

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC  
Form S-3ASR  
February 22, 2016  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2016

Registration No. 333-

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-3**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*Under*

***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***

**ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**15011 Katy Freeway, Suite 800**

**Houston, Texas 77094**

**Texas**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**

**(281) 749-7800**

**74-1611874**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**

**incorporation or organization) (Address, including zip code, and telephone number, Identification No.)**

**including area code, of registrant s**

**principal executive offices)**

**Walter A. Baker**

**Senior Vice President, General Counsel**

**and Corporate Secretary**

**Atwood Oceanics, Inc.**

**15011 Katy Freeway, Suite 800**

**Houston, Texas 77094**

**(281) 749-7800**

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

*Copy to:*

**J. David Kirkland, Jr.**

**Tull R. Florey**

**Baker Botts L.L.P.**

**910 Louisiana Street**

**Houston, Texas 77002-4995**

**(713) 229-1234**

**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 to be offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

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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, as amended (the Securities Act ), other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.  x

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.  x

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 definition of accelerated filer, large accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check One).

Large accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	Accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> "
Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> " (Do not check if smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/> "

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered/Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit/Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price/Amount of Registration Fee (1)(2)</b>
Debt Securities	
Preferred Stock, no par value	
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share	
Warrants	

(1) There is being registered hereunder such indeterminate number or amount of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock and warrants as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, exchange, exercise or settlement of any securities registered hereunder, including under any applicable anti-dilution provisions. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as

units with other securities registered hereunder or other securities.

- (2) In reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act, the Registrant hereby defers payment of the registration fee required in connection with this Registration Statement.

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**Prospectus**

**Atwood Oceanics, Inc.**

Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Common Stock

Warrants

We may issue and sell from time to time securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus contains summaries of the general terms of the securities. At the time of each offering, we will provide the specific terms of the offering and the securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. Our shares of common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ATW.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Please carefully review the information under the heading Risk Factors on page 3. In addition, risks associated with any investment in our securities may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as described in Risk Factors.

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

The date of this prospectus is February 22, 2016.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell the offered securities. You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus and that the information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date the respective information was filed with the SEC. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

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**ABOUT ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.**

We are a global offshore drilling contractor engaged in the drilling and completion of exploratory and developmental offshore oil and gas wells. We were founded in 1968 and are headquartered in Houston, Texas with support offices in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Our executive offices are located at 15011 Katy Freeway, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77094, and our telephone number is (281) 749-7800.

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," including our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus that are incorporated by reference herein, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference.

If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected. You could lose all or part of your investment. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to that offering in the prospectus supplement.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Statements included in this prospectus, including the information we incorporate by reference, regarding future financial performance, capital sources and results of operations and other statements, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that we expect, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Such statements are those concerning strategic plans, expectations and objectives for future operations and performance. When used in this prospectus, the words believes, expects, anticipates, plans, intends, estimates, projects, could, should, expressions are intended to be among the statements that identify forward-looking statements.

Such statements are subject to numerous risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are beyond our ability to control, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described under "Risk Factors" above and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and the following:

prices of oil and natural gas and industry expectations about future prices;

market conditions and level of activity in the drilling industry and the global economy in general;

the level of capital expenditures by our customers;

the termination, renegotiation or repudiation of contracts or payment delays by our customers;

the operational risks involved in drilling for oil and gas;

the highly competitive and volatile nature of our business;

our ability to enter into, and the terms of, future drilling contracts, including contracts for our newbuild units, for rigs currently idled and for rigs whose contracts are expiring;

the impact of governmental or industry regulation, both in the United States and internationally;



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the risks of and disruptions to international operations, including political instability and the impact of terrorist acts, acts of piracy, embargoes, war or other military operations;

our ability to obtain and retain qualified personnel to operate our vessels;

unplanned downtime and repairs on our rigs;

timely access to spare parts, equipment and personnel to maintain and service our fleet;

customer requirements for drilling capacity and customer drilling plans;

the adequacy of sources of liquidity for us and for our customers;

changes in tax laws, treaties and regulations; and

the risks involved in the construction, upgrade, and repair of our drilling units.

Forward-looking statements are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which are applicable only on the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we inform you otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by us under this prospectus for general corporate purposes. These purposes may include:

capital expenditures;

acquisitions;

working capital; and

repayment, refinancing or redemption of indebtedness or other securities.

Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

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The table below sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for each of the periods indicated:

	<b>Years Ended September 30,</b>					
	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>					
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.9x	7.1x	6.1x	7.4x	4.4x	25.8x

For purposes of this table, earnings consists of income before income taxes plus fixed charges and less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consists of interest expense and capitalized interest. We had no preferred stock outstanding for any period presented, and accordingly, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be our general unsecured obligations. We will issue senior debt securities under an indenture, dated as of January 18, 2012, between us and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. We refer to this indenture as the senior indenture. We will issue subordinated debt securities under an indenture to be entered into between us and a trustee we will name in the prospectus supplement relating to subordinated debt securities. We refer to this indenture as the subordinated indenture. We refer to the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture collectively as the indentures. The indentures will be substantially identical, except for provisions relating to subordination.

We have summarized material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities below. This summary is not complete. We have filed the senior indenture and the form of subordinated indenture with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement, and you should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you. Please read [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

In this summary description of the debt securities, unless we state otherwise or the context clearly indicates otherwise, all references to we, us or our refer to Atwood Oceanics, Inc. only and not to any of its subsidiaries.

**General**

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities that may be issued under that indenture, and neither limits the amount of other unsecured debt or securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities under the indentures from time to time in one or more series, each in an amount authorized prior to issuance. Our 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020 are currently outstanding under the senior indenture, and no securities are outstanding under the subordinated indenture.

The senior debt securities will constitute our senior unsecured indebtedness and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt and senior in right of payment to all of our subordinated indebtedness. The senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated to, and thus have a junior position to, our secured indebtedness with respect to the assets securing that indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will rank

junior to all of our senior indebtedness and may rank equally with or senior to other subordinated indebtedness we may issue from time to time.

We currently conduct our operations through both U.S. and foreign subsidiaries, and our operating income and cash flow are generated by our subsidiaries. As a result, cash we obtain from our subsidiaries is the principal source of funds necessary to meet our debt service obligations. Contractual provisions or laws, as well as our subsidiaries financial condition and operating requirements, may limit our ability to obtain cash from our

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subsidiaries that we require to pay our debt service obligations, including payments on the debt securities. In addition, holders of the debt securities will have a junior position to the claims of creditors, including trade creditors and tort claimants, of our subsidiaries on their assets and earnings.

Neither indenture contains any covenants or other provisions designed to protect holders of the debt securities in the event we participate in a highly leveraged transaction or upon a change of control. The indentures also do not contain provisions that give holders of the debt securities the right to require us to repurchase their securities in the event of a decline in our credit rating for any reason, including as a result of a takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring or otherwise.

## **Terms**

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt securities;

the price at which we will issue the debt securities;

the title of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

whether we will issue the debt securities in individual certificates to each holder or in the form of temporary or permanent global securities held by a depository on behalf of holders;

the date or dates on which the principal of and any premium on the debt securities will be payable;

any interest rate, the date from which interest will accrue, interest payment dates and record dates for interest payments;

whether and under what circumstances we will pay any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities;

the place or places where payments on the debt securities will be payable;

any provisions for optional redemption or early repayment;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities;

the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities if other than \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

whether payments on the debt securities will be payable in foreign currency or currency unit or another form and whether payments will be payable by reference to any index or formula;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities that will be payable if the maturity is accelerated, if other than the entire principal amount;

any additional means of defeasance of the debt securities, any additional conditions or limitations to defeasance of the debt securities or any changes to those conditions or limitations;

any changes or additions to the events of default or covenants described in this prospectus;

any restrictions or other provisions relating to the transfer or exchange of debt securities;

any terms for the conversion or exchange of the debt securities for other securities;

with respect to the subordinated indenture, any changes to the subordination provisions for the subordinated debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indenture.

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We may sell the debt securities at a discount, which may be substantial, below their stated principal amount. These debt securities may bear no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates. If we sell these debt securities, we will describe in the prospectus supplement any material United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations.

If we sell any of the debt securities for any foreign currency or currency unit or if payments on the debt securities are payable in any foreign currency or currency unit, we will describe in the prospectus supplement the restrictions, elections, tax consequences, specific terms and other information relating to those debt securities and the foreign currency or currency unit.

## **Subordination**

Under the subordinated indenture, payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on the subordinated debt securities will generally be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Debt (as defined below). Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we may not make any payment of principal of or any premium or interest on the subordinated debt securities if:

we fail to pay the principal, interest, premium or any other amounts on any Senior Debt when due; or

we default in performing any other covenant (a covenant default ) on any Senior Debt that we have designated if the covenant default allows the holders of that Senior Debt to accelerate the maturity of the Senior Debt they hold.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, a covenant default will prevent us from paying the subordinated debt securities only for up to 179 days after holders of the designated Senior Debt give the trustee for the subordinated debt securities notice of the covenant default.

The subordination does not affect our obligation, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay, when due, the principal of and any premium and interest on the subordinated debt securities. In addition, the subordination does not prevent the occurrence of any default under the subordinated indenture.

