VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC
Form 424B5
October 27, 2011
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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is prohibited.

Subject to Completion, dated October 27, 2011

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT **Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)**

(To Prospectus Dated October 27, 2011) **Registration Statement No. 333-173000**

$

Verizon Communications Inc.

$ % Notes due

$ % Notes due

We are offering $ of our notes due and $ of our notes due . The notes due will bear interest at the rate of % per year and the notes due will bear interest at the rate of % per year.

Interest on the notes due and the notes due is payable on and of each year, beginning on , 2012. The notes due will mature on , , and the notes due will mature on , . We may redeem the notes due and the notes due , in whole or in part, at any time prior to maturity at redemption prices to be determined using the procedure described in this prospectus supplement.

The notes will be our senior obligations and will rank on a parity with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

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

	Per Note due	Total	Per Note due	Total
Public Offering Price(1)	%	$	%	$
Underwriting Discount	%	$	%	$
Proceeds to Verizon Communications Inc. (before expenses)	%	$	%	$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from , 2011 to date of delivery.

The underwriters are severally underwriting the notes being offered. The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company and its participants, including Euroclear, S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, against payment in New York, New York on or about , 2011.

Credit Suisse **Morgan Stanley** **UBS Investment Bank**

October , 2011

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the prospectus that follows carefully before you invest. Both documents contain important information you should consider when making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement contains information about the specific notes being offered and the prospectus contains information about our debt securities generally. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the prospectus. You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the prospectus. The information in this prospectus supplement is accurate as of October , 2011. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes for the retirement prior to maturity of all or a portion of the $600,000,000 of 6.875% notes due 2012 issued by Verizon Communications Inc., $1,000,000,000 of 7.375% notes due 2012 issued by Verizon Communications Inc., $350,000,000 of 6.125% notes due 2013 issued by our subsidiary, Verizon Florida LLC, $500,000,000 of 6.125% notes due 2012 issued by our subsidiary, Verizon Maryland Inc., and $1,000,000,000 of 6.875% notes due 2012 issued by our subsidiary, Verizon New York Inc. and for the repayment of commercial paper. Our commercial paper outstanding at October 25, 2011 was approximately $1,760,000,000 at an average interest rate of 0.37%.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

Principal Amount, Maturity and Interest

We are offering $ of our notes due which will mature on , and $ of our notes due which will mature on , .

We will pay interest on the notes due at the rate of % per annum and interest on the notes due at the rate of % per annum, in each case, on of each year to holders of record on the preceding , and on of each year to holders of record on the preceding . If interest or principal on the notes is payable on a Saturday, Sunday or any other day when banks are not open for business in The City of New York, we will make the payment on the next business day, and no interest will accrue as a result of the delay in

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payment. The first interest payment date on the notes due and the notes due is , 2012. Interest on the notes due and the notes due will accrue from , 2011, and will accrue on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of 12 months of 30 days.

We may issue additional notes due and notes due in the future.

Form

The notes will only be issued in book-entry form, which means that the notes of each series will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, commonly known as DTC, or its nominee. You may hold interests in the notes directly through DTC, Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., commonly known as Euroclear, or Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, Luxembourg, commonly known as Clearstream, if you are a participant in any of these clearing systems, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in these systems. Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear to facilitate the issuance of the notes and cross-market transfers of the notes associated with secondary market trading. DTC is linked indirectly to Clearstream and Euroclear through the depositary accounts of their respective U.S. depositaries. Beneficial interests in the notes may be held in minimum denominations of $2,000 and integral multiples of $1,000 in excess of $2,000. Notes of each series in book-entry form that can be exchanged for definitive notes of the applicable series under the circumstances described in the accompanying prospectus under the caption CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT will be exchanged only for definitive notes of the applicable series issued in minimum denominations of $2,000 and multiples of $1,000 in excess of $2,000.

Redemption

We have the option to redeem any of the notes due or the notes due on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days notice, in whole or in part, at any time prior to maturity, at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

(1) 100% of the principal amount of the notes being redeemed, or

(2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes being redeemed (exclusive of interest accrued to the date of redemption), as the case may be, discounted to the date of redemption on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus basis points for the notes due and the Treasury Rate plus basis points for the notes due ,

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount being redeemed to but excluding the date of redemption.

The Treasury Rate will be determined on the third business day preceding the date of redemption and means, with respect to any date of redemption:

(1) the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System designated as Statistical Release H. 15(519) or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption Treasury Constant Maturities, for the

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maturity corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue (if no maturity is within three months before or after the Remaining Life, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue will be determined and the Treasury Rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from those yields on a straight-line basis, rounding to the nearest month), or

(2) if that release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain those yields, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for the date of redemption.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term, referred to as the Remaining Life, of the notes due or the notes due , as the case may be, to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the notes due or the notes due , as the case may be.

