

Darwin Professional Underwriters Inc  
Form DEFA14A  
July 01, 2008

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

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Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

**DARWIN PROFESSIONAL UNDERWRITERS, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than Registrant)

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(4) Date Filed:

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Explanatory Note

This filing relates to the proposed acquisition of Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc. (the Company ) by Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd ( Parent ) pursuant to the terms of an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement ), dated as of June 27, 2008, by and among the Company, Parent and Allied World Merger Company (the Merger ).

The following relates to a conference call with investors held by Parent and the Company on June 30, 2008 to discuss the proposed Merger (the Conference Call ).

During the Conference Call, certain statements were made regarding the possible reduction in the purchase price to be paid in the proposed Merger, which statements did not accurately describe the relevant terms and conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement. Such statements appear on page 10 of the following transcript. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, the \$32 per share purchase price is subject to downward adjustment in the event that certain representations by the Company in the Merger Agreement with respect to its capitalization are breached and, as a result of such breach, the aggregate consideration payable by Parent in the proposed Merger is increased by more than \$1,000,000. Investors should refer to the Company s Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 30, 2008 and the full text of the Merger Agreement (including Section 3.06 of the Merger Agreement) which is attached as Exhibit 2.1 to the Form 8-K for a description of the possible purchase price reduction under the Merger Agreement.

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Jun. 30. 2008 / 11:00AM, AWH Allied World Assurance to Acquire Darwin Professional Underwriters Conference Call

CORPORATE PARTICIPANTS

**Keith Lennox**

*Allied World Assurance Investment Relations Officer*

**Scott Carmilani**

*Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

**Joan Dillard**

*Allied World Assurance CFO*

**Jack Sennott**

*Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

CONFERENCE CALL PARTICIPANTS

**Jay Gelb**

*Lehman Brothers Analyst*

**Matthew Heimermann**

*JPMorgan Analyst*

**Susan Spivak**

*Wachovia Analyst*

**Ian Gutterman**

*Adage Capital Analyst*

**John Gwynn**

*Morgan Keegan Analyst*

**Jeff Whitehorn**

*Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

**Laura Schreiner**

*Warren Group Analyst*

PRESENTATION

**Operator**

Good day, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Allied World Assurance pending acquisition of Darwin Professional Underwriters conference call. My name is Erica and I will be your coordinator for today. At this time all participants are in listen-only mode. We will be facilitating a question-and-answer session towards the end up this conference. (OPERATOR INSTRUCTIONS) As a reminder this conference is being recorded for replay purposes. I would now like to turn the presentation over to your host for today's call, Mr. Keith Lennox, Investor Relations Officer. You may proceed, sir.

**Keith Lennox** *Allied World Assurance Investment Relations Officer*

Thank you. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our investor call to discuss our announcement issued earlier this morning regarding Allied World's pending acquisition of Darwin Professional Underwriters.

Our call is being made today from Darwin's home offices in Farmington, Connecticut, and today's call will also be available through July 14 as a webcast on both Allied World's and Darwin's website and as a teleconference replay. The dial-in information for this replay is included in this morning's press release.

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On the call today are Scott Carmilani, Allied World's President and Chief Executive Officer; Joan Dillard, Allied World's Chief Financial Officer; and Jack Sennott, Darwin's Chief Financial Officer. I will remind everyone that statements made during today's call, including the question-and-answer session, which are not historical facts may be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Federal Security laws.

Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to historical or current facts and can be identified by the use of words such as may, should, estimate, anticipate, intends, believe, predict, potential, or words of similar importance generally involving forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are based upon the Company's current plans or expectations and are subject to a number of uncertainties and risks that could significantly affect current plans, anticipated actions, and the Company's future financial condition and results. The uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in the Company's press release issued this morning and its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

As a consequence, current plans, anticipated actions, and future financial condition and results may differ from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company today. Additionally, forward-looking statements speak only of the date they are made and the Company assumes no obligation to update or revise any of them and light of new information, future events, or otherwise.

