Securities; and

any other terms of the Debt Securities not in conflict with the provisions of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

For more information, see Section 301 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Debt Securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. You should consult the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus for a description of certain special United States federal income tax considerations that may apply to Debt Securities sold at an original issue discount or denominated in a currency other than dollars.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, the covenants contained in the applicable indenture will not afford holders of Debt Securities protection in the event we have a change in control or are involved in a highly-leveraged transaction.

Subordination

The applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may provide that a series of Debt Securities will be Subordinated Debt Securities, subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our Senior Indebtedness, as defined below. If so, we will issue these securities under a separate Debt Securities Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities. For more information, see Article XV of the form of Debt Securities Indenture.

Table of Contents

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, no payment of principal of, including redemption and sinking fund payments, or any premium or interest on, the Subordinated Debt Securities may be made if:

there occur certain acts of bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation, dissolution or other winding up of our company;

any Senior Indebtedness is not paid when due;

any applicable grace period with respect to other defaults with respect to any Senior Indebtedness has ended, the default has not been cured or waived and the maturity of such Senior Indebtedness has been accelerated because of the default; or

the maturity of the Subordinated Debt Securities of any series has been accelerated because of a default and Senior Indebtedness is then outstanding.

Upon any distribution of our assets to creditors upon any dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other proceedings, all principal of, and any premium and interest due or to become due on, all outstanding Senior Indebtedness must be paid in full before the holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities are entitled to payment. For more information, see Section 1502 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture. The rights of the holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions applicable to Senior Indebtedness until all amounts owing on the Subordinated Debt Securities are paid in full. For more information, see Section 1504 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, the term Senior Indebtedness means all obligations (other than non-recourse obligations and the indebtedness issued under the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture) of, or guaranteed or assumed by, us:

for borrowed money (including both senior and subordinated indebtedness for borrowed money, but excluding the Subordinated Debt Securities);

for the payment of money relating to any lease that is capitalized on our consolidated balance sheet in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; or

indebtedness evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments.

In the case of any such indebtedness or obligations, Senior Indebtedness includes amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings, whether existing as of the date of the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture or subsequently incurred by us.

The Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of Senior Indebtedness that we may issue.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, we will issue Debt Securities only in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of that amount. For more information, see Sections 201 and 302 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Holders may present Debt Securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or accompanied by a duly executed instrument of transfer, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we may designate. Exchanges and transfers are subject to the terms of the applicable indenture and applicable limitations for global securities. We may designate ourselves the security registrar.

No charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of Debt Securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that the holder must pay in connection with the transaction. Any transfer or exchange will become effective upon the security registrar or

Table of Contents

transfer agent, as the case may be, being satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. For more information, see Section 305 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

The applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will state the name of any transfer agent, in addition to the security registrar initially designated by us, for any Debt Securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or withdraw the designation of any transfer agent or make a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts. We must, however, maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the Debt Securities of each series. For more information, see Section 602 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

We will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any Debt Securities or any tranche of any Debt Securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any Debt Securities called for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing; or

register the transfer of, or exchange any Debt Securities selected for redemption except the unredeemed portion of any Debt Securities being partially redeemed.

For more information, see Section 305 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, we will pay interest on a Debt Security on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the Debt Security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest payment. For more information, see Section 307 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus provides otherwise, we will pay principal and any premium and interest on Debt Securities at the office of the paying agent whom we will designate for this purpose. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, the corporate trust office of the Debt Securities Trustee in New York City will be designated as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to Debt Securities of each series. Any other paying agents initially designated by us for the Debt Securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. We may at any time add or delete paying agents or change the office through which any paying agent acts. We must, however, maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the Debt Securities of a particular series. For more information, see Section 602 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

All money we pay to a paying agent for the payment of the principal and any premium or interest on any Debt Security that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after payment is due will be repaid to us. After that date, the holder of that Debt Security shall be deemed an unsecured general creditor and may look only to us for these payments. For more information, see Section 603 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Redemption