Independent Investment Banker means an independent investment banking or commercial banking institution of national standing appointed by us.

Comparable Treasury Price means (1) the average of three Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for that date of redemption, or (2) if the Independent Investment Banker is unable to obtain three Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all quotations obtained.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (1) any independent investment banking or commercial banking institution of national standing and any of its successors appointed by us, provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the United States, referred to as a Primary Treasury Dealer, we shall substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer, and (2) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by the Independent Investment Banker and approved in writing by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any date of redemption, the average, as determined by the Independent Investment Banker, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Independent Investment Banker at 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding the date of redemption.

In addition, we may at any time purchase the notes due or the notes due by tender, in the open market or by private agreement, subject to applicable law.

Additional Information

See DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES in the accompanying prospectus for additional important information about the notes. That information includes:

- additional information about the terms of the notes;
- general information about the indenture and the trustee;
- a description of certain restrictions; and
- a description of events of default under the indenture.

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations relevant to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes under current law (which is subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis). The summary applies only to holders who are beneficial owners of the notes who purchase the notes in the original

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offering at the initial offering prices indicated in this prospectus supplement and own the notes as capital assets. The summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all the potential U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes and does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences to holders that are subject to special treatment, including:

- dealers in securities or currencies;
- insurance companies;
- financial institutions or financial services institutions;
- thrifts;
- tax-exempt entities;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- brokers or dealers;
- persons who hold notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, or other integrated investment;
- traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting;
- persons subject to alternative minimum tax;
- U.S. Holders (as defined below) that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar;
- certain expatriates or former long-term residents of the United States; or
- partnerships or pass-through entities or investors in partnerships or pass-through entities that hold the notes.

This summary does not address the effect of any state or local income or other tax laws, any U.S. federal estate and gift tax laws, the Medicare tax on net investment income, any foreign tax laws, or any tax treaties.

For purposes of the following discussion, U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of a note who is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any state or political subdivision thereof or therein, including the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust with respect to which (i) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and (ii) one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or certain trusts that were in existence on August 19, 1996, were treated as domestic trusts on that date and have made valid elections to be treated as U.S. persons for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For purposes of the following discussion, Non-U.S. Holder means any beneficial owner of the notes that is not a U.S. Holder.

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Circular 230 Disclosure

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CIRCULAR 230, HOLDERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT: (A) ANY DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL TAX ISSUES IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS NOT INTENDED OR WRITTEN BY US TO BE RELIED UPON, AND CANNOT BE RELIED UPON BY HOLDERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON HOLDERS UNDER THE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986; (B) SUCH DISCUSSION IS WRITTEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROMOTION OR MARKETING OF THE TRANSACTIONS OR MATTERS ADDRESSED HEREIN; AND (C) HOLDERS SHOULD SEEK ADVICE BASED ON THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES FROM AN INDEPENDENT TAX ADVISOR.

U.S. Holders

Taxation of Interest. We will treat the interest payable on the notes as qualified stated interest. Accordingly, interest payable on the notes generally will be included in a U.S. Holder s gross income as ordinary income in accordance with the holder s regular method of tax accounting.

Sale, *Exchange*, *Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition.* Upon a sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of the notes, the U.S. Holder will recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized and the holder s adjusted tax basis in the notes. The amount of any proceeds attributable to accrued but unpaid interest will not be taken into account in computing the holder s gain or loss. Instead, that portion will be recognized as ordinary income to the extent that the holder has not previously included the accrued interest in income.

A gain or loss recognized generally will be treated as a capital gain or loss and generally will be treated as a long- term capital gain or loss if, at the time of the sale or exchange, the holder has held the notes for more than one year. Non-corporate taxpayers are subject to a reduced tax rate on their long-term capital gains. All taxpayers are subject to certain limitations on the deductibility of their capital losses.

Non-U.S. Holders

U.S. Federal Withholding Tax. U.S. federal withholding tax will not apply to any payment made to a Non-U.S. Holder of principal or interest on the notes, provided that:

- the holder does not own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our voting stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- the holder is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us through stock ownership; and
- the holder (a) provides a properly executed Internal Revenue Service, referred to as the IRS, Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form), and certifies, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person or (b) holds the notes through a qualified intermediary or withholding foreign partnership that has entered into a withholding agreement with the IRS or through a clearing organization or other financial institution and, in each case, certain certification requirements are satisfied.