With that complete, I can now turn the call over to Scott.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Thanks, Keith, and good morning, everybody. Thanks for being with us this morning for our very exciting announcement of the pending acquisition of Darwin Professional Underwriters. Before opening up call to questions for myself, Joan, or Jack Sennott from Darwin, I would like to take a few minutes to explain why believe this transaction is an important strategic initiative for Allied World and will result in the strengthening of our businesses. We are making this call today from Darwin's headquarters in Farmington, Connecticut, where members of our team and I have just had the pleasure to meet with all of the employees of the Company. Darwin is well known for their product innovation, risk management capabilities, and the client service. All that starts right here with the folks that we met this morning.

As you read in our announcements this morning Allied World and Darwin have signed a merger agreement in which Allied World will acquire 100% of Darwin's common shares for \$32 a share. The transaction is valued at approximately \$550 million and is subject to the customary closing conditions. We expect the transaction to close in the fourth quarter of this year.

Darwin is a well-established specialty insurer focused on health care and professional liability coverages in the health care fields. They are a five-year-old, U.S.-based insurance business with a strong market identity across three major business lines, including med malpractice, health care professional liability, and Errors and Omissions coverages, as well as Directors and Officers liability.

What is particularly attractive to Allied World is that Darwin has demonstrated expertise in combining underwriting capabilities with the valued-added client services in the health care field. Their innovative approach to underwriting and product development, and a modern technology platform that enhances distribution their distribution is very attractive to our combined entity.

Allied World's strategy continues to focus on pursuing business opportunities in niche specialty industries. This acquisition more than doubles our current U.S. footprint on the insurance side, both in terms of premiums and in number of people. We are acquiring the health care professional liability books of businesses that operate complementary to Allied World's book of business yet are in specialties where we have some expertise.

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Darwin's business has a small account profile, which is generally less price-sensitive than our larger account business, and complements our own health care profile. This transaction also expands our distribution network, not just with the people but with innovation end-to-end. It deepens our management talent in a sector and product lines where we have already been successful. Finally, we believe that this transaction is effectively an expansion of our current U.S. operating platform and there will be limited integration risk.

After closing the transaction, our gross written premiums will be approximately \$1.8 billion on a pro forma basis with even greater proportion of insurance versus reinsurance and casualty versus property as the mix of business is concerned. Health care will grow from the current 3% of our portfolio to total gross premiums of 13% of our portfolio. Professional liability will expand from 18% of our portfolio to 21% of our portfolio writings.

In 2009, year one, we expect this transaction to be accretive to both to all of our earnings per share, our book value per share, and our return on equity. In summary, Allied World's growing franchise is enhanced by the acquisition of Darwin. It will accelerate our expansion into the U.S. while providing greater access to small- and medium-size primary accounts, which we find particularly attractive in the health care sector.

We welcome our new team members to the Allied World family of companies and we look forward to their contribution and our combined continued successes. Now we are going to turn the call over to questions at this time for anybody who might be on the call.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### **Operator**

(OPERATOR INSTRUCTIONS) Jay Gelb, Lehman Brothers.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Thanks and good morning. Scott, just to clarify in the press release, can you tell if there is going to be any financing for the transaction price or is that all from just in cash on hand?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Yes, I can. But since Joan is sitting here, I will let her handle that question. Go ahead, Joan.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

Jay, it will be a combination of cash and financing. At this point in time we would anticipate issuing about \$200 million in financing and the rest would be internally financed.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Debt or equity on the external?

