

AMPHENOL CORP /DE/
Form S-3ASR
October 29, 2009

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

[Table of Contents](#)

As filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on October 29, 2009

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Amphenol Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization)

22-2785165
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**358 Hall Avenue
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
(203) 265-8900**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Edward C. Wetmore
Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
Amphenol Corporation
358 Hall Avenue
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
(203) 265-8634**

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

**Copy To:
Ronald A. Fleming, Jr.
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
1540 Broadway
New York, New York 10036
(212) 858-1143**

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 statement 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.

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to Be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Security | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Senior Debt Securities | (1) | (1) | (1) | (2) |
| (1) Omitted in accordance with General Instruction II.E. of Form S-3 and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act. An indeterminate aggregate principal amount of securities is being registered under this registration statement as may from time to time be offered and sold at indeterminate prices. | | | | |
| (2) Since an indeterminate amount of securities of the specified class is being registered under this registration statement, the registrant is electing to defer payment of the registration fee in accordance with Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act. Any registration fees will be paid subsequently on a pay-as-you-go basis in accordance with Rule 456(b). | | | | |

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

AMPHENOL CORPORATION

Senior Debt Securities

We may offer from time to time, in one or more offerings, senior debt securities. This prospectus describes the general terms of these senior debt securities and the general manner in which we will offer them. We will provide a supplement to accompany this prospectus each time we offer any of these senior debt securities. The accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the terms of each series of senior debt securities, describe the specific manner in which we will offer such senior debt securities, and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any senior debt securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

We may offer and sell these senior debt securities, on a continuous or delayed basis, to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers.

Investing in our senior debt securities involves risks. See "Risk Factors" on page 3 of this prospectus, the risk factors included in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, each of which is incorporated by reference herein, and any risk factors described in the accompanying prospectus supplement, for a discussion of certain risks you should consider carefully before investing in our senior debt securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is October 29, 2009

In making your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any other information. If you receive any different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.

You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We are not making an offer to sell these senior debt securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| About This Prospectus | 1 |
| Forward-Looking Statements | 1 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | 2 |
| Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference | 2 |
| Risk Factors | 3 |
| Our Company | 3 |
| Use of Proceeds | 3 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 4 |
| Description of the Senior Debt Securities | 5 |
| Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement | 15 |
| Plan of Distribution | 19 |
| Legal Matters | 21 |
| Experts | 21 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*"), using a "shelf" registration, or continuous offering, process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, at any time and from time to time, issue and sell, in one or more offerings, the senior debt securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the senior debt securities we may offer. Each time we sell senior debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that accompanies this prospectus that will provide specific information about the terms of that offering and the offered senior debt securities, including the specific amounts and prices of the senior debt securities offered. The accompanying prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any information in the accompanying prospectus supplement that is inconsistent with this prospectus will modify or supersede the information in this prospectus.

The registration statement we filed with the SEC includes exhibits that provide more detail of the matters discussed in this prospectus. Statements contained in this prospectus about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. If the SEC's rules and regulations require that an agreement or document be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, please see that agreement or document for a complete description of these matters.

Before making your investment decision, you should read and carefully consider this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the related exhibits filed with the SEC, together with the additional information in the documents referred to in the sections entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation by Reference" below. Information incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus is considered a part of this prospectus and may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any information in such subsequent filings that is inconsistent with this prospectus will modify or supersede the information in this prospectus.

Unless otherwise stated, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "we," "us," "our," "Amphenol" and "the Company" are to Amphenol Corporation and, as applicable, its consolidated subsidiaries.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, that are not purely historical information, are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "*Exchange Act*"). These forward-looking statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "believe," "expect," "project," "plan," "intend," "anticipate," "estimate," "predict," "potential," "continue," "may," "should" "will," "would," "will be," "will continue," "will likely result," or the negative of these terms or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, estimates, projections and information concerning our possible or assumed future business plans and strategies, results of operations, competitive position, potential operating performance improvements, the effects of competition and the effects of future legislation or regulations.

These forward-looking statements are based on our expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about our business and the industry in which we operate as of the respective dates on which such forward-looking statements are made, and are not guarantees of our future performance. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that cannot be predicted, quantified or controlled and that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by, or underlying, the forward-looking statements. A discussion of some of the risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and events to differ materially from these forward-looking statements is included in the section entitled "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, each of which is incorporated by reference herein. Because various factors could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those

Table of Contents

expressed in these forward-looking statements, you should not place undue reliance on any of these forward-looking statements.

Except as required by law, we do not undertake any obligation to update or publicly release any revisions to any forward-looking statement made by us or on our behalf to reflect new information, future events or changes in expectations after the date on which such forward-looking statement is made.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC under the Securities Act. This prospectus is part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains or incorporates by reference additional information and exhibits. We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and, in accordance with these requirements, we file reports and other information relating to our business, financial condition and other matters with the SEC. We are required to disclose in such reports certain information, as of particular dates, concerning our operating results and financial condition, officers and directors, principal holders of shares, any material interests of such persons in transactions with us and other matters. Our filed reports, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports and other information regarding registrants like us that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's website is: <http://www.sec.gov>.

