

Iridium Communications Inc.
Form 424B5
May 12, 2014
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Nos. 333-194869 and 333-195822

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated April 11, 2014)

7,377,050 Shares

Iridium Communications Inc.

Common Stock

We are selling 7,377,050 shares of our common stock. Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM. The last reported sale price of our common stock on May 8, 2014 was \$6.13 per share. You are urged to obtain current market data and should not use the market price as of May 8, 2014 as a prediction of the future market price of our common stock.

Concurrently with this offering, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering 500,000 shares of our 6.75% series B cumulative perpetual convertible preferred stock, or the preferred stock offering. The preferred stock offering is being made by means of a separate prospectus supplement and not by means of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities being offered in the preferred stock offering. See Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments Concurrent Preferred Stock Offering and Use of Proceeds.

You should consider the risks that we have described in Risk Factors beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement. In addition, see Risk Factors in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014. You should carefully read and consider these risk factors before you invest in our securities.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$ 6.100	\$ 45,000,005.00

Edgar Filing: Iridium Communications Inc. - Form 424B5

Underwriting discount	.305	2,250,000.25
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$ 5.795	\$ 42,750,004.75

The underwriters have also been granted an option to purchase up to an additional 1,106,558 shares from us at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to cover overallocments, if any. If the underwriters exercise the option in full, the total discount will be \$2,587,500.44 and the total net proceeds, before expenses, to us will be \$49,162,508.36.

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

The underwriters expect to deliver the common shares to purchasers on or before May 14, 2014.

Joint Book-Running Managers

RAYMOND JAMES

DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES

WILLIAM BLAIR

The date of this prospectus supplement is May 8, 2014.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering of common stock and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus dated April 11, 2014, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, provides more general information. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, before the date of this prospectus supplement, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. If any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date for example, a document incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus the statement in the document having the later date will modify or supersede the earlier statement.

We further note that the representations, warranties and covenants made by us in any agreement that is filed as an exhibit to any document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus were made solely for the benefit of the parties to such agreement, including, in some cases, for the purpose of allocating risk among the parties to such agreements, and should not be deemed to be a representation, warranty or covenant to you. Moreover, such representations, warranties or covenants were accurate only as of the date made. Accordingly, such representations, warranties and covenants should not be relied on as accurately representing the current state of our affairs.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety before making an investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in the sections of this prospectus supplement titled *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference*.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus supplement to Iridium, we, us, our or similar references mean Iridium Communications Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated herein and therein by reference include trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference herein and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These statements relate to future events or to our future operating or financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about or relating to:

expectations concerning revenues, margins and results of operations;

our capital requirements and needs for additional financing;

our ability and the ability of our distributors to develop new offerings and enhance existing products;

expected future sources of revenue and capital;

future payments under loan and lease obligations;

the timing for deployment and expected capabilities of Iridium NEXT;

retaining key personnel and recruiting additional key personnel; and

the potential impact of recent accounting pronouncements on our financial position or results of operations. Such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to:

our dependence on increased demand for mobile satellite services;

our dependence on the success of our subsidiary, Aireon LLC, which is our primary hosted payload customer;

our ability to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms, if at all;

our receipt and access to funds under our credit facility and continued compliance with its covenants;

our ability to develop and successfully deploy Iridium NEXT;

potential infringement or misuse by us of the intellectual property rights of third parties;

activities and decisions of, and economic conditions affecting, current and future strategic relationships, particularly those with the U.S. government; and

the timeliness and accuracy of information filed with the SEC by third parties.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as may, will, should, could, would, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, projects, predicts, potential and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We discuss many of these risks in greater detail in Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on May 1, 2014 and the other reports we file with the SEC. Also, these forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of the document containing the applicable statement.

Table of Contents

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We qualify all of the forward-looking statements in the foregoing documents by these cautionary statements.

Unless required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect new information or future events or developments. Thus, you should not assume that our silence over time means that actual events are bearing out as expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements.