You should consult the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus for any terms regarding optional or mandatory redemption of Debt Securities. Except for any provisions in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus regarding Debt Securities redeemable at the holder's option, Debt Securities may be redeemed only upon notice by mail not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the redemption date. Further, if less than all of the Debt Securities of a series, or any tranche of a series, are to be redeemed, the Debt Securities to be redeemed

will be selected by the method provided for the particular series. In the absence of a selection provision, the Debt Securities Trustee will select a fair and appropriate method of selection. For more information, see Sections 403 and 404 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Table of Contents

A notice of redemption we provide may state:

that redemption is conditioned upon receipt by the paying agent on or before the redemption date of money sufficient to pay the principal of and any premium and interest on the Debt Securities; and

that if the money has not been received, the notice will be ineffective and we will not be required to redeem the Debt Securities.

For more information, see Section 404 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may not consolidate with or merge into any other person, nor may we transfer or lease substantially all of our assets and property to any person, unless:

the corporation formed by the consolidation or into which we are merged, or the person that acquires by conveyance or transfer, or that leases, substantially all of our property and assets:

is organized and validly existing under the laws of any domestic jurisdiction; and

expressly assumes by supplemental indenture our obligations on the Debt Securities and under the applicable indentures;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, and no event that would become an event of default, has occurred and is continuing; and

we have delivered to the Debt Securities Trustee an officer's certificate and opinion of counsel as provided in the applicable indentures.

For more information, see Section 1101 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Events of Default

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus states otherwise, event of default under the applicable indenture with respect to Debt Securities of any series means any of the following:

failure to pay any interest due on any Debt Security of that series within 30 days after it becomes due;

failure to pay principal or premium, if any, when due on any Debt Security of that series;

failure to make any required sinking fund payment on any Debt Securities of that series;

breach of or failure to perform any other covenant or warranty in the applicable indenture with respect to Debt Securities of that series for 60 days (subject to extension under certain circumstances for another 120 days) after we receive notice from the Debt Securities Trustee, or we and the Debt Securities Trustee receive notice from the holders of at least 33% in principal amount of the Debt Securities of that series outstanding under the applicable indenture according to the provisions of the applicable indenture;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and

any other event of default set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus.

For more information, see Section 801 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

An event of default with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default with respect to the Debt Securities of any other series issued under the applicable indenture.

If an event of default with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities occurs and is continuing, either the Debt Securities Trustee or the holders of at least 33% in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all of the Debt Securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If the Debt Securities of that series are discount securities or similar Debt Securities,

Table of Contents

only the portion of the principal amount as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may be immediately due and payable. If an event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to all series of Debt Securities issued under a Debt Securities Indenture, including all events of default relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the Debt Securities Trustee or the holders of at least 33% in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all series issued under that Debt Securities Indenture, considered together, may declare an acceleration of the principal amount of all series of Debt Securities issued under that Debt Securities Indenture. There is no automatic acceleration, even in the event of our bankruptcy or insolvency.

The applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may provide, with respect to a series of Debt Securities to which a credit enhancement is applicable, that the provider of the credit enhancement may, if a default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the series, have all or any part of the rights with respect to remedies that would otherwise have been exercisable by the holder of that series.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Debt Securities of a particular series, and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the event of default giving rise to the declaration of acceleration will, without further action, be deemed to have been waived, and the declaration and its consequences will be deemed to have been rescinded and annulled, if:

we have paid or deposited with the Debt Securities Trustee a sum sufficient to pay:

all overdue interest on all Debt Securities of the particular series;

the principal of and any premium on any Debt Securities of that series that have become due otherwise than by the declaration of acceleration and any interest at the rate prescribed in the Debt Securities;

interest upon overdue interest at the rate prescribed in the Debt Securities, to the extent payment is lawful; and

all amounts due to the Debt Securities Trustee under the applicable indenture; and

any other event of default with respect to the Debt Securities of the particular series, other than the failure to pay the principal of the Debt Securities of that series that has become due solely by the declaration of acceleration, has been cured or waived as provided in the applicable indenture.