You can also obtain our Annual Reports, statements regarding our quarterly results, statements regarding any quarterly dividend payments, and other information about the Company at our website: <http://www.amphenol.com>. Our website and the information contained on our website are not part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information that we have filed with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and the information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and, where applicable, modify or supersede the information in this prospectus and the documents listed below. We hereby "incorporate by reference" the following documents that have been previously filed with the SEC:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009;

Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 9, 2009; and

all of our future filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus until the offerings contemplated by this prospectus are completed or terminated.

We are not, however, incorporating any documents or information that are deemed to have been furnished rather than filed in accordance with SEC rules.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address and number:

Edgar Filing: AMPHENOL CORP /DE/ - Form S-3ASR

Investor Relations
Amphenol Corporation
358 Hall Avenue
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
Telephone No: (203) 265-8900

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our senior debt securities involves risks. In considering whether to purchase any senior debt securities, you should carefully consider the specific risks discussed under "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus supplement. In addition to the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, you should also carefully consider the information we have included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. In particular, you should carefully consider the risks described under the heading "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

OUR COMPANY

We are one of the world's largest designers, manufacturers and marketers of electrical, electronic and fiber optic connectors, interconnect systems and coaxial and flat-ribbon cable. We were incorporated in 1987. Certain predecessor businesses, which now constitute part of the Company, have been in business since 1932. The primary end markets for our products are:

communication systems for the converging technologies of voice, video and data communications;

a broad range of industrial applications including factory automation and motion control systems, medical and industrial instrumentation, mass transportation, alternative energy, natural resource exploration and traditional and hybrid-electrical automotive applications; and

commercial aerospace and military applications.

Our strategy is to provide our customers with comprehensive design capabilities, a broad selection of products and a high level of service on a worldwide basis while maintaining continuing programs of productivity improvement and cost control.

Our principal executive offices are located at 358 Hall Avenue, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492, and our main telephone number is (203) 265-8900. Our website is located at <http://www.amphenol.com>.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in the accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the senior debt securities that may be offered hereby for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment or redemption of existing indebtedness and future acquisitions and strategic investment opportunities. The prospectus supplement relating to any specific offering of senior debt securities will contain a more detailed description of the use of proceeds of such offering.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth information regarding our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods shown. For purposes of determining the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges, less net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests in less than wholly-owned subsidiaries. For the years ended December 31, 2004 through 2008, earnings consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges (income before income taxes for these periods include the adjustment for noncontrolling interests as those financial statements have not yet been retroactively restated in accordance with the standards of the Consolidations Topic of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification). Fixed charges for all periods consist of interest expense including amortization of deferred debt issuance costs and one third of rental expenses on operating leases, representing that portion of rent expense which management believes is representative of the interest component of rent expense.

| For the nine months ended September 30, | | For the fiscal years ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| 10.5 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 12.1 | 9.0 | 11.1 | 9.7 |
| | | | 4 | | | |

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

General

The following is a summary of the general terms of the senior debt securities we may issue under an indenture (the "*indenture*"), between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. The terms of the senior debt securities include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by referencing the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The particular terms of the senior debt securities of any series and the extent, if any, to which such general terms may apply to the senior debt securities of such series will be described in the prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of such series. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of such series, you should rely on the information in such accompanying prospectus supplement. This description of senior debt securities provides an overview of the material provisions of the senior debt securities and, to the extent applicable to the senior debt securities, the indenture. Since this description of senior debt securities is a summary, you should refer to the indenture for a complete description of our obligations and the rights of a holder of senior debt securities thereunder. We have filed a copy of the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

When we refer to "we," "us" or "our" in this section, we refer only to Amphenol Corporation, the issuer of the senior debt securities, and not to its subsidiaries. Unless otherwise defined in this prospectus, capitalized terms used in this "Description of the Senior Debt Securities" section are defined under "Definitions" below.

The senior debt securities will be our direct senior unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and will rank equally with all of our existing and future senior unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. However, the senior debt securities are structurally subordinated to the indebtedness of our subsidiaries and effectively subordinated to any secured debt to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness.

There is no requirement under the indenture that future issuances of our senior debt securities be issued under the indenture, and in connection with future issuances of other senior debt securities, we will be free to use other indentures or instruments, which may contain provisions different from those contained in the indenture or applicable to one or more series of senior debt securities issued thereunder.