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**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

With the market conditions we are thinking about right now at preferred. It would be a hybrid.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Okay. Second, can you talk about the difference in A.M. Best ratings between the I believe it's an A for Allied World and an A- for Darwin. How are you thinking about that?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

Well, we would expect that, upon the close, that Darwin would be included in the Allied group of companies and qualify for an A rating.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

We should probably point out we have met with each of the three rating agencies we deal with Moody's, S&P, and A.M. Best and expect to get their positive responses later this week or maybe even as early as tomorrow.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Okay. Then my final question and then I will re-queue. Can you talk about how this is going to affect your U.S. build out strategy and the expense you intended to put forth on that on an organic basis?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance - President & CEO*

Sure, Jay, and thanks for the question, actually. It does fit right into our expansion plans, as you I'm sure will note, we have shown to the Street and to the analysts that we expect our expense ratio to go up by a couple of points in 2009. This fits well within that and is part of the ultimate goal here. We don't expect there to be any real migration from that plan and it should fit right in. From a personnel standpoint, we now have a Farmington, Connecticut, office.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Okay. Any charges related with the deal that you anticipate at this point?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

No, nothing material, Jay.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Okay. Thanks again.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Sure.



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**Operator**

Matthew Heimermann, JPMorgan.

**Matthew Heimermann** *JPMorgan Analyst*

Hi, good morning, everyone. A couple of questions. First, just on, when you ran your analysis for EPS ROE, book value accretion I was just curious, was that run on a kind of a no other use of capital basis or was that vis-a-vis opportunity cost of buying back your own stock, etc.?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

It was based on our existing capital base, not on the alternative of buying back our stock. We did, obviously, a complete economic analysis in the earnings potential and the economic value of the Company to determine the right valuation.

**Matthew Heimermann** *JPMorgan Analyst*

Okay. Then I guess, Scott, from your standpoint I think strategically I understand where you are coming from with this and you laid it out pretty simply in your opening remarks but could you just maybe talk about what you think are the risks to this deal maybe short- or medium-term? And whether those are related to the business or more a function of where the market is? Just to be curious.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance - President & CEO*

Yes, okay. In any acquisition like this the integration risks are always centered around the people and the cultures a little bit around the systems. But we really feel that there is a very good complementary fit both culturally with the people and with the use of the systems that they have and the technology they use in what is known as the i-bind system, which is a neat small-business, very user-friendly, agent-friendly way to quote, bind, and issue policies for small accounts.

So, it's not something we currently use. It's easily adaptable into the overall system so there is very little risk there. It's not something we are going to redo or rewrite. We may make it multi-currency adaptable, so we can use it more broadly than just in the U.S., but for all intents and purposes, we believe and feel it's going to fit in very nicely with the current culture and the organization.

So, we will be working over the next three months on the integration plan and that will give us time for when we do close the transaction to be execute on it to day one.

**Matthew Heimermann** *JPMorgan Analyst*

Okay. Then can you just maybe talk a little bit about how market conditions compare and contrast or I guess how market conditions in Darwin's business compare and contrast with market conditions in your business? Where those in the lines where there is overlap?

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**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Yes, sure. First, I guess big picture, most of Allied World's portfolio is large account high access or medium excess business. Most of Darwin's business is small account primary or first access business. So they are coming at the business from opposite ends almost and there is very, very little overlap.

The large account business tends to be very cyclical and very driven by the market cycles. The smaller account business tends to be less volatile and less dependent on the cycle movement. As you know this is mostly a casualty book, so it will decrease the volatility that we have in terms of the as a percentage of our overall portfolio from catastrophe risk and will actually be a little bit less sensitive to market cycle risk overall.

**Matthew Heimermann** *JPMorgan Analyst*

Thank you very much. Oh, actually, Joan, when you said the hybrid did you can I put words in your mouth? Did you mean a convertible preferred or a perpetual?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

We have a few alternatives on the table, and as you know with the market conditions that we have had lately, what we will do as we get closer to the close is, obviously, look where we will get the best market appetite and the best execution and value.

**Matthew Heimermann** *JPMorgan Analyst*

Okay. Thank you.

**Operator**

Susan Spivak, Wachovia.

**Susan Spivak** *Wachovia Analyst*

Good morning, Scott and Joan. I was hoping that you could comment on Darwin's reserve position and whether, in your due diligence and the comments about the accretion in 2009, are you assuming additional reserve releases as the Company has taken in the past? Then of that say \$280 million premium, do expect that to shrink or to grow going forward?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Susan, Susan, Susan. You know that I'm not going to give you any indication as to what we think about their reserve position other than to tell you that they been in business five years so there is no legacy issues. It's predominantly a professional liability in health care book of business.