The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of Senior Debt that we may incur. As a result of the subordination of the subordinated debt securities, if we become insolvent, holders of subordinated debt securities may receive less on a proportionate basis than other creditors.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, Senior Debt will mean all of our indebtedness, including guarantees, unless the indebtedness states that it is not senior to the subordinated debt securities or our other junior debt. Senior Debt with respect to a series of subordinated debt securities could include other series of debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture.

## **Consolidation, Merger and Sales of Assets**

The indentures generally permit a consolidation or merger involving us. They also permit us to sell, lease, convey, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. We have agreed, however, that we will not consolidate with or merge into any entity or sell, lease, convey, assign, transfer or dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to any entity unless:

(1) either

we are the continuing entity, or

the resulting entity is organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, the District of Columbia, Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, any of the Channel Islands, any member of the European Union (as constituted on the date of the indenture) or any other member of the European Union that



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becomes a member after that date, the Netherlands Antilles or any state, province or political subdivision of the foregoing, and assumes by a supplemental indenture the due and punctual payments on the debt securities and the performance of our covenants and obligations under the indentures,

- (2) immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default under the indentures has occurred and is continuing or would result from the transaction,
- (3) in the case of the second bullet point under clause (1) above, in the event that the resulting entity is organized in a jurisdiction (other than the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia) that is different from the jurisdiction in which the obligor on the debt securities was organized immediately before giving effect to the transaction:

such resulting entity delivers to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that the obligations of the resulting entity under the applicable indenture are enforceable under the laws of the new jurisdiction of its formation subject to customary exceptions and

the resulting entity agrees in writing to submit to New York jurisdiction and appoints an agent for the service of process in New York, each under terms satisfactory to the trustee.

This covenant will not apply to any merger of another entity into us. Upon any transaction of the type described in and effected in accordance with this section, the resulting entity will succeed to and be substituted for us and may exercise all of our rights and powers under the applicable indenture and the debt securities with the same effect as if the resulting entity had been named as us in the indenture. In the case of any asset transfer or disposition other than a lease, when the resulting entity assumes all of our obligations and covenants under the applicable indenture and the debt securities, we will be relieved of all such obligations.

**Events of Default**

Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following are events of default with respect to a series of debt securities:

our failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days when due;

our failure to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;

our failure to deposit any sinking fund payment for 30 days when due;

our failure to comply with any covenant or agreement in that series of debt securities or the applicable indenture (other than an agreement or covenant that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit

of other series of debt securities) for 90 days after written notice by the trustee or by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities issued under that indenture that are affected by that failure;

specified events involving bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us; and

any other event of default provided for that series of debt securities.

A default under one series of debt securities will not necessarily be a default under any other series. If a default or event of default for any series of debt securities occurs, is continuing and is known to the trustee, the trustee will notify the holders of applicable debt securities within 90 days after it occurs. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the debt securities of any default or event of default, except in any payment on the debt securities, if the trustee in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interests of the holders of those debt securities.

If an event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in

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some cases, 25% in principal amount of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may declare the principal of and all accrued and unpaid interest on those debt securities to be due and payable immediately. If an event of default relating to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company occurs, the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on all the debt securities issued under the applicable indenture will become immediately due and payable without any action on the part of the trustee or any holder. At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may in some cases rescind this accelerated payment requirement and its consequences.

A holder of a debt security of any series issued under an indenture may pursue any remedy under that indenture only if:

the holder gives the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series make a written request to the trustee to pursue the remedy;

the holders offer to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability or expense;

the trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of the request and offer of security or indemnity; and

during that 60-day period, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series do not give the trustee a direction inconsistent with the request.

This provision does not, however, affect the right of a holder of a debt security to sue for enforcement of any overdue payment.

In most cases, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless those holders have offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it. Subject to this provision for security or indemnification, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series (or of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) generally may direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee relating to or arising as a result of an event of default.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent person in the conduct of his own affairs.

The indentures require us to furnish to the trustee annually a statement as to our performance of certain of our obligations under the indentures and as to any default in performance.