The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities that may be issued thereunder. The indenture provides that the senior debt securities may be issued in one or more series. The senior debt securities may be issued at various times and may have differing maturity dates and may bear different interest rates. The prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of any series will describe:

the designation and aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of such series and their authorized denominations (if other than \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000);

the date or dates on which the senior debt securities of such series will mature;

the interest rate or rates, or method of calculation of such rate or rates, on the senior debt securities of such series, and the date from which such interest shall accrue;

the dates on which such interest will be payable or the method by which such dates are to be determined;

the record dates for payment of such interest;

Table of Contents

any obligation to redeem or repurchase the senior debt securities of such series, whether pursuant to a sinking fund or analogous provision or at our option or the option of the holder thereof;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the senior debt securities of such series may be redeemed or repurchased, in whole or in part;

the inapplicability of any event of default or covenant set forth in the indenture relating to the senior debt securities, or the applicability of any other events of default or covenant in addition to the events of default or covenants set forth in the indenture relating to the senior debt securities; or

other specific terms applicable to the senior debt securities of such series.

Principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities will be payable, and the senior debt securities may be exchanged or transferred, at our office or agency in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York (which initially shall be the corporate trust office of the trustee, at 101 Barclay Street, 8th Floor West, New York, New York 10286), except that, at our option, payment of interest may be made by check mailed to the registered holders of the senior debt securities at their registered addresses. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of senior debt securities, but we or the trustee may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge payable in connection with such transfer or exchange.

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of any series, in any case where the date of payment of the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the senior debt securities of any series, including the date, if any, fixed for redemption or repurchase of the senior debt securities of such series, shall not be a "business day" (as defined below), then payment of principal, premium or interest need not be made on that date at such place but may be made on the next succeeding business day. In the case of senior debt securities that bear interest at a fixed rate, the payment of principal, premium or interest made on such next succeeding business day will be made with the same force and effect as if made on the applicable payment date or the date fixed for redemption or repurchase, and no interest shall accrue for the period after that date. In the case of senior debt securities that bear interest at a floating rate, interest shall accrue to but excluding the date interest is paid. A "business day" shall mean a day that is not, in New York City, a Saturday, Sunday, a legal holiday or a day on which banking institutions are authorized or obligated by law to close.

Ranking

The senior debt securities will be senior unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and will rank equally with all of our existing and future senior unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. However, the senior debt securities will be structurally subordinated to the indebtedness of our subsidiaries and effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness.

We are obligated to pay reasonable compensation to the trustee and to indemnify the trustee against certain losses, liabilities and expenses incurred by the trustee in connection with its duties relating to the senior debt securities. The trustee's claims for these payments will generally be senior to those of holders of senior debt securities in respect of all funds collected or held by the trustee.

Table of Contents

Covenants

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of any series and except as discussed below, we are not restricted by the indenture from:

incurring any type of indebtedness or other obligation;

paying dividends or making distributions on our capital stock; or

purchasing or redeeming our capital stock.

We are not required under the indenture to maintain any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity.

The indenture contains various covenants, including, among others, the following:

Limitation on Liens

So long as the senior debt securities of any series are outstanding under the indenture, neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary will, directly or indirectly, issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee any indebtedness secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge, lien, charge or other encumbrance upon any Principal Property or upon any shares of stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary (whether such Principal Property, shares or indebtedness are now existing or owned or hereafter created or acquired), unless prior to or at the same time the senior debt securities of such series are equally and ratably secured with or, at our option, prior to such secured indebtedness. Mortgages, security interests, pledges, liens, charges and other encumbrances are collectively referred to in this prospectus as "mortgages."

This restriction does not apply to:

- (1) mortgages on property, shares of stock or indebtedness or other assets of any entity existing at the time such entity becomes a Restricted Subsidiary, provided that such mortgage was not incurred in anticipation of such entity becoming a Restricted Subsidiary;
- (2) mortgages on property, shares of stock or indebtedness existing at the time of acquisition by us or any Restricted Subsidiary (which may include property previously leased by us and leasehold interests on the property, provided that the lease terminates prior to or upon the acquisition), provided that such mortgage was not incurred in anticipation of such acquisition;
- (3) mortgages on property, shares of stock or indebtedness to secure any indebtedness incurred prior to, at the time of, or within 270 days after, the latest of the acquisition of such property, shares of stock or indebtedness, or in the case of real property, the completion of construction, the completion of improvements or the beginning of substantial commercial operation of such real property for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price of such real property, the construction thereof or the making of improvements thereto;
- (4) mortgages in favor of us or another Restricted Subsidiary;
- (5) mortgages existing at the time of the closing of the offering of the senior debt securities of such series;
- (6) mortgages on property or other assets of any entity existing at the time such entity is merged into or consolidated with either us or any Restricted Subsidiary or at the time of a sale, lease or other disposition of the properties of such entity as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to either us or any Restricted Subsidiary, provided that this mortgage was not incurred in anticipation of the merger or consolidation or sale, lease or other disposition;

Table of Contents

- (7) mortgages in favor of the United States of America or any state, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia) to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such mortgages;
- (8) mortgages created in connection with a project financed with, and created to secure, a Nonrecourse Obligation;
- (9) mortgages securing all of the senior debt securities of such series outstanding under the indenture;
- (10) mortgages on accounts receivable securing our indebtedness; or
- (11) extensions, renewals or replacements of any mortgage referred to in clauses (1) through (10) above without increase of the principal of the indebtedness secured by the mortgage;

provided, however, that any mortgages permitted by any of the clauses above shall not extend to or cover any property of ours or that of any Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be, other than the property specified in these clauses and improvements to this property.