We think that they have been booking their loss picks in a conservative manner. We are quite comfortable with how they have operated up to date and I think they have enjoyed a good five-year head start as a company and as an organization. How that looks and plays out in the future will be determined by the actuarial teams and the famous guy named Bornhuetter-Ferguson.

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**Susan Spivak** *Wachovia Analyst*

Well, Scott, you know I really just wanted to hear you say that.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Well, okay.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

He has worked very hard to pronounce that correctly Bornhuetter-Ferguson.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

It has taken me a couple of years to get that guy's name right.

**Susan Spivak** *Wachovia Analyst*

Well, what about the premium expectations, though? I mean is it do you see yourself growing that book? Or in this type of market environment, will it be tough similar to other lines that we are dealing with?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance - President & CEO*

Well, I certainly think that we are in a tougher environment than we have been in the last few years. Darwin's primarily a wholesale driven organization that has approximately 35 to 37 wholesalers that they principally do business with. We think we can expand that with them, and in conjunction with them, not just in the U.S. but in other places. We are hoping that we can exceed their current expectations of the portfolio. Will it be harder than it was last year? Absolutely.

**Susan Spivak** *Wachovia Analyst*

Okay, thank you very much.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Sure.

**Operator**

Ian Gutterman, Adage Capital.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*

High, guys, a few questions here. First, can you talk about will you be able to quota share some of Darwin's business back to Bermuda?

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**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*  
Sure.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*  
Yes, we will.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*  
Will it be a similar percentage to your existing book or would it be different for any reason your existing U.S. book?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*  
More than likely, it will be part of the same treaties.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*  
Okay, great. Secondly, a different question on the reserves. Given the GAAP accounting, you are going to have to fair value the reserves given they have a lot of medium to longer tails business. I assume that that discount on those reserves will probably cause a book value gain upon close, is that right?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*  
We are working on the valuation right now and we will be going through that with our accounting firms as we get through closer to closing.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*  
Okay. But just

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*  
We do not this is Jack Sennott. Obviously we do not have we are at book value for loss reserves currently.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*  
Right, but my if I am understanding

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*  
Correct, the market valuation would take place upon the closing.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*  
Okay.

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**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

So you are correct on that point, but currently Darwin holds its reserves at book value.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital - Analyst*

Right. I was just thinking of the fact that there is you had to essentially discount them for GAAP, or create a benefit. I don't know if there is offsetting negatives that would offset or if I should if I want to try to model, if I should assume some increase in book from peak end adjustments.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

We are working on that at the moment. So it would be an entire it would be the market value of the company. So there is more than just the reserves that go into that.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital - Analyst*

Fair enough. Then just lastly on capital, obviously you certainly are in a good capital position but you have used up some of your excess on this. I'm just wondering if you could talk about what your excess capital, in rough terms, is going forward just given we are going into win season. Just your thought process on doing a deal using some of your cushion up before it [wins used] as opposed to waiting until after. Does this I'm not sure where your confidence level is that in a bad win season we are still okay on capital?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance - President & CEO*

We are, obviously, very confident of our capital position headed into wind season as well as the protections we have afforded ourselves on that portfolio of the business where we wouldn't be doing this now. Quite frankly, we bought more protection than we have bought in the past.

Given the rate environment of the property CAT portfolio and some of these specific individual lines of business within that, we have actually reduced some of our writings and that is a good reason why some of our premiums are down for the first half of this year. So we have been cutting back the book and better protecting it, so that we are in pretty good shape regardless of an event or not.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*

Great.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

So we feel pretty comfortable with the excess equity position that we have going into this transaction and we feel actually excited about what we are going to do with the money for us and for you.

**Ian Gutterman** *Adage Capital Analyst*

Great. Sounds good. Thank you very much.

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**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Thanks.

**Operator**

John Gwynn, Morgan Keegan.