S-iii

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

*This summary highlights certain information about us, this offering and selected information contained elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before deciding whether to invest in our common stock. For a more complete understanding of our company and this offering, we encourage you to read and consider carefully the more detailed information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and the information included in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, including the information under the heading *Risk Factors* in this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-9, as well as the risks described in Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on May 1, 2014 and the other reports we file with the SEC.*

Iridium Communications Inc.

Our Business

We are the second largest provider by revenue of mobile voice and data communications services via satellite, and the only commercial provider of communications services offering true global coverage. Our satellite network provides communications services to regions of the world where existing wireless or wireline networks do not exist or are limited, including remote land areas, open ocean, the polar regions and regions where the telecommunications infrastructure has been affected by political conflicts or natural disasters.

We provide voice and data communications services to businesses, the U.S. and foreign governments, non-governmental organizations and consumers via our constellation of 66 in-orbit satellites, in-orbit spares and related ground infrastructure. We utilize an interlinked mesh architecture to route traffic across our satellite constellation using radio frequency crosslinks between satellites. This unique architecture minimizes the need for local ground facilities to support the constellation, which facilitates the global reach of our services and allows us to offer services in countries and regions where we have no physical presence.

Our commercial end user base, which we view as our primary growth engine, is diverse and includes markets such as emergency services, maritime, government, utilities, oil and gas, mining, recreation, forestry, heavy equipment, construction and transportation. Many of our end users view our products and services as critical to their daily operations and integral to their communications and business infrastructure. For example, multinational corporations in various sectors use our services for business telephony, e-mail and data transfer services, including telematics, and to provide mobile communications services for employees in areas inadequately served by terrestrial networks. Ship crews and passengers use our services for ship-to-shore calling as well as to send and receive e-mail and data files, and to receive electronic media, weather reports, emergency bulletins and electronic charts. Shipping operators use our services to manage operations on board ships and to transmit data, such as course, speed and fuel stock. Aviation end users use our services for air-to-ground telephony and data communications for position reporting, emergency tracking, weather information, electronic flight bag updates and fleet information.

The U.S. government, directly and indirectly, has been and continues to be our largest single customer, generating \$74.7 million in service and engineering and support service revenue, or 19% of our total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2013, and \$19.9 million in service and engineering and support service revenue, or 20% of our total revenue, for the quarter ended March 31, 2014. This does not include revenue from the sale of equipment that may be ultimately purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies through third-party distributors, or airtime services purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies that are provided through

S-1

Table of Contents

our commercial gateway, as we lack visibility into these activities and the related revenue. In October 2013, we entered into a new multi-year, fixed-price contract with the U.S. government to provide satellite airtime services for unlimited usage for an unlimited number of U.S. Department of Defense, or DoD, and other federal government subscribers, with a total contract value of \$400 million over its five-year term.

Our voice and data products are used for numerous primary and backup communications solutions, including logistical, administrative, morale and welfare, tactical and emergency communications. In addition, our products are installed in ground vehicles, ships, rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft and are used for command-and-control and situational awareness purposes.

Our Competitive Strengths

Attractive and growing markets. We believe that the mobile satellite services industry will continue to experience growth driven by the increasing awareness of the need for reliable mobile voice and data communications services, the lack of coverage by terrestrial wireless systems of most of the earth's surface, and the continued development of innovative, lower cost technology and applications integrating mobile satellite products and services. Only satellite providers can offer global coverage, and the satellite industry is characterized by significant financial, technological and regulatory barriers to entry.