For more information, see Section 802 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

The applicable Debt Securities Indenture includes provisions as to the duties of the Debt Securities Trustee in case an event of default occurs and is continuing. Consistent with these provisions, the Debt Securities Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request or direction of any of the holders unless those holders have offered to the Debt Securities Trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction. For more information, see Section 903 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture. Subject to these provisions for indemnification, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Debt Securities Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Debt Securities Trustee, with respect to the Debt Securities of that series. For more information, see Section 812 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

No holder of Debt Securities may institute any proceeding regarding the applicable indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy under the applicable indenture unless:

the holder has previously given to the Debt Securities Trustee written notice of a continuing event of default of that particular series;

the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all series with respect to which an event of default is continuing have made a written request to the Debt Securities

Table of Contents

Trustee, and have offered reasonable indemnity to the Debt Securities Trustee, to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

the Debt Securities Trustee has failed to institute the proceeding, and has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series a direction inconsistent with the request, within 60 days after notice, request and offer of reasonable indemnity.

For more information, see Section 807 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

The preceding limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a holder of a Debt Security for the enforcement of payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on the Debt Securities on or after the applicable due date stated in the Debt Securities. For more information, see Section 808 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

We must furnish annually to the Debt Securities Trustee a statement by an appropriate officer as to that officer's knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under each of the indentures for Debt Securities. Our compliance is to be determined without regard to any grace period or notice requirement under the respective indenture. For more information, see Section 606 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Modification and Waiver

We and the Debt Securities Trustee, without the consent of the holders of the Debt Securities, may enter into one or more supplemental indentures for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the assumption by any permitted successor of our covenants in the applicable indenture and the Debt Securities;

to add one or more covenants or other provisions for the benefit of the holders of outstanding Debt Securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the applicable indenture;

to add any additional events of default;

to change or eliminate any provision of the applicable indenture or add any new provision to it, but if this action would adversely affect the interests of the holders of any particular series of Debt Securities in any material respect, the action will not become effective with respect to that series while any Debt Securities of that series remain outstanding under the applicable indenture;

to provide collateral security for the Debt Securities;

to establish the form or terms of Debt Securities according to the provisions of the applicable indenture;

to evidence the acceptance of appointment of a successor Debt Securities Trustee under the applicable indenture with respect to one or more series of the Debt Securities and to add to or change any of the provisions of the applicable indenture as necessary to provide for trust administration under the applicable indenture by more than one trustee;

to provide for the procedures required to permit the use of a non-certificated system of registration for any series of Debt Securities;

to change any place where:

the principal of and any premium and interest on any Debt Securities are payable;

any Debt Securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange; or

notices and demands to or upon us regarding Debt Securities and the applicable indentures may be served; or

to cure any ambiguity or inconsistency, but only by means of changes or additions that will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of Debt Securities of any series in any material respect.

Table of Contents

For more information, see Section 1201 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of any series may waive:

compliance by us with certain provisions of the applicable indenture (see Section 607 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture); and

any past default under the applicable indenture, except a default in the payment of principal, premium, or interest and certain covenants and provisions of the applicable indenture that cannot be modified or amended without consent of the holder of each outstanding Debt Security of the series affected (see Section 813 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture).

The Trust Indenture Act of 1939 may be amended after the date of the applicable indenture to require changes to the indenture. In this event, the indenture will be deemed to have been amended so as to effect the changes, and we and the Debt Securities Trustee may, without the consent of any holders, enter into one or more supplemental indentures to evidence or effect the amendment. For more information, see Section 1201 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Except as provided in this section, the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities issued pursuant to a Debt Securities Indenture, considered as one class, is required to change in any manner the applicable indenture pursuant to one or more supplemental indentures. If less than all of the series of Debt Securities outstanding under a Debt Securities Indenture are directly affected by a proposed supplemental indenture, however, only the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all series directly affected, considered as one class, will be required. Furthermore, if the Debt Securities of any series have been issued in more than one tranche and if the proposed supplemental indenture directly affects the rights of the holders of one or more, but not all, tranches, only the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of all tranches directly affected, considered as one class, will be required. In addition, an amendment or modification:

may not, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Debt Security affected:

change the maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any Debt Securities;

reduce the principal amount or the rate of interest, or the amount of any installment of interest, or change the method of calculating the rate of interest;

reduce any premium payable upon the redemption of the Debt Securities;

reduce the amount of the principal of any Debt Security originally issued at a discount from the stated principal amount that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of maturity;

change the currency or other property in which a Debt Security or premium or interest on a Debt Security is payable; or