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Yes, for whoever it this is appropriate to answer, I would like more detail on the language about a downward adjustment with respect to the Company's capitalization.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

John, where did that remark come from? Was that in the opening remarks?

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

No, that was in the news release. The purchase price is subject to a downward adjustment in the event that certain representations

(multiple speakers)

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

This is Jack Sennott, John. Let me take a crack at that one. That is those would be our legal counsel inserting their right into the conference call. Essentially that is what is affectionally known as a material adverse condition or change clause. It is if something materially happened to the business, you could make an adjustment at that point in time. We

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

We don't anticipate that happening.

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

It's not a question of what the share count is or anything?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

No, no. It is strictly if there was an unforeseen event that Darwin's portfolio experienced that would materially change their own balance sheet, but we don't expect that to happen.

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**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Okay, and related to that, in the release it says Alleghany has agreed to vote at 40% of its outstanding of Darwin s outstanding shares. And Alleghany actually owns more than 50%, if I recall correctly.

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Yes, they do, John. They own 55%; you are right. Essentially Alleghany wanted to show its support for the transaction, while at the same time recognizing that they have a controlling interest in the Company. They wanted to make sure that the minority shareholders also had some say in the transaction as well. So what they did is contractually agreed to 40% so essentially the minority shareholders control the rest of that transaction as to whether or not they are supported of it.

The remaining 11%, if you will, to get over a majority will come from the minority shareholders. That is not atypical language that you will see in a case where someone who owns a controlling stake is selling.

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Okay. We are looking at is it Arkansas and Delaware that domicile restates before May?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Correct. Well, that is for us. New Hampshire

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

That s right, you have to add New Hampshire and New York to that.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

Delaware and New Jersey for our reinsurance.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

New Jersey, right.

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Okay. Is Stephen there?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

He s not on the conference call.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

He s in the building.

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**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Okay. Is his health okay?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

His health is great.

**John Gwynn** *Morgan Keegan Analyst*

Okay, he seems awfully young to be retiring, but more power to him. Jack, congratulations and I'm through. Thanks.

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Thank you, John.

**Operator**

[Jeff Whitehorn], [Gilman Asset Management]

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

Good morning. I was wondering I guess my question is directed to Mr. Sennott. Why are you selling? Is something wrong in the environment that this is the best you can do?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

No, not at all. We are real excited about this transaction, we think this provides us great opportunity going forward. Darwin is not going away, we are becoming part of the much larger organization. They have got over \$3 billion of capital, over \$6 billion in assets. As you heard Scott and Joan talk about their global reach and the diversification between insurance and reinsurance lines of business.

We think our franchise is very complementary to the Allied World franchise as well. Our health care franchise, our small business franchise, our i-bind technology, our niche programs and our product development were all things that the Allied World team really identified as something that they wanted to really be a part of. They are in the U.S., but really kind of relatively more recently in that regard our footprint from a total premium perspective is a bit larger. Really bringing the organizations together is very complementary.

But between the time we met with the employees this morning and the time we got on this call, we spent some time looking for areas that were hot spots where somebody might get nervous. We really didn't find very many at all. So we are very excited about it and we think this will be a great opportunity. You will see the Company continuing to be out there in the market and growing.

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

But wouldn't you have if you did nothing wouldn't we be looking at a higher stock price in '09?



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**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Hard to tell what a stock price is going to do at any given point in time, Jeff. Really what we have seen here is what is best to build the business over the long-term and we think this is a great transaction to do.

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

I don't want to beat this to death but I will with one last question, I apologize. Since you are in Connecticut, have you heard of Washington, Connecticut the area called Washington, Connecticut?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

No.

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management - Analyst*

Go to the Mayflower Inn thumbs up. Any rate to beat my other point to death, I understand, obviously, you wouldn't go into this transaction or any transaction without saying the people are great, we have complementary systems, there isn't too much overhang, there isn't too much baggage, blah, blah, blah.