**Modification and Waiver**

We and the trustee may supplement or amend each indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under that indenture that are affected by the amendment or supplement (voting as one class). Without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected, however, no modification may:

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

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reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest on the debt security;

reduce the principal of the debt security or change its stated maturity;

reduce any premium payable on the redemption of the debt security or change the time at which the debt security may or must be redeemed;

change any obligation to pay additional amounts on the debt security;

make payments on the debt security payable in currency other than as originally stated in the debt security;

impair the holder's right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the debt security;

make any change in the percentage of principal amount of debt securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to make any change in the provision related to modification;

with respect to the subordinated indenture, modify the provisions relating to the subordination of any subordinated debt security in a manner adverse to the holder of that security;

waive a continuing default or event of default regarding any payment on the debt securities; or

if applicable, make any change that materially and adversely affects the right to convert any debt security. We and the trustee may supplement or amend each indenture or waive any provision of that indenture without the consent of any holders of debt securities issued under that indenture in certain circumstances, including:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations under the indenture by a successor upon any merger, consolidation or asset transfer permitted under the indenture;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities or to provide for bearer debt securities;

to provide any security for, or to add any guarantees of or obligors on, any series of debt securities;

to comply with any requirement to effect or maintain the qualification of that indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;

to add covenants that would benefit the holders of any debt securities or to surrender any rights we have under the indenture;

to add events of default with respect to any series of debt securities;

to make any change that does not adversely affect any outstanding debt securities of any series issued under that indenture in any material respect; and

to establish the form or terms of any debt securities and to accept the appointment of a successor trustee, each as permitted under the indenture.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may waive any existing or past default or event of default with respect to those debt securities. Those holders may not, however, waive any default or event of default in any payment on any debt security or compliance with a provision that cannot be amended or supplemented without the consent of each holder affected.

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**Defeasance and Discharge**

*Defeasance.* When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under an indenture. If we deposit with the trustee under an indenture any combination of money or government securities sufficient to make payments on the debt securities of a series issued under that indenture on the dates those payments are due, then, at our option, either of the following will occur:

we will be discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of that series ( legal defeasance ); or

we will no longer have any obligation to comply with specified restrictive covenants with respect to the debt securities of that series, the covenant described under Consolidation, Merger and Sales of Assets and other specified covenants under the applicable indenture, and the related events of default will no longer apply ( covenant defeasance ).

If a series of debt securities is defeased, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not be entitled to the benefits of the applicable indenture, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities or maintain paying agencies and hold money for payment in trust. In the case of covenant defeasance, our obligation to pay principal, premium and interest on the debt securities will also survive.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of the debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes and that the holders would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related defeasance had not occurred. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect.

Under current U.S. federal income tax law, legal defeasance would likely be treated as a taxable exchange of debt securities to be defeased for interests in the defeasance trust. As a consequence, a U.S. holder would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the holder's cost or other tax basis for the debt securities and the value of the holder's interest in the defeasance trust, and thereafter would be required to include in income a share of the income, gain or loss of the defeasance trust. Under current U.S. federal income tax law, covenant defeasance would not be treated as a taxable exchange of such debt securities.

*Satisfaction and Discharge.* In addition, an indenture will cease to be of further effect with respect to the debt securities of a series issued under that indenture, subject to exceptions relating to compensation and indemnity of the trustee under that indenture and repayment to us of excess money or government securities, when:

either

all outstanding debt securities of that series have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or

all outstanding debt securities of that series not delivered to the trustee for cancellation either:

have become due and payable,

will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year, or

are to be called for redemption within one year; and

we have deposited with the trustee any combination of money or government securities in trust sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on the debt securities of that series when due; and

we have paid all other sums payable by us with respect to the debt securities of that series.

**Governing Law**

New York law will govern the indentures and the debt securities.



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### **The Trustees**

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is the trustee under the senior indenture. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and its affiliates may perform certain commercial banking services for us from time to time for which they receive customary fees. We will name the trustee under the subordinated indenture in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Each indenture contains limitations on the right of the trustee, if it or any of its affiliates is then our creditor, to obtain payment of claims or to realize on certain property received for any such claim, as security or otherwise. The trustee and its affiliates are permitted to engage in other transactions with us. If, however, the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate that conflict or resign within 90 days after ascertaining that it has a conflicting interest and after the occurrence of a default under the applicable indenture, unless the default has been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated within the 90-day period.

### **Payment and Paying Agents**

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will make payments on the debt securities in U.S. dollars at the office of the trustee and any paying agent. At our option, however, payments may be made by wire transfer for global debt securities or by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the payment as it appears in the security register. Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest payment.

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the trustee under the applicable indenture will be designated as the paying agent for payments on debt securities issued under that indenture. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts.

If the principal of or any premium or interest on debt securities of a series is payable on a day that is not a business day, the payment will be made on the following business day. For these purposes, unless we inform you

otherwise in a prospectus supplement, a business day is any day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in any of New York, New York, Houston, Texas or a place of payment on the debt securities of that series is authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to remain closed.