We and any Restricted Subsidiary are permitted to issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a mortgage that would otherwise not be permitted without equally and ratably securing the senior debt securities of such series then outstanding under the indenture, if, after giving effect thereto and any concurrent retirement of indebtedness, the aggregate amount of all indebtedness secured by mortgages (not including mortgages permitted under clauses (1) through (11) above) does not at such time exceed 15% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets.

Limitation on Sale/Leaseback Transactions

So long as the senior debt securities of any series are outstanding under the indenture, neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary will enter into any "sale/leaseback transaction" (as defined below) with respect to any Principal Property, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by us or any Restricted Subsidiary, unless:

- (a) we or such Restricted Subsidiary would, at the time of entering into such arrangement, be able to incur indebtedness secured by a mortgage on the Principal Property involved in the transaction at least equal in amount to the Attributable Debt with respect to such sale/leaseback transaction, without equally and ratably securing the senior debt securities of such series under the covenant described in " Limitation on Liens" above; or
- (b) the net proceeds of the sale of the Principal Property to be leased are at least equal to such Principal Property's fair market value, as determined by our board of directors, and the proceeds are applied within 180 days of the effective date of the sale/leaseback transaction to the purchase, construction, development or acquisition of assets that are Principal Property or to the repayment of senior indebtedness of us or any Restricted Subsidiary.

This restriction does not apply to sale/leaseback transactions:

entered into prior to the time of the closing of the offering of the senior debt securities of such series;

between us and any Restricted Subsidiary or between Restricted Subsidiaries;

under which the rent payable pursuant to such lease is to be reimbursed under a contract with the U.S. Government or any instrumentality or agency thereof;

Table of Contents

involving leases for a period of no longer than three years; or

in which the lease for the property or asset is entered into within 270 days after the date of acquisition, completion of construction or commencement of full operations of such property or asset, whichever is latest.

A "sale/leaseback transaction" means an arrangement relating to property now owned or hereafter acquired whereby either we transfer, or any Restricted Subsidiary transfers, such property to a person and either we or any Restricted Subsidiary leases it back from such person.

Notwithstanding the restrictions outlined in the preceding paragraphs, we and any Restricted Subsidiary will be permitted to enter into sale/leaseback transactions that would otherwise be subject to such restrictions, without complying with the requirements of clauses (a) and (b) above, if, after giving effect thereto, the aggregate amount of all Attributable Debt with respect to sale/leaseback transactions existing at such time that could not have been entered into except for the provisions described in this paragraph, together with the aggregate amount of all outstanding indebtedness secured by mortgages permitted by any of clauses (1) through (11) under " Limitation on Liens" above, does not exceed 15% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets.

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

We may, without the consent of the holders of any outstanding series of senior debt securities, consolidate with, sell, lease, convey or otherwise transfer all or substantially all of our assets to, or merge with or into, any other person or entity, provided that:

- (i) we shall be the continuing entity, or the successor entity formed from the consolidation or merger or the entity that received the transfer of the assets is organized and validly existing as a corporation under the laws of any state of the United States of America, or the District of Columbia, and expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture, the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities and the performance or observance of every covenant in the indenture;
- (ii) immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default shall have occurred and be continuing; and
- (iii) an officers' certificate and legal opinion are delivered to the trustee, each stating that the consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer complies with the clauses (i) and (ii) above.

The successor person or entity will succeed to us, and be substituted for us, and may exercise all of our rights and powers under the indenture, but in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of our assets we will not be released from the obligation to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities.

Definitions

For purposes of this "Description of the Senior Debt Securities" section, the following terms have the following meanings:

"*Attributable Debt*" means, when used in connection with a sale/leaseback transaction, on any date as of which the amount of Attributable Debt is to be determined, the product of (a) the net proceeds from the sale/leaseback transaction multiplied by (b) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of full years of the term of the lease relating to the property involved in the sale/leaseback transaction (without regard to any options to renew or extend such term) remaining on the date of the making of the computation, and the denominator of which is the number of full years of the term of the lease measured from the first day of the term.

Table of Contents

"*Consolidated Net Tangible Assets*" means the aggregate amount of assets included on our consolidated balance sheet as of the most recent fiscal quarter end for which such consolidated balance sheet is available, minus (a) all current liabilities, except for current maturities of long-term debt and current maturities of obligations under capital leases, and (b) total goodwill and other intangible assets, all as set forth on the most recent consolidated balance sheet of us and our consolidated subsidiaries and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"*default*" means any event that is, or after notice or passage of time or both would be, an event of default under the indenture.