True global coverage. Our network provides true global coverage, which none of our competitors, whether low earth orbit, or LEO, satellite networks or geostationary, or GEO, satellite networks can offer. Our network of 66 operational satellites relies on an interlinked mesh architecture to transmit signals from satellite to satellite, which reduces the need for multiple local ground stations around the world and facilitates the global reach of our services. GEO satellites orbit above the earth's equator, limiting their visibility of far northern or southern latitudes and polar regions. LEO satellites from operators like Globalstar, Inc. and ORBCOMM Inc. use an architecture commonly referred to as bent pipe, which requires voice and data transmissions to be immediately routed to ground stations in the same region and can only provide real-time service when they are within view of a ground station, limiting coverage to areas near where they have been able to license and locate ground infrastructure. The LEO design of our satellite constellation produces minimal transmission delays compared to GEO systems due to the shorter distance our signals have to travel. Additionally, LEO systems typically have smaller antenna requirements and are less prone to signal blockage caused by terrain than GEO satellite networks. As a result, we believe that we are well-positioned to capitalize on the growth in our industry from end users who require reliable, easy-to-use communications services in all locations.

Innovations for a broad range of markets at lower costs. The specialized needs of our global end users span many markets, including emergency services, maritime, aviation, government, utilities, oil and gas, mining, recreation, forestry, heavy equipment, construction and transportation. We sell our products and services to commercial end users exclusively through a wholesale distribution network of service providers, value-added resellers, or VARs, and value-added manufacturers, or VAMs, which often specialize in a particular line of business. Our distributors use our products and services to develop innovative and integrated communications solutions for their target markets, often combining our products with other technologies, such as GPS and terrestrial wireless technology. In addition to promoting innovation, our wholesale distribution model allows us to capitalize on the research and development expenditures of our

distributor partners, while lowering overall customer acquisition costs and mitigating some risks, such as consumer relationship risks. By partnering with these distributors to develop new products, services and applications, we believe we create additional demand for our products and services and expand our target markets at a lower cost than would a more direct marketing model. We believe our distribution network can continue to grow with us and increase our market penetration.

S-2

Table of Contents

Strategic relationship with the U.S. government. The U.S. government is our largest single customer, and we have had a relationship with the DoD since our inception. We believe the DoD views our Netted Iridium[®], machine-to-machine, or M2M, devices, encrypted handset and other products as mission-critical services and equipment. The DoD has made significant investments in a dedicated gateway on a U.S. government site to provide operational security and allow DoD handset users to communicate securely with other U.S. government communications equipment. This gateway is only compatible with our satellite network. In October 2013, we entered into a new five-year, fixed-price contract with the U.S. government to provide satellite airtime services for unlimited usage for an unlimited number of DoD and other federal government subscribers, with a total contract value of \$400 million.

Our Business and Growth Strategies

Leverage our largely fixed-cost infrastructure by growing our service revenue. Our business model is characterized by high capital costs, primarily incurred every 10 to 15 years, in connection with designing, building and launching new generations of our satellite constellation. However, the incremental cost of providing service to additional end users is relatively low. We believe that service revenue will be our largest source of future growth and profits, and we intend to focus on growing both our commercial and government service revenue in order to leverage our largely fixed-cost infrastructure. In particular, we believe that M2M services, where we are engaging large, global enterprises as long-term customers for telematics solutions, represent an opportunity for service revenue growth.

Accelerate the development of personal communications capabilities. Iridium Force[®] is our strategy for the development of personal mobile satellite communications: allowing users to connect to our network in more ways, including from devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops; making our technology more accessible and cost-effective for our distribution partners to integrate by licensing our core technologies; integrating location-based services for location-specific applications and personal security capabilities; and providing rugged, dependable devices and services. As part of this strategy, in February 2014 we announced our plans for Iridium GO![™], a personal satellite connectivity device, or a global satellite Wi-Fi hotspot, that will allow the use of smartphones and tablets over our network. We expect this device to be available in the second quarter of 2014.

Continue to expand our distribution network. We believe our wholesale distribution network lowers our costs and risks, and we plan to continue to selectively expand our network of service providers, VAMs and VARs. We expect that our current and future value-added partners will continue to develop customized products, services and applications targeted to the land-based handset, maritime, aviation, M2M and government markets. We believe these markets represent an attractive opportunity for continued subscriber growth. We also expect to continue to expand our sales and distribution efforts geographically by seeking authorization to operate and engaging distribution partners in additional countries.