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity, or in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date, of any Debt Securities;

may not reduce the percentage of principal amount requirement for consent of the holders for any supplemental indenture, or for any waiver of compliance with any provision of or any default under the applicable indenture, or reduce the requirements for quorum or voting, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Debt Security of each series or tranche affected; and

may not modify provisions of the applicable indenture relating to supplemental indentures, waivers of certain covenants and waivers of past defaults with respect to the Debt Securities of any series, or any tranche of a series, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Debt Security affected.

Table of Contents

A supplemental indenture will be deemed not to affect the rights under the applicable indenture of the holders of any series or tranche of the Debt Securities if the supplemental indenture:

changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the applicable indenture expressly included solely for the benefit of one or more other particular series of Debt Securities or tranches thereof; or

modifies the rights of the holders of Debt Securities of any other series or tranches with respect to any covenant or other provision.

For more information, see Section 1202 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

If we solicit from holders of the Debt Securities any type of action, we may at our option by board resolution fix in advance a record date for the determination of the holders entitled to vote on the action. We shall have no obligation, however, to do so. If we fix a record date, the action may be taken before or after the record date, but only the holders of record at the close of business on the record date shall be deemed to be holders for the purposes of determining whether holders of the requisite proportion of the outstanding Debt Securities have authorized the action. For that purpose, the outstanding Debt Securities shall be computed as of the record date. Any holder action shall bind every future holder of the same security and the holder of every security issued upon the registration of transfer of or in exchange for or in lieu of the security in respect of anything done or permitted by the Debt Securities Trustee or us in reliance on that action, whether or not notation of the action is made upon the security. For more information, see Section 104 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Defeasance

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus provides otherwise, any Debt Security, or portion of the principal amount of a Debt Security, will be deemed to have been paid for purposes of the applicable indenture, and, at our election, our entire indebtedness in respect of the Debt Security, or portion thereof, will be deemed to have been satisfied and discharged, if we have irrevocably deposited with the Debt Securities Trustee or any paying agent other than us, in trust money, certain eligible obligations, as defined in the applicable indenture, or a combination of the two, sufficient to pay principal of and any premium and interest due and to become due on the Debt Security or portion thereof. For more information, see Section 701 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture. For this purpose, unless the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus provides otherwise, eligible obligations include direct obligations of, or obligations unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States, entitled to the benefit of full faith and credit of the United States, and certificates, depositary receipts or other instruments that evidence a direct ownership interest in those obligations or in any specific interest or principal payments due in respect of those obligations.

Resignation, Removal of Debt Securities Trustee; Appointment of Successor

The Debt Securities Trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to us or may be removed at any time by an action of the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding Debt Securities delivered to the Debt Securities Trustee and us. No resignation or removal of the Debt Securities Trustee and no appointment of a successor trustee will become effective until a successor trustee accepts appointment in accordance with the requirements of the applicable indenture. So long as no event of default or event that would become an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and except with respect to a Debt Securities Trustee appointed by an action of the holders, if we have delivered to the Debt Securities Trustee a resolution of our board of directors appointing a successor trustee and the successor trustee has accepted the appointment in accordance with the terms of the applicable indenture, the Debt Securities Trustee will be deemed to have resigned and the successor trustee will be deemed to have been appointed as

trustee in accordance with the applicable indenture. For more information, see Section 910 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Table of Contents

Notices

We will give notices to holders of Debt Securities by mail to their addresses as they appear in the Debt Security Register. For more information, see Section 106 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Title

The Debt Securities Trustee and its agents, and we and our agents, may treat the person in whose name a Debt Security is registered as the absolute owner of that Debt Security, whether or not that Debt Security may be overdue, for the purpose of making payment and for all other purposes. For more information, see Section 308 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Governing Law

The Debt Securities Indentures and the Debt Securities, including any Subordinated Debt Securities Indentures and Subordinated Debt Securities, will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of the State of New York. For more information, see Section 112 of the applicable Debt Securities Indenture.