"*indebtedness*" means, with respect to any person, obligations (other than Nonrecourse Obligations) of such person for borrowed money or evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or similar instruments.

"*Nonrecourse Obligation*" means indebtedness or other obligations substantially related to (a) the acquisition of assets not previously owned by us or any Restricted Subsidiary or (b) the financing of a project involving the development or expansion of our properties or those of any Restricted Subsidiary, as to which the obligee with respect to such indebtedness or obligation has no recourse to us or any Restricted Subsidiary or any of our assets or those of any Restricted Subsidiary other than the assets that were acquired with the proceeds of such transaction or the project financed with the proceeds of such transaction (and the proceeds thereof).

"*person*" means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or political subdivision thereof.

"*Principal Property*" means the land, land improvements, buildings (to the extent they constitute real property interests and including any leasehold interest therein) and fixtures (including, for the avoidance of doubt, all machinery and equipment) constituting the principal corporate office, any manufacturing plant or any manufacturing facility (whether now owned or hereafter acquired) that:

is owned by us or any of our subsidiaries;

is located within any of the present 50 states of the United States of America (or the District of Columbia); and

has not been determined in good faith by our board of directors not to be materially important to the total business conducted by us and our subsidiaries taken as a whole.

"*Restricted Subsidiary*" means any of our direct or indirect subsidiaries that owns any Principal Property; provided, however, that the term "*Restricted Subsidiary*" does not include:

any such subsidiary that is principally engaged in leasing or in financing receivables or that is principally engaged in financing outside the United States of America our operations or those of our subsidiaries; or

any such subsidiary less than 80% of the Voting Stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by us, by one or more of our other subsidiaries or by us and one or more of our other subsidiaries if the common stock of such subsidiary is traded on any national securities exchange or in the over-the-counter market.

"*Voting Stock*" of a person means all classes of any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participation or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such person, including any preferred stock and limited liability or partnership interests (whether general or limited), but excluding any senior debt securities convertible into such equity, to the extent then outstanding and normally entitled to vote in the election of such person's directors, managers or trustees, as applicable.

Table of Contents

Defaults

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement applicable to the senior debt securities of any series, each of the following is an "event of default" with respect to the senior debt securities of such series under the indenture:

- (1) a default in the payment of any interest on any debt security of such series when due, which default continues for 30 days or more;
- (2) a default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series when due at its stated maturity date, upon optional redemption or required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise;
- (3) a failure by us to comply with our other agreements contained in the indenture (other than any such agreement that is solely for the benefit of debt securities other than such series) continuing for 90 days after written notice has been given as provided in the indenture;
- (4) (a) a failure to make any payment at maturity, including any applicable grace period, on any of our indebtedness in an amount in excess of \$50,000,000 or (b) a default on any of our indebtedness, which default results in the acceleration of indebtedness in an amount in excess of \$50,000,000; or
- (5) the occurrence of various events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization involving us as provided in the indenture.

The foregoing constitute events of default whatever the reason for any such event of default and whether it is voluntary or involuntary or is effected by operation of any law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body.

If an event of default with respect to the senior debt securities of any series, other than an event of default described in clause (5) above, occurs and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of such series by notice to us may declare the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on all the senior debt securities of such series to be due and payable. Upon this declaration, principal of and interest on the senior debt securities of such series will be immediately due and payable. If an event of default described in clause (5) above occurs and is continuing, the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on all the senior debt securities of such series will become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holders. Under some circumstances, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of such series may rescind any acceleration with respect to the senior debt securities of such series and its consequences.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee, in conformity with its duties under the indenture, will be required to exercise all rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders, provided the holders provide the trustee with a security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction. Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest when due, no holder of senior debt securities of any series may pursue any remedy with respect to the indenture or the senior debt securities unless:

such holder previously notified the trustee that an event of default is continuing;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of such series requested the trustee to pursue the remedy;

Table of Contents

such holders offered the trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by it in compliance with such request;

the trustee has not complied with the holder's request within 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of security or indemnity; and

the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of such series have not given the trustee a direction inconsistent with the request within the 60-day period.

Generally, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of a series are given the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the senior debt securities of such series. The trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the indenture or that the trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder of senior debt securities of such series or that would expose the trustee to personal liability.

If a default with respect to the senior debt securities of a series occurs and is continuing and is known to a responsible officer of the trustee, the trustee must mail to each holder of any debt security of such series notice of the default within 90 days after it is known to the trustee. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security of such series, the trustee may withhold notice if the trustee determines in good faith that withholding notice is in the interests of the holders. In addition, we are required to deliver to the trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a certificate indicating whether the signers of the certificate know of any default that occurred during the previous fiscal year. We also are required to notify the trustee within 30 days of the occurrence of any event that would constitute various defaults, their status and what action we are taking or propose to take in respect of these defaults.