Subject to the requirements of any applicable abandoned property laws, the trustee and paying agent will pay to us upon written request any money held by them for payments on the debt securities that remains unclaimed for two years after the date upon which that payment has become due. After payment to us, holders entitled to the money must look to us for payment. In that case, all liability of the trustee or paying agent with respect to that money will cease.

### **Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer**

We will issue the debt securities in registered form, without interest coupons. Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations in accordance with the applicable indenture. Holders may present debt securities for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or any transfer agent designated by us. The security registrar or transfer agent will effect the transfer or exchange if its requirements and the requirements of the applicable indenture are met. We will not charge a service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt

securities. We may, however, require payment of any transfer tax or similar governmental charge payable for that registration.

We will appoint the trustee as security registrar for the debt securities. If a prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agents we initially designate, we may at any time rescind that designation or approve a change in the

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location through which any transfer agent acts. We are required to maintain an office or agency for transfers and exchanges in each place of payment. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

In the case of any redemption of debt securities of a series or any repurchase of debt securities of a series required under the terms of the series, we will not be required to register the transfer or exchange of:

any debt security of that series during a period beginning 15 business days prior to the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption or repurchase and ending on the close of business on the day of mailing of such notice; or

any debt security of that series that has been called for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

**Book-Entry Debt Securities**

We may issue the debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global debt securities that would be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the prospectus supplement. We may issue global debt securities in either temporary or permanent form. We will describe in the prospectus supplement the terms of any depository arrangement and the rights and limitations of owners of beneficial interests in any global debt security.

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**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 180 million shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and one million shares of preferred stock, no par value. The following describes our common stock, preferred stock, amended and restated certificate of formation and bylaws. This description is a summary only. We encourage you to read the complete text of our certificate of formation and bylaws, which we have filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. References to shareholders in this section refer to holders of our common stock, unless the context otherwise requires.

**Common Stock**

Our shareholders are entitled to one vote per share with respect to each matter submitted to a vote of our shareholders, subject to voting rights of shares of our preferred stock, if any.

Our shareholders have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors if the shareholder gives notice in writing to our secretary on or before the day preceding the election at which the shareholder intends to cumulate votes. In such case, the shareholder has the right to cumulate votes and give one candidate a number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected, multiplied by the number of votes to which the shareholder is entitled, or to distribute votes on the same principle among as many candidates for directors as the shareholder thinks fit.

Our common stock carries no preemptive or other subscription rights to purchase shares of our stock and is not convertible, redeemable or assessable or entitled to the benefits of any sinking fund. Our shareholders are entitled to dividends in the amounts and at the times declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends.

If we are liquidated, dissolved or wound up, our shareholders will share pro rata in our assets after satisfaction of all of our liabilities and the prior rights of any outstanding class of preferred stock.

**Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has the authority, without shareholder approval, to issue shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series and to fix the number of shares and terms of each series. The board may determine the designation and other terms of each series, including, among others:

dividend rights;

conversion rights;

rights and terms of redemption, including sinking fund provisions;

redemption price or prices;

liquidation preferences;

conversion privileges; and

voting rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock we offer will include specific terms relating to the offering and the name of any transfer agent for that series. We will file the form of the preferred stock with the SEC before we issue any of it, and you should read it for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following terms:

the title of the preferred stock;

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the maximum number of shares of the series;

the dividend rate or the method of calculating the dividend, the date from which dividends will accrue and whether dividends will be cumulative;

any terms for the conversion or exchange of the preferred stock for other securities of us or any other entity;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem or purchase the preferred stock;

any redemption provisions;

any liquidation preference;

any voting rights; and

any other preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights or any qualifications, limitations or restrictions on the rights of the shares.

The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could reduce the relative voting power of holders of common stock. It also could affect the likelihood that holders of common stock will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

**Anti-Takeover Provisions of Our Certificate of Formation and Bylaws**

Our certificate of formation and bylaws contain provisions that could delay or make more difficult the acquisition of control of our company through a hostile tender offer, open market purchases, proxy contest, merger or other takeover attempt that a shareholder might consider to be in his or her best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price of our common stock.

*Authorized but Unissued Stock*

We have 180 million authorized shares of common stock and one million authorized shares of preferred stock. One of the consequences of our authorized but unissued common stock and undesignated preferred stock may be to enable the board of directors to make more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of our company. If, in the exercise of its fiduciary obligations, our board of directors determined that a takeover proposal was not in our best interest, the board could authorize the issuance of some or all of those shares without shareholder approval. The shares could be issued in one or more transactions that might prevent or make the completion of a proposed change of control transaction more difficult or costly by:

diluting the voting or other rights of the proposed acquiror or insurgent shareholder group;

creating a substantial voting block in institutional or other hands that might undertake to support the position of the incumbent board; or