I only heard that through in when a guy named Alan was running AT&T and he made his acquisitions and they went down the toilet bowl. So I am going to assume that your acquisition actually won't. But don't you think, unless there is something really, really you guys have been public what three or four years now, by yourselves as a sub of Alleghany?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Two.

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management - Analyst*

Two years? And I watched the stock go from \$19, I guess that was the IPO, to the mid-\$20s and back to the low-\$20s. Wasn't there granted no one can predict the stock prices but given you had no legacy systems, given the way you were cherry-picking your business, it seemed to me, given how you were building up your reserves, that you were setting yourselves up for a really good '09. So, given that if I am only half correct did you have any other people looking at your book saying, hey, we might express an interest or was this the only company that knocked on the door?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

There was a process that we went through. We the Board talked back in really the first quarter about a formal process. A special committee was formed to go through it, there was an investment banking firm that was hired and retained. We went out to more than two handfuls of companies. We went through a formal process. There were folks who expressed interest going forward. The process kind of narrowed it down to a couple of finalists and I can tell you that are pleased with, one, the economics and, two, the fit going forward.

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**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

Last question. When this merger goes through what will Alleghany's role be in the new company?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

None.

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

So they will be bought out? Alleghany will have no ownership in Allied?

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

That is correct.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

That's right.

**Jeff Whitehorn** *Gilman Asset Management Analyst*

Thank you.

**Operator**

Jay Gelb, Lehman Brothers.

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Thanks. I just wanted to circle back on a couple of issues on getting to the accretion in 2009. Can you walk us through your major assumptions there?

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

In terms of the major assumptions, I can give you some of the generalities. We certainly looked at the earnings potential of Darwin over that period of time. Looked at the economic values, looked at the capital that we would assign to the transaction, the economic value. We also had to look at their cash flow, look at the complementary fit of the book of business and how we could actually enhance both companies through the transaction.

We came out with, first of all, very strong economic values supporting the price. As you know, in terms of the comparables, it's in a range of transactions that have been done at least as far back as early 2007. Then looking at the accretion came out quite positive on the EPS, ROE, and the book value side.

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**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

So, for 2009, what are the pro forma assumptions for if you don't have premium volume, then the percentage of gross to net?

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

I'm not sure I understand that question.

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

You mean what our ceded reinsurance rate is?

**Jay Gelb** *Lehman Brothers Analyst*

Correct.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

The session strategy that we looked at Darwin has an excellent risk management program and they cede to best manage the risk in their book. We would expect to continue that program, perhaps not to the 100% of the level that they have now, but perhaps in a range of 30% of what they do currently.

**Scott Carmilani** *Allied World Assurance President & CEO*

Yes, by being part of the advantage of them becoming part of a bigger capitalized organization is they don't need to use as much reinsurance where the market makes sense to do so to provide capacity.

**Joan Dillard** *Allied World Assurance CFO*

A few other more concrete assumptions, clearly we have already mentioned that we would be quota sharing a portion of the business to Bermuda, as we do at a level currently with our operating companies as well as minor expense synergies. This deal is not about, necessarily, expense savings.

But given that you have two public companies coming together, you will have the expense of one public company. So you would see that in one auditor instead of two, one New York Stock Exchange fee instead of two. But that is not expense savings are not the primary reason for this deal.

**Jack Sennott** *Darwin Professional Underwriters CFO*

Just to add one point here because I Joan, I'm handing John a note of paper about the 30%. Our ceded our current ceded-to-gross ratio is 30%. I would expect that we would be able to make some improvements off of that. I wouldn't say that we were going to cut our reinsurance by one-third from a cost perspective, but I think we will be able to make some significant improvements along that line.

But we currently cede about 30% of our writings and we buy a lot of excess of loss reinsurance. Some of our earlier years of reinsurance have also been on a swing or a retro-rated basis. So we get some fluctuations in that as well. If our loss reserves develop favorably, you will see some adjustment there.

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So those are some factors that I think come into the plan and make a little bit of complexity as well. But I wanted to make sure that we get that point clarified.