Regarding the Indenture Trustees

In the normal course of business, we and our subsidiaries may conduct banking transactions with the indenture trustees, and the indenture trustees may conduct banking transactions with us and our subsidiaries.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue, either separately or together with other securities, warrants for the purchase of any, including any combination of, debt securities, common stock or preferred stock that we may sell. Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock or common stock offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from any such offered securities. Any warrants will be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any or all warrants with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered. Copies of the form of agreement for each warrant and the warrant certificate, if any, which we refer to collectively as warrant agreements, and reflecting the provisions to be included in such agreements that will be entered into with respect to a particular offering of each type of warrant, will be filed with the Commission and incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the warrants to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The particular terms of such warrants and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions may apply to the warrants so offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. To the extent that any particular terms of the warrants, warrant agreements or warrant certificates described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this section, then the terms described in this section will be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement. We encourage you to read the applicable warrant agreement for additional information before you purchase any of our warrants.

General

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, as well as the related warrant agreement and warrant certificates, including the following, where applicable:

the securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;

the number or principal amount of, securities, as the case may be, purchasable upon exercise of each warrant;

Table of Contents

the initial price at which such number or principal amount of securities may be purchased upon such exercise (and if such price may be wholly or partly payable in cash or wholly or partly payable with other types of consideration);

the designation and terms of the securities, if other than common stock, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants and of any securities, if other than common stock, with which the warrants are issued;

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the warrants;

the date, if any, on and after which the warrants, and any securities with which the warrants are issued, will be separately transferable;

the offering price, if any, of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which that right will expire;

if applicable, a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

whether the warrants represented by the warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;

whether the warrants will be listed on any securities exchange;

call provisions, if any, of the warrants;

anti-dilution provisions, if any, of the warrants

the name of the warrant agent; and

any other material terms of the warrants.

The description of warrants in the prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the warrant agreement relating to the warrants being offered.

No Rights of Security Holder Prior to Exercise

Before the exercise of their warrants and their registration as holders of the underlying securities, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of registered holders of the underlying securities purchasable upon the exercise of the warrants, and will not be entitled to, among other things, vote or receive dividend or interest payments or similar distributions on the securities purchasable upon exercise.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

This section describes some of the general terms and provisions applicable to units we may issue from time to time. We will describe the specific terms of a series of units and the applicable unit agreement in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the units in the applicable prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the applicable

unit agreement. A form of the unit agreement reflecting the particular terms and provisions of a series of offered units will be filed with the Commission in connection with the offering and incorporated by reference in the registration statement and this prospectus.

We may issue units from time to time in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we determine. We will issue each series of units under a unit agreement to be entered into between us and a unit agent to be designated in the applicable prospectus supplement. When we refer to a series of units, we mean all units issued as part of the same series under the applicable unit agreement.

We may issue units consisting of any combination of two or more securities described in this prospectus. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit

Table of Contents

agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the units offered pursuant to it, including one or more of the following:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

the aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the units any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units;

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form;

the name of the unit agent;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as unit agent, governing the units;

if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences; and

whether the units will be listed on any securities exchange.

GLOBAL SECURITIES

We may issue some or all of our securities of any series as global securities. We will register each global security in the name of a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The global securities will be deposited with a depository or nominee or custodian for the depository and will bear a legend regarding restrictions on exchanges and registration of transfer as discussed below and any other matters to be provided pursuant to the indenture.

As long as the depository or its nominee is the registered holder of a global security, that person will be considered the sole owner and holder of the global security and the securities represented by it for all purposes under the securities and the indenture. Except in limited circumstances, owners of a beneficial interest in a global security:

will not be entitled to have the global security or any securities represented by it registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated securities in exchange for the global security; and

will not be considered to be the owners or holders of the global security or any securities represented by it for any purposes under the securities or the indenture.