Amendments and Waivers

We and the trustee may amend the indenture as to the senior debt securities of any series with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of such series then outstanding. Any past default or compliance with any provisions of the indenture or the senior debt securities of such series may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of such series then outstanding. These consents may be obtained through a tender offer or exchange offer for the senior debt securities of such series.

Without the consent of each holder of an outstanding debt security of any series, we may not amend the indenture as to such series to:

reduce the amount of senior debt securities of such series whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt security of such series;

reduce the principal of or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series or change its stated maturity date or the time at which it may be redeemed or repurchased;

make any debt security of such series payable in money other than that stated in the debt security of such series;

impair the right of any holder of any debt security of such series to receive payment of principal of and interest on the senior debt securities of such series on or after the due dates for the payment of the principal or interest or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the senior debt securities of such series;

Table of Contents

make any changes that would affect the ranking of the senior debt securities of such series in a manner adverse to the holders thereof; or

make any change in the amendment or waiver provisions relating to the senior debt securities of such series that require the consent of each holder thereof.

We and the trustee may, however, amend or supplement the indenture without the consent of any holder of the senior debt securities of any series as to:

cure, correct or supplement any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency as to the senior debt securities of such series;

provide for the assumption by a successor entity of our obligations under the indenture as to the senior debt securities of such series;

add guarantees or collateral security with respect to the senior debt securities of such series;

add to our covenants under the indenture for the benefit of the holders of the senior debt securities of such series or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us as to the senior debt securities of such series;

make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder of senior debt securities of such series in any material respect;

change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture provided that any such change or elimination will become effective only when there is no security outstanding of any series created prior to the execution of such amendment or supplement that is adversely affected by such provision; or

comply with any requirement of the SEC regarding qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

It is not necessary that any consent of the holders of the senior debt securities of any series required under the indenture approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Transfer and Exchange

A holder may transfer or exchange senior debt securities of a series in accordance with the indenture. Upon any transfer or exchange, the registrar of the senior debt securities and the trustee may require a holder to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and we may require a holder to pay any taxes required by law or permitted by the indenture, including any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge payable as part of the transfer or exchange. We are not required to transfer or exchange any debt security selected for redemption or to transfer or exchange any debt security for a period of 15 days prior to a selection of senior debt securities to be redeemed. The senior debt securities will be issued in registered form and the registered holder of a debt security will be treated as the owner of the debt security for all purposes.

Defeasance

With respect to the senior debt securities of any series, we may, at any time, terminate all of our obligations under the senior debt securities of such series and the indenture ("*legal defeasance*"), except for certain obligations, including those respecting the defeasance trust and obligations to register the transfer or exchange of the senior debt securities of such securities, to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen senior debt securities of such series and to maintain a registrar and paying agent in respect of the senior debt securities of such series. We at any time may terminate our obligations with respect to the senior debt securities of any series under the covenants described under " Covenants" and

the

Table of Contents

occurrence of an event of default described in clause (4) under " Defaults" above ("*covenant defeasance*").

We may exercise our legal defeasance option notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise our legal defeasance option, payment of the senior debt securities of any series may not be accelerated because of an event of default with respect thereto. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, payment of the senior debt securities of such series may not be accelerated because of an event of default described in clause (3) (except for the covenant described under " Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets") or clause (4) under " Defaults" above.

To exercise either defeasance option with respect to the senior debt securities of any series:

we must irrevocably deposit with the trustee, in trust for the benefit of the holders of the senior debt securities of such series, money or U.S. government obligations that will provide cash at the times and in the amounts as will be sufficient to pay principal, premium and interest when due on all the senior debt securities of such series to maturity or redemption;

we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that will provide that the holders of the senior debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and defeasance had not occurred;

in the case of legal defeasance only, the opinion of counsel referred to in the clause above must be based on a ruling of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or other change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law; and

no default shall have occurred and be continuing.

Concerning the Trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon is the trustee under the indenture and is also registrar and paying agent of the senior debt securities.

The indenture contains limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become our creditor, to obtain payment of claims in some cases, or to realize on property received in respect of any of these claims as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries and affiliates. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must either eliminate its conflict within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue or resign as trustee under the indenture.

Governing Law

The indenture provides that it and the senior debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

BOOK-ENTRY DELIVERY AND SETTLEMENT

Global Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the accompanying prospectus supplement, we will issue the senior debt securities in the form of one or more global securities in definitive, fully registered, book-entry form. A global security will be deposited with or on behalf of The Depository Trust Company ("*DTC*") and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear

Beneficial interests in global securities will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may hold interests in a global security through either DTC (in the United States), Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg, which we refer to as Clearstream, or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, which we refer to as Euroclear, in Europe, either directly if they are participants in such systems or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream's and Euroclear's names on the books of their U.S. depositories, which in turn will hold such interests in customers' securities accounts in the U.S. depositories' names on the books of DTC.