Interest payments that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by a Non-U.S. Holder within the United States are not subject to the U.S. federal withholding tax, but instead are subject to U.S. federal income tax, as described below.

If a Non-U.S. Holder cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest will be subject to the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax subject to reduction under any applicable tax treaty.

United States Federal Income Tax. If a Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a trade or business in the United States and interest on the notes is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business, the holder will be subject to U.S. federal income tax (but not withholding tax) on that interest on a net income basis in the same

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manner as if it were a U.S. person. In addition, in certain circumstances, if the Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may be subject to a 30% (or, if a tax treaty applies, a lower rate as provided) branch profits tax.

Any gain or income realized by a Non-U.S. Holder on the disposition of the notes will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless:

- the gain or income is effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States; or
- the holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information reporting to the IRS may be required with respect to payments of principal or interest on the notes and payments of proceeds of the disposition of the notes to holders other than corporations and other exempt recipients. A backup withholding tax may apply to those payments that are subject to information reporting if the holder fails to provide certain required documentation to the payor. Non-U.S. Holders may be required to comply with certification procedures to establish that they are not U.S. Holders in order to avoid information reporting and backup withholding. Holders should consult their tax advisors about the procedures for obtaining an exemption from backup withholding. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be refunded or allowed as a credit against a holder s U.S. federal income tax liabilities if the required information is furnished to the IRS.

UNDERWRITING

Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and UBS Securities LLC are acting as representatives of the several underwriters for the notes.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the purchase agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of notes due and notes due set forth opposite the underwriter s name.

Underwriters	Principal Amount of Notes due	Principal Amount of Notes due
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	$	$
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC		
UBS Securities LLC		
Total	$	$

The purchase agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the notes included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the notes if they purchase any of the notes.

The underwriters propose to offer some of the notes directly to the public at the public offering prices set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of such notes to dealers at the public offering prices less a

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concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes due and % of the principal amount of the notes due . The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes due and % of the principal amount of the notes due on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may change the public offering prices and concessions.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of each series of the notes).

	Paid by Verizon Communications
Per note due	%
Per note due	%

Each series of notes will constitute a new class of securities with no established trading market. The underwriters have advised us that they currently intend to make a market in the notes. However, they are not obligated to do so and they may discontinue market-making activities with respect to the notes at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the liquidity of, or the trading market for, the notes.

In connection with this offering, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may over-allot notes or effect transactions with a view to supporting the market price of the notes at a level higher than that which might otherwise prevail. However, there is no assurance that the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, will undertake stabilization action. Any stabilization action may begin on or after the date on which adequate public disclosure of the terms of the offer of the notes is made and, if begun, may be ended at any time, but it must end no later than the earlier of 30 days after the issue date of the relevant notes and 60 days after the date of the allotment of the relevant notes. Any stabilization action or over-allotment must be conducted by the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, in accordance with all applicable laws and rules.

Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of the notes in excess of the principal amount of notes to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchase of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

The representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the representatives, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchase notes originally sold by that syndicate member.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. They may also cause the price of the notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), each underwriter has represented and agreed that, with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to such offer that has been approved by the competent

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authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, it may, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, make an offer of notes in that relevant member state at any time:

- to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- to fewer than 100, or, if the relevant member state has implemented the relevant provisions of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, for any such offer; or
- in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive;

provided that no such offer shall require us to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the expression may be varied in that relevant member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that relevant member state, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the relevant member state) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the relevant member state and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended (the FSMA)), received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the issuer; and
- it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering will be approximately $.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters have performed commercial banking, investment banking or advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. The underwriters may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they may receive customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. In addition, certain underwriters or their affiliates may provide credit to us as lenders. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve our securities or instruments. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long or short positions in such securities and instruments.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities in connection with this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of these liabilities.

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PROSPECTUS

$7,750,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Verizon Communications Inc.

Verizon Communications Inc. intends to offer at one or more times common stock, preferred stock and debt securities, with a total offering price not to exceed $7,750,000,000. To the extent provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock and the debt securities may be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any class or classes of stock, or securities or property, of Verizon Communications Inc. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the supplements carefully before you invest.

The common stock of Verizon Communications Inc. is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VZ.

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.

October 27, 2011

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the common stock, preferred stock or debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings with a total offering price not to exceed $7,750,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, in some cases, a pricing supplement, that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement or pricing supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. The information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any pricing supplement together with additional information described under the heading WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION. Unless otherwise specified in this prospectus, the terms we, us, our and Verizon Communications refer to Verizon Communications Inc.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC s public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public on the SEC s web site at http://www.sec.gov.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we have filed with the SEC and the future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K) until we or any underwriters sell all of the securities:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 21, 2011, January 27, 2011 (relating to item 8.01 and the related disclosure in item 9.01 of Form 8-K), February 3, 2011, March 7, 2011, April 11, 2011, May 10, 2011, and July 22, 2011 (relating to item 5.02 and the related disclosure in item 9.01 of Form 8-K); and
- the description of our Common Stock contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on March 12, 2010, under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating that description.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by contacting us at:

Investor Relations

Verizon Communications Inc.