We will make all payments of principal and any premium and interest on a global security to the depository or its nominee as the holder of the global security. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to institutions having accounts with the depositary or its nominee, called participants for purposes of this discussion, and to persons that hold beneficial interests through participants. When a global security is issued, the depositary will credit on its book-entry, registration and transfer system the principal amounts of securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown only on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by:

the depositary, with respect to participants interests; or

any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by the participants on their behalf.

Table of Contents

Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests held through the participants will be the responsibility of the participants. The depository may from time to time adopt various policies and procedures governing payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to beneficial interests in a global security. None of the following will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the depository's or any participant's records relating to, or for payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a global security, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial interests:

us or our affiliates;

the trustee under any indenture; or

any agent of any of the above.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may use this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement to sell our securities from time to time as follows:

directly to purchasers;

through underwriters;

through dealers;

through agents;

through any combination of these methods; or

through any other method permitted by applicable law and described in a prospectus supplement.

Each prospectus supplement relating to an offering of securities will set forth the specific plan of distribution and state the terms of the offering, including:

the method of distribution of the securities offered therein;

the names of any underwriters, dealers, or agents;

the public offering or purchase price of the offered securities and the net proceeds that we will receive from the sale;

any underwriting discounts, commissions or other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any discounts, commissions, or fees allowed, re-allowed or paid to dealers or agents;

any securities exchange on which the offered securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering price and any discounts, commissions, fees or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers, or agents may be changed from time to time.

Distribution Through Underwriters

We may offer and sell securities from time to time to one or more underwriters who would purchase the securities as principal for resale to the public, either on a firm commitment or best efforts basis. If we sell securities to underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the applicable supplement. In connection with these sales, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts and commissions. The underwriters also may receive commissions from purchasers of securities for whom they may act as agent. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase the securities unless the conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement are satisfied, and if the underwriters purchase any of the securities, they generally will be required to purchase all of the offered securities. The underwriters may acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or varying prices

Table of Contents

determined at the time of sale. The underwriters may sell the offered securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive discounts, concessions, or commissions from the underwriters as well as from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

Distribution Through Dealers

We may offer and sell securities from time to time to one or more dealers who would purchase the securities as principal. The dealers then may resell the offered securities to the public at fixed or varying prices to be determined by those dealers at the time of resale. We will set forth the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction in the applicable supplement.

Distribution Through Agents

We may offer and sell securities on a continuous basis through agents that become parties to an underwriting or distribution agreement. We will name any agent involved in the offer and sale, and describe any commissions payable by us in the applicable supplement. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the agent will be acting on a best efforts basis during the appointment period. The agent may make sales in privately negotiated transactions and by any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, including sales made directly on the Nasdaq Stock Market, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Direct Sales

We may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters, as defined in the Securities Act of 1933, for any resale of the securities. We will describe the terms of any sales of this kind in the applicable supplement.

General Information

Underwriters, dealers, or agents participating in an offering of securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the offered securities, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933.

We may offer to sell securities either at a fixed price or at prices that may vary, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices. Securities may be sold in connection with a remarketing after their purchase by one or more firms acting as principal for their own accounts or as our agent. In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders.

In connection with an underwritten offering of the securities, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position for the underwriters. The underwriters may enter bids for, and purchase, securities in the open market in order to stabilize the price of the securities. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. In addition, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions, or otherwise. These activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. Those activities, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Ordinarily, each issue of securities will be a new issue, and there will be no established trading market for any security other than our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol TDSC, prior to its original issue date. We may not list any particular series of securities on a securities

Table of Contents

exchange or quotation system. Any underwriters to whom or agents through whom the offered securities are sold for offering and sale may make a market in the offered securities. However, any underwriters or agents that make a market will not be obligated to do so and may stop doing so at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that there will be a liquid trading market for the offered securities.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the related prospectus supplement, and the related prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

We may offer subscription rights to our existing stockholders to purchase additional shares of our common stock, preferred stock or any combination thereof. For any particular subscription rights, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such rights, including the period during which such rights may be exercised, the manner of exercising such rights, the transferability of such rights and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased in connection with each right and the subscription price for the purchase of such shares. In connection with a rights offering, we may enter into a separate agreement with one or more underwriters or standby purchasers to purchase any shares of our common stock or preferred stock not subscribed for in the rights offering by existing stockholders. We may pay the standby underwriters a commitment fee for the securities they commit to purchase on a standby basis. If we do not enter into a standby underwriting arrangement, we may retain a dealer-manager to manage a subscription rights offering for us.