DTC has advised us:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations.

DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by The New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

The rules applicable to DTC and its direct and indirect participants are on file with the SEC.

Clearstream has advised us that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its customers through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its customers, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to its customers, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector. Clearstream customers are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and

Table of Contents

dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations and may include various underwriters. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream customer either directly or indirectly.

Euroclear has advised us that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., which we refer to as the Euroclear Operator, under contract with Euroclear Clearance Systems S.C., a Belgian cooperative corporation, which we refer to as the Cooperative. All operations are conducted by the Euroclear Operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not the Cooperative. The Cooperative establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers, and other professional financial intermediaries and may include various underwriters. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly.

The Euroclear Operator is licensed by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission to carry out banking activities on a global basis. As a Belgian bank, it is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

We have provided the descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear in this prospectus solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of those organizations and are subject to change by them from time to time. Neither we nor the applicable trustee take any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of a global security with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants designated by any underwriters in connection with the distribution of the senior debt securities represented by such global security with portions of the principal amounts of such global security; and

ownership of the senior debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the senior debt securities represented by a global security to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in the senior debt securities represented by a global security to pledge or transfer those interests to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the senior debt securities represented by that global security for all purposes under the indenture and under the senior debt securities. Except as provided

Table of Contents

below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have securities represented by that global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated securities and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the indenture or under the senior debt securities for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a direct or indirect participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of the senior debt securities under the indenture or a global security. Neither we nor the applicable trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of securities by DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of those organizations relating to the senior debt securities.

Payments on the senior debt securities represented by a global security will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner thereof. We expect that DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the senior debt securities represented by any such global security, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in such global security as shown in the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. The participants will be responsible for those payments.

Distributions on the senior debt securities held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of its customers in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Clearstream.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law, which we refer to collectively as the Terms and Conditions. The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Distributions on the senior debt securities held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of its participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Euroclear.

Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for the senior debt securities will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear, as applicable, and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by the U.S. depository; however, such cross-market transactions will

Table of Contents

require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving the securities in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their U.S. depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of the senior debt securities received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date.

Such credits or any transactions in the senior debt securities settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of the senior debt securities by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of the senior debt securities among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

Certificated Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the accompanying prospectus supplement, we will issue certificated securities to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the securities represented by a global security upon surrender by DTC of such global security if:

DTC notifies us that it is no longer willing or able to act as a depository for such global security or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of that notice or becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered;

in the case of senior debt securities of any series, an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the senior debt securities of such series, and DTC requests the issuance of certificated securities; or

we determine not to have the senior debt securities represented by a global security.

Neither we nor the applicable trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the senior debt securities. We and the applicable trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes, including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the certificated securities to be issued.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the senior debt securities offered by this prospectus:

to or through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters;

to or through one or more underwriters without a syndicate;

through agents;

through dealers for public offering and sale by them;

directly to investors; or

through a combination of any of the foregoing methods of sale.

The accompanying prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering of the senior debt securities and the method of distribution and will identify any firms acting as underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the public offering price of such senior debt securities;

any underwriting discounts and other items constituting compensation to underwriters, dealers or agents;

the proceeds to us from that sale; and

any securities exchange or market on which such securities may be listed.

If we use underwriters in the offering and sale of the senior debt securities, the senior debt securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The senior debt securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Unless otherwise set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the senior debt securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the senior debt securities of a series if any are purchased. Only those underwriters identified in the accompanying prospectus supplement are deemed to be underwriters in connection with the senior debt securities offered in such prospectus supplement.

We may sell the senior debt securities directly or through agents designated by us from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the senior debt securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the accompanying prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Edgar Filing: AMPHENOL CORP /DE/ - Form S-3ASR

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of any of the senior debt securities, we will sell the senior debt securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the senior debt securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale.

The distribution of the senior debt securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at prices determined as the accompanying prospectus supplement specifies. In connection with the sale of the senior debt securities, underwriters, dealers or agents may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and also may receive commissions from purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the senior debt securities to or through dealers, and the

Table of Contents

dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Some of the underwriters, dealers or agents who participate in the distribution of the senior debt securities may engage in other transactions with, and perform other services for, us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the senior debt securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions they receive and any profit they realize on the resale of the senior debt securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will provide in the accompanying prospectus supplement information regarding any underwriting discounts or other compensation that we pay to underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering of the senior debt securities.

Underwriters and their controlling persons, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutions to purchase the senior debt securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the accompanying prospectus supplement will set forth the commissions payable for solicitation of such contracts.

Each series of senior debt securities will be a new issue of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom we sell the senior debt securities for public offering and sale may make a market in such senior debt securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any senior debt securities.