Continued growth in services provided to the DoD. In October 2013, we executed a new five-year Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services, or EMSS, contract with the Defense Information Systems Agency, or DISA. Under the terms of this new agreement, we provide Iridium airtime and airtime support to U.S. government and other authorized customers, including voice, low and high speed data, paging, and Distributed Tactical Communication, or netted, services. The service fees we will receive under the EMSS contract are fixed and

increase from \$64 million and \$72 million in the first two years to \$88 million in each of the next three years. In addition, other services we are developing, such as future broadcast capabilities, provide us with opportunities to offer new products and services to the DoD for an additional fee.

S-3

Table of Contents

Develop the Iridium NEXT constellation. We are developing our next-generation satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, which will replace our existing constellation with a more powerful satellite network while maintaining backward compatibility with our current system and end-user devices. Iridium NEXT will maintain our current system's key attributes, including use of an interlinked mesh architecture and the capability to upload new software, while providing new and enhanced capabilities, such as higher data speeds and increased capacity. We believe Iridium NEXT's increased capabilities will expand our target markets by enabling us to develop and offer a broader range of products and services, including a wider array of cost-effective and competitive broadband data services. We completed the critical design review phase of the development of Iridium NEXT in 2013, and we expect to proceed to full-scale production in late 2014 or early 2015 in anticipation of our first launch scheduled for 2015.

Continue to develop AireonSM and other hosted payloads, including Iridium PRIMESM. Iridium NEXT is designed to host secondary payloads. These secondary payloads have the potential to begin generating cash flows and revenue during the construction phase of Iridium NEXT and the potential to generate recurring service revenue once Iridium NEXT is launched. Our primary hosted payload customer is Aireon LLC, or Aireon, which is a joint venture between us and four air navigation service providers, NAV CANADA, Enav S.p.A.(Italy), or Enav, Naviair (Denmark) and the Irish Aviation Authority Limited, or IAA. Aireon is developing an automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast, or ADS-B, receiver to be hosted on Iridium NEXT, to provide a global air traffic surveillance service, which Aireon plans to offer to air navigation service providers, including our co-investors in Aireon and other air navigation service providers, particularly the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, or the FAA. We expect Aireon to enter into a contract with the FAA as early as 2015. We have allocated the remaining hosted payload space on the original 81 Iridium NEXT satellites to Harris Corporation, which is building the Aireon payload. In addition, in September 2013, we announced Iridium PRIME, which will allow customers to host payloads on stand-alone satellites following deployment of our original 81 satellites, giving them greater volume, weight, power and data capacity than previously available on Iridium NEXT satellites, as well as flexibility of launch schedule, while holding costs down compared to an independent satellite development effort.

Recent Developments

Credit Facility Amendment

On May 2, 2014, we entered into a supplemental agreement with Société Générale, as COFACE Agent under our COFACE Facility Agreement dated October 4, 2010, as amended and restated on August 1, 2012 and further amended on July 26, 2013 and October 30, 2013, which we refer to as the Original Credit Facility.

The Original Credit Facility, as amended and restated by the supplemental agreement, which we collectively refer to as our Credit Facility, includes revised financial covenant levels to reflect changing business conditions since the date of the previous amendment and restatement of the Original Credit Facility. The Credit Facility also delays, until 2017, a portion of the contributions that we were scheduled to make during 2014, 2015 and 2016 to the debt service reserve account that we are required to maintain under the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility delays \$22 million of our 2014 contributions, \$22 million of our 2015 contributions and \$32 million of our expected 2016 contributions, for a total of \$76 million.

The supplemental agreement became operative upon its execution on May 2, 2014, but requires us to raise at least \$217.5 million through the sale of equity securities by July 31, 2014, with net proceeds of at least \$200 million, in order for the amendment to become effective. The supplemental agreement allows us to raise

S-4

Table of Contents

up to \$150 million of the total in convertible preferred equity, with remainder to be raised through sales of common equity. There are no other conditions to the effectiveness of the amendment.