Under agreements entered into with us, underwriters and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution for payments the underwriters or agents may be required to make.

The maximum commission or discount to be received by any member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. or independent broker-dealer will not exceed the then current allowable percentage of the initial gross proceeds from the sale of any security being sold.

Although we expect that delivery of securities generally will be made against payment on or about the third business day following the date of any contract for sale, we may specify a longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to a trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if we have specified a longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement for an offering of securities, purchasers who wish to trade those securities on the date of the contract for sale, or on one or more of the next succeeding business days as we will specify in the applicable supplement, will be required, by virtue of the fact that those securities will settle in more than T+3, to specify an alternative settlement cycle at the time of the trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisors in connection with that election.

Conflict of Interest

We may engage underwriters, dealers and agents in connection with the offering of any of the securities described in this prospectus, some of whom may have a conflict of interest, as such term is defined by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. In the event an underwriter, dealer or agent who is participating in the offering has a conflict of interest, we will describe the nature of the conflict in the applicable prospectus supplement, and, if applicable, the name of the underwriter, dealer or agent who is acting as the qualified independent underwriter and its role and responsibilities in the offering.

The underwriters, dealers and agents that we may use, as well as their affiliates, may engage in financial or other business transactions with, or perform other services for, us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business and may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Robert M. Grace, Jr., our Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. From time to time, our outside counsel may advise us concerning issues related to the offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus. As of February 23, 2010, Mr. Grace beneficially owned, or had options to acquire, a number of shares of our common stock, which represented less than 0.2% of our total outstanding common stock. Any underwriters, dealers or agents will be advised by their own legal counsel concerning issues related to the offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated herein in reliance upon the reports of BDO Seidman, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

\$75,000,000

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants
Units**

PROSPECTUS

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS****ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION**

Expenses payable in connection with the registration and distribution of the securities being registered hereunder, all of which will be borne by the Registrant, are as follows. All amounts are estimates, except the Commission registration fee.

	Amount to be Paid (1)
Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee	\$ 5,348
Accounting fees and expenses	3,500
Legal fees and expenses	15,000
Printer expenses	10,000
Miscellaneous (including transfer agent fees)	5,000
Total	\$ 38,848

- (1) Does not include expenses of preparing and printing any accompanying prospectus supplements, listing fees, trustee fees and expenses, warrant or unit agent fees and expenses, transfer agent fees and other expenses related to offerings of particular securities from time to time. Estimated fees and expenses associated with future offerings will be provided in the applicable prospectus supplement.

ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes a court to award, or a corporation's board of directors to grant, indemnity to directors and officers in terms sufficiently broad to permit such indemnification under certain circumstances for liabilities (including reimbursement for expenses incurred) arising under the Securities Act of 1933.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, our Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation law regarding unlawful dividends and stock purchases; or

for any transaction for which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, our Certificate of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that:

with respect to any action or proceeding not brought by us, we have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of our company, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful;

with respect to any action or proceeding brought by us, we have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of our company; provided, however, that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which that person is adjudged to be liable to us, unless, and only to the extent that, the court determines that the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity;

to the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of our company has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action or proceeding, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses incurred by him or her;

Table of Contents

expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action or proceeding shall be paid by us in advance of the final disposition of the action or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay that amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not entitled to indemnification; and

the rights conferred in the Amended and Restated By-Laws are not exclusive.