One Verizon Way

Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Telephone: (212) 395-1525

Internet Site: www.verizon.com/investor

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus, any supplement or any pricing supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this document.

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS

We are a global leader in delivering broadband and other wireless and wireline communications services to consumer, business, government and wholesale customers. Verizon Wireless operates America s most reliable wireless network, with 107.7 million total connections as of September 30, 2011. We also provide converged communications, information and entertainment services over America s most advanced fiber-optic network, and deliver integrated business solutions to customers around the world. A Dow 30 company, we employed a diverse

workforce of approximately 195,400 as of September 30, 2011, and generated consolidated revenues of $82.4 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Our principal executive offices are located at 140 West Street, New York, New York 10007, and our telephone number is (212) 395-1000.

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RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table shows our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011	Year Ended December 31, 2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
4.96	3.74	3.69	1.37	7.27	5.29

For these ratios, earnings have been calculated by adding fixed charges to income before provision for income taxes, discontinued operations, extraordinary items and cumulative effect of accounting change, and before noncontrolling interests and income (loss) of equity investees. Fixed charges include interest expense, preferred stock dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries, capitalized interest and the portion of rent expense representing interest.

Since we had no preferred stock outstanding during any of the periods presented, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and the ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends are the same.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for repaying debt, making capital investments, funding working capital requirements or other general corporate purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Authorized Capital Stock

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides authority to issue up to 4,500,000,000 shares of stock of all classes, of which 4,250,000,000 are shares of common stock, $0.10 par value per share, and 250,000,000 are shares of preferred stock, $0.10 par value per share.

Common Stock

Subject to any preferential rights of the preferred stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends on that stock out of assets legally available for distribution when, as and if authorized and declared by the board of directors and to share ratably in assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up. We may not pay any dividend or make any distribution of assets on shares of common stock until cumulative dividends on shares of preferred stock then outstanding, if any, having dividend or distribution rights senior to the common stock have been paid.

Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters voted on generally by the shareholders, including the election of directors. In addition, the holders of common stock possess all voting power except as otherwise required by law or except as provided for by any series of preferred stock. Our restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting for the election of directors.

Preferred Stock

Our board of directors is authorized at any time to provide for the issuance of all or any shares of our preferred stock in one or more classes or series, and to fix for each class or series voting powers, full or limited, or no voting powers, and distinctive designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as shall be stated and expressed in the resolution or resolutions adopted by the board of directors providing for the issuance of the preferred stock and to the fullest extent as may be permitted by Delaware law. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the authority to provide that any class or series be:

- subject to redemption at a specified time or times and at a specified price or prices;

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entitled to receive dividends (which may be cumulative or non-cumulative) at rates, on conditions and at times, and payable in preference to, or in relation to, the dividends payable on any other class or classes or any other series;

entitled to rights upon the dissolution of, or upon any distribution of, our assets; or

convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any class or classes of our stock, or our other securities or property, at a specified price or prices or at specified rates of exchange and with any adjustments.

As of the date of this prospectus, no shares of preferred stock are outstanding.

Preemptive Rights

No holder of any shares of any class of our stock has any preemptive or preferential right to acquire or subscribe for any unissued shares of any class of stock or any authorized securities convertible into or carrying any right, option or warrant to subscribe for or acquire shares of any class of stock.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The principal transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

General

We will issue debt securities under an indenture between us and U.S. Bank National Association (as successor to Wachovia Bank, National Association, formerly known as First Union National Bank), as trustee, dated as of December 1, 2000, as amended. To the extent provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities may be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any class or classes of our stock, or our other securities or property.

We have summarized material provisions of the indenture and the debt securities below. This summary does not describe all exceptions and qualifications contained in the indenture or the debt securities. In the summary below, we have included references to article and section numbers of the indenture so that you can easily locate these provisions.

The debt securities will be unsecured and will rank equally with all of our senior unsecured debt. The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued and each series of debt securities may differ as to its terms.

A supplement to the indenture, board resolution or officers certificate will designate the specific terms relating to any new series of debt securities. (SECTION 301) These terms will be described in a prospectus supplement and, in some cases, a pricing supplement, and will include the following:

title of the series;

total