Funding Plan

We estimate the aggregate costs associated with the design, build and launch of Iridium NEXT and related infrastructure upgrades through 2017 to be approximately \$3 billion. Our funding plan for these costs includes the substantial majority of the funds available under our Credit Facility, together with cash and marketable securities on hand, internally generated cash flows, including potential cash flows from hosted payloads and Iridium PRIME, and the proceeds from these offerings. We currently use the Credit Facility to pay 85% of each invoice we receive from Thales Alenia Space France, or Thales, under their contract for the development and construction of our Iridium NEXT satellites, with the remaining 15% funded from cash on hand. We also utilize the Credit Facility to fund a portion of the interest under the Credit Facility and COFACE insurance premiums. Once the Credit Facility is fully drawn, we expect to pay 100% of each invoice we receive from Thales and all interest on the Credit Facility from cash and marketable securities on hand, internally generated cash flows, including potential cash flows from hosted payloads and Iridium PRIME, and with the proceeds from these offerings.

Registered Direct Offering

On May 2, 2014, we entered into a stock purchase agreement pursuant to which we have agreed to issue 7,692,308 shares of our common stock directly to certain Baron funds at a price of \$6.50 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$50,000,002. We completed the sale of the shares under the stock purchase agreement on May 5, 2014.

We intend to use the proceeds from this direct offering for general corporate purposes, which may include capital expenditures, including development and deployment of the Iridium NEXT system, working capital and general and administrative expenses.

Under the stock purchase agreement, if, during the period commencing on May 3, 2014 and ending on July 31, 2014 (the 90-day period following the date of the stock purchase agreement), or the protection period, we issue or sell either (i) convertible securities with an exercise or conversion price lower than \$7.9625, or (ii) common stock at an issue price lower than \$6.50, in either case other than options or other securities issued under our 2009 Stock Incentive Plan or our 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, then we are obligated to deliver, within ten calendar days of the end of the protection period, to each purchaser in the direct offering in the same proportion as the number of shares purchased by such purchaser in the direct offering, additional shares determined in accordance with the formula set forth in the stock purchase agreement, or protection shares; provided, however, that the number of protection shares to be delivered: (x) collectively to the purchasers under the stock purchase agreement shall not, when aggregated with the number of shares purchased in the direct offering, be greater than 9.99% of all issued and outstanding shares of common stock at the time of delivery of the protection shares, and (y) shall not, in the aggregate, exceed the limit at which the approval of our stockholders would be required under rules of The Nasdaq Global Select Market.

Based on the terms of this offering and the concurrent preferred stock offering described below, we will be obligated to deliver to the Baron funds up to approximately 504,413 protection shares, as determined in accordance with the formula set forth in the stock purchase agreement and subject to the terms of the stock purchase agreement.

Table of Contents

Aireon

On February 14, 2014, Iridium Satellite LLC, or Iridium Satellite, and Aireon entered into a Second Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Aireon, or the Aireon LLC Agreement, with NAV CANADA, Enav, Naviair, IAA and wholly owned subsidiaries of NAV CANADA, Enav and Naviair.

The Aireon LLC Agreement provides for the purchase by these investors of preferred membership interests to be issued by Aireon in multiple tranches for an aggregate purchase price of \$270 million. Each tranche is subject to the satisfaction of various operational, commercial, regulatory and financial conditions. NAV CANADA's subsidiary made its first tranche investment of \$15 million in November 2012, and its second tranche investment of \$40 million in July 2013, and has scheduled tranches of \$65 million in 2014, \$15 million in 2015 and \$15 million in 2017. The other ANSP investors made their first tranche investment of an aggregate of \$50 million in February 2014, with scheduled tranches of an additional \$25 million in 2014, \$33 million in 2015 and \$12 million in 2017. Following the completion of these investments, Aireon will be required, if and when funds are available, to redeem a portion of our equity interest in Aireon for a cash payment of \$120 million, which we anticipate in 2018. After the redemption, NAV CANADA's subsidiary will hold a 51.0% interest in Aireon, the other ANSP investors or their subsidiaries will collectively hold a 24.5% interest and we will retain the remaining 24.5% interest.