ITEM 16 EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are filed herewith or incorporated by reference herein as indicated:

Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.*
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Registrant. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Form 8-B filed on August 16, 1993, and the amendment thereto, filed on Form 8-B/A on February 4, 1994.)
3.2	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation filed on May 23, 1995. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-2/A, filed on May 25, 1995.)
3.3	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on May 19, 2004. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004, filed on August 5, 2004.)
3.4	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on May 17, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2005, filed on August 1, 2005.)
3.5	Amended and Restated By-Laws. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 1, 2006.)
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate.
4.2	Rights Agreement, dated as of December 9, 2008 between the Registrant and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 9, 2008.)
4.3	Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Rights of Series A Preferred Stock, filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on December 9, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 9, 2008.)
4.4	Form of Certificate of Designation (for Preferred Stock).*
4.5	Specimen Preferred Stock Certificate.*
4.6	Indenture (for [Subordinated] Debt Securities) (open-ended).
4.7	Form of Warrant Agreement.*
4.8	Form of Warrant Certificate.*
4.9	Form of Unit Agreement.*
4.10	Form of Unit Certificate.*
5.1	Opinion of Robert M. Grace, Jr. as to the validity of the securities being registered.
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
23.1	Consent of BDO Seidman, LLP.
23.2	Consent of Robert M. Grace, Jr. (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page).
25.1	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee under the Indenture (for Debt Securities).**

25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee under the Indenture (for Subordinated Debt Securities).**

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and incorporated herein by reference

** Where applicable, to be incorporated by reference to a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305 (b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

Table of Contents

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 of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this 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 this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the 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 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 this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

Provided, however, that: paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement;

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, 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.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), or (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date

shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser

II-3

Table of Contents

with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or

(C) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(d) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this 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.

(e) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 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 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment 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 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(f) 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 of 1939 in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, 3D Systems Corporation certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets 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 Rock Hill, State of South Carolina, on February 24, 2010.

3D SYSTEMS CORPORATION

By /s/ Abraham N. Reichental

Abraham N. Reichental
President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Robert M. Grace, Jr. and Andrew M. Johnson, or either of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agents, 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 to sign any related Registration Statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granted unto said attorney-in-fact and agents, full power and authority to do and to perform each and every act and thing required and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agents, or any of them or their substitute or substitutes, could lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on February 24, 2010.

Signature	Title
/s/ Abraham N. Reichental	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer
Abraham N. Reichental	
/s/ Damon J. Gregoire	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Damon J. Gregoire	
/s/ Charles W. Hull	Director, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer
Charles W. Hull	
/s/ William E. Curran	Director
William E. Curran	
/s/ Miriam V. Gold	Director

Miriam V. Gold

/s/ Jim D. Kever

Director

Jim D. Kever

/s/ G. Walter Loewenbaum, II

Director, Chairman of the Board

G. Walter Loewenbaum, II

II-5

Table of Contents

Signature	Title
/s/ Kevin S. Moore Kevin S. Moore	Director
/s/ Daniel S. Van Riper Daniel S. Van Riper	Director
/s/ Karen E. Welke Karen E. Welke	Director

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.*
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Registrant. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Form 8-B filed on August 16, 1993, and the amendment thereto, filed on Form 8-B/A on February 4, 1994.)
3.2	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation filed on May 23, 1995. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-2/A, filed on May 25, 1995.)
3.3	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on May 19, 2004. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004, filed on August 5, 2004.)
3.4	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on May 17, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2005, filed on August 1, 2005.)
3.5	Amended and Restated By-Laws. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 1, 2006.)
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate.
4.2	Rights Agreement, dated as of December 9, 2008 between the Registrant and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 9, 2008.)
4.3	Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Rights of Series A Preferred Stock, filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on December 9, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on December 9, 2008.)
4.4	Form of Certificate of Designation (for Preferred Stock).*
4.5	Specimen Preferred Stock Certificate.*
4.6	Indenture (for [Subordinated] Debt Securities) (open-ended).
4.7	Form of Warrant Agreement.*
4.8	Form of Warrant Certificate.*
4.9	Form of Unit Agreement.*
4.10	Form of Unit Certificate.*
5.1	Opinion of Robert M. Grace, Jr. as to the validity of the securities being registered.
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
23.1	Consent of BDO Seidman, LLP.
23.2	Consent of Robert M. Grace, Jr. (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page).
25.1	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee under the Indenture (for Debt Securities).**
25.2	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee under the Indenture (for Subordinated Debt Securities).**

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and incorporated herein by reference

** Where applicable, to be incorporated by reference to a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305 (b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.