The senior debt securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the senior debt securities in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of securities than they are required to purchase in an offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids or purchases made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities while an offering is in progress. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the underwriters have repurchased securities sold by or for the account of that underwriter in stabilizing or short-covering transactions. These activities by the underwriters may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the senior debt securities. As a result, the price of the senior debt securities may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time.

Certain of the underwriters who participate in the distribution of the senior debt securities, and their affiliates, may perform various commercial banking and investment banking services for us and our affiliates from time to time in the ordinary course of business.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of, and certain other legal matters with respect to, the senior debt securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, New York, New York. Any underwriter, dealer or agent will be advised about other legal issues relating to any specific offering of the senior debt securities by its own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of Amphenol Corporation's internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

PART II
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following statement sets forth the anticipated expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) of Amphenol Corporation (the "Registrant") in connection with the offering of the securities registered under this Registration Statement. All such expenses are estimates, other than the registration fee payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and will be borne by the Registrant.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee | (1) |
| Printing fees and expenses | \$ 50,000 |
| Legal fees and expenses | 150,000 |
| Accounting fees and expenses | 65,000 |
| Trustee fees and expenses | 3,000 |
| Rating Agency fees | 470,000 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 15,000 |
| Total(2) | \$ 753,000 |

-
- (1) The Registrant is registering an indeterminate amount of securities under this Registration Statement, and in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the Registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (2) Does not include the registration fee.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides for the indemnification of officers, directors and other corporate agents in terms sufficiently broad to indemnify such persons under certain circumstances for liabilities (including reimbursement for expenses incurred) arising under the Securities Act.

Article Seventh of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, provides that, except as otherwise provided by the Delaware General Corporation Law as the same exists or may hereafter be amended, no director of the Registrant shall be personally liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director. In addition, Article Eighth of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, provides that, to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant shall indemnify any current or former director or officer of the Registrant and may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, indemnify any current or former employee or agent of the Registrant against all expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding brought by or in the right of the Registrant or otherwise, to which he was or is a party by reason of his current or former position with the Registrant or by reason of the fact that he is or was serving, at the request of the Registrant, as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise.

Article IV of the Registrant's Bylaws provides for indemnification of the Registrant's directors, officers, employees and other agents to the extent and under the circumstances permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law.

The Registrant has also entered into agreements with its directors and officers that will require the Registrant, among other things, to indemnify them against certain liabilities that may arise by reason of

Table of Contents

their status or service as directors or officers to the fullest extent not prohibited by law. The Registrant maintains liability insurance for its officers and directors.

Item 16. Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement** |
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture relating to the Senior Debt Securities* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP* |
| 12.1 | Statement regarding computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges* |
| 23.1 | Consent of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 23.2 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm* |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney of certain officers and directors of Registrant (included on the signature page hereof) |
| 25.1 | Form T-1, Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, of The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee under the Indenture for the Senior Debt Securities* |

*
Filed herewith.

**
To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

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:
 - (a) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (b) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
 - (c) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) 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 Securities and Exchange 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

Table of Contents

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.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(a) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the 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), (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 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.

(5) 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.

Table of Contents

- (B) 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 the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (C) 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 in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.
- (D) 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 any charter provision, by law or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than 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 Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Town of Wallingford, State of Connecticut on the 29th day of October, 2009.

AMPHENOL CORPORATION

/s/ R. ADAM NORWITT

R. Adam Norwitt
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Diana G. Reardon and Edward C. Wetmore, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his 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 file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys in fact and agents or their substitute or substitutes may 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 and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|---|------------------|
| /s/ R. ADAM NORWITT <hr/> | President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | October 29, 2009 |
| R. Adam Norwitt /s/ DIANA G. REARDON <hr/> | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) | October 29, 2009 |
| Diana G. Reardon /s/ MARTIN H. LOEFFLER <hr/> | Chairman of the Board of Directors | October 29, 2009 |
| Martin H. Loeffler | | |

Edgar Filing: AMPHENOL CORP /DE/ - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| <hr/> <i>/s/ RONALD P. BADIE</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> Ronald P. Badie <i>/s/ STANLEY L. CLARK</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> Stanley L. Clark <i>/s/ EDWARD G. JEPSEN</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> Edward G. Jepsen <i>/s/ ANDREW E. LIETZ</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> Andrew E. Lietz <i>/s/ JOHN R. LORD</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> John R. Lord <i>/s/ DEAN H. SECORD</i> | Director | October 29, 2009 |
| <hr/> Dean H. Secord | | |

QuickLinks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

RISK FACTORS

OUR COMPANY

USE OF PROCEEDS

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

BOOK-ENTRY DELIVERY AND SETTLEMENT

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

LEGAL MATTERS

EXPERTS

PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Item 16. Exhibits

Item 17. Undertakings

SIGNATURES

POWER OF ATTORNEY