In addition to the \$120 million redemption payment described above, Aireon has agreed to pay us \$200 million in hosting fees for the integration and launch of Aireon's payloads on the Iridium NEXT satellites, as well as ongoing cumulative data service fees of nearly \$300 million through approximately 2030. Payment of the hosting fees may be delayed, and payment of the data service fees may be reduced, if Aireon is not successful in executing commercial agreements with sufficient future ANSP customers. The hosting and data service fees and redemption, totaling over \$600 million, are in addition to the value of the 24.5% equity interest we will retain in Aireon.

NAV CANADA, Enav, Naviair, IAA and NATS, the ANSP of the United Kingdom, have also entered into commercial agreements with Aireon to be customers of the Aireon service.

New U.S. Government contract

The U.S. government, directly and indirectly, has been and continues to be our largest single customer, generating \$74.7 million in service and engineering and support service revenue, or 19% of our total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2013, and \$19.9 million in service and engineering and support service revenue, or 20% of our total revenue, for the quarter ended March 31, 2014. This does not include revenue from the sale of equipment that may be ultimately purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies through third-party distributors, or airtime services purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies that are provided through our commercial gateway, as we lack visibility into these activities and the related revenue. In October 2013, we entered into a new multi-year, fixed-price contract with the U.S. government to provide satellite airtime services for an unlimited number of U.S. Department of Defense, or DoD, and other federal government subscribers. The fixed-price rates in each of the five contract years, which span from October 22 through the following October 21, are \$64 million and \$72 million in years one and two, respectively, and \$88 million in each of the years three through five. These amounts do not include revenue that we may earn from the sale of equipment or additional services, such as gateway assistance, to the DoD and other federal government agencies by third-party distributors.

Concurrent Preferred Stock Offering

Concurrently with this offering of common stock, we are offering 500,000 shares of our 6.75% Series B Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, or the series B preferred stock (and the common stock issuable from time to

time upon conversion of the series B preferred stock), which we refer to as the preferred

S-6

Table of Contents

stock offering, for aggregate gross proceeds of \$125 million. The preferred stock offering is being conducted as a separate public offering by means of a separate prospectus supplement. While this offering and the preferred stock offering are not contingent upon each other, we may decide not to proceed with either offering if one of the offerings cannot be completed. We cannot assure you that either or both of the offerings will be completed. If either offering is not completed or the aggregate gross proceeds received in the offerings are less than expected, we will still need to raise the remainder of the equity capital required by the credit facility amendment discussed above. See [Description of Capital Stock Series B Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock](#) for a description of the series B preferred stock.

Corporate Information

We were initially formed in 2007 as GH Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company. We acquired all the outstanding equity in Iridium Holdings LLC, or Iridium Holdings, in a transaction accounted for as a business combination on September 29, 2009. On September 29, 2009, we changed our name to Iridium Communications Inc. The address of our corporate headquarters is 1750 Tysons Blvd., Suite 1400, McLean, Virginia 22102. Our general telephone number at that address is (703) 287-7400, and our website is located at www.iridium.com. The information on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and you should not consider it to be a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	Iridium Communications Inc.
Common stock offered by us	7,377,050 shares
Overallotment option	1,106,558 shares
Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering	91,908,021 shares (or 93,014,579 shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full)
Use of proceeds	We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including working capital and capital expenditures. See Use of Proceeds on page S-11 of this prospectus supplement.
Risk factors	Investing in our common stock involves significant risks. See Risk Factors on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.
Listing	Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM .

The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering as shown above is based on 76,838,663 shares outstanding as of April 30, 2014, plus the 7,692,308 shares issued in our registered direct offering and the shares to be issued in this offering and excludes as of that date:

10,602,200 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our 7.00% Series A Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock, or our series A preferred stock;

up to 16,728,000 shares of our common stock that would be issuable upon conversion of our series B preferred stock issued in the preferred stock offering, assuming conversion at the conversion rate of 33.456 per \$250 in liquidation preference of the Series B Preferred Stock, which is 22.5% over the price at which our common stock is being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement, and subject to anti-dilution, make-whole and other adjustments;

approximately 504,413 protection shares we expect to issue to the Baron funds;

Edgar Filing: Iridium Communications Inc. - Form 424B5

277,021 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding, having a weighted-average exercise price of \$11.50 per share;

6,911,522 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding, having a weighted average exercise price of \$7.67 per share;

2,246,540 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting and settlement of restricted stock units outstanding; and

an aggregate of 3,813,934 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity compensation plan.

Except as otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their overallotment option.

S-8

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding whether to invest in our common stock, you should consider carefully the risks described below, as well as those described in Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on May 1, 2014, together with other information in this prospectus, the information and documents incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be seriously harmed. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline, resulting in a loss of all or part of your investment.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile.

The trading price of our common stock may be subject to substantial fluctuations. Factors affecting the trading price of our common stock may include:

failure in the performance of our current or future satellites or a delay in the launch of Iridium NEXT;

failure of Aireon to successfully develop and market its service;

failure to comply with the terms of the Credit Facility;

failure to maintain our ability to make draws under the Credit Facility;

actual or anticipated variations in our operating results, including termination or expiration of one or more of our key contracts, or a change in sales levels under one or more of our key contracts;

sales of a large number of shares of our common stock or the perception that such sales may occur;

dilutive effect of outstanding stock options;

changes in financial estimates by industry analysts, or our failure to meet or exceed any such estimates, or changes in the recommendations of any industry analysts that elect to follow our common stock or the common stock of our competitors;

actual or anticipated changes in economic, political or market conditions, such as recessions or international currency fluctuations;

actual or anticipated changes in the regulatory environment affecting our industry;

changes in the market valuations of our competitors;

low trading volume; and

announcements by our competitors regarding significant new products or services or significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, divestitures, joint ventures or other strategic initiatives.

The trading price of our common stock might also decline in reaction to events that affect other companies in our industry even if these events do not directly affect us. If our stock, the market for other stocks in our industry, or the stock market in general experiences a loss of investor confidence, the trading price of our common stock could decline for reasons unrelated to our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We do not expect to pay dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

We do not currently pay cash dividends on our common stock and, because we currently intend to retain all cash we generate to fund the growth of our business and the Credit Facility restricts the payment of dividends, we do not expect to pay dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

Table of Contents

Our common stock ranks junior to the series A preferred stock, and will rank junior to the series B preferred stock, with respect to dividends and amounts payable in the event of our liquidation.

Our common stock ranks junior to the series A preferred stock, and will rank junior to the series B preferred stock, in each case with respect to the payment of dividends and amounts payable in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up. This means that, unless accumulated dividends have been paid or set aside for payment on all outstanding shares of series A preferred stock and series B preferred stock for all past completed dividend periods, no dividends may be declared or paid on our common stock. Likewise, in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, no distribution of our assets may be made to holders of our common stock until we have paid to holders of the series A preferred stock and series B preferred stock the applicable liquidation preference plus in each case accrued and unpaid dividends.

Our stockholders will experience substantial additional dilution upon the conversion of the currently outstanding series A preferred stock or the series B preferred stock to be issued pursuant to our concurrent preferred stock offering and upon exercise of our outstanding warrants.

The issuance of shares of our common stock upon conversion of the currently outstanding series A preferred stock or the series B preferred stock to be sold pursuant to the preferred stock offering and upon exercise of our outstanding warrants would be substantially dilutive to the outstanding shares of common stock. Any dilution or potential dilution may cause our stockholders to sell their shares, which would contribute to a downward movement in the stock price of our common stock.

Sales of our common stock through this or other equity offerings could trigger a limitation on our ability to use our net operating losses and tax credits in the future.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 limits the annual use of net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards in certain situations where changes occur in stock ownership of a company. In the event we have a change in ownership, as defined, the annual utilization of such carryforwards could be limited. This or other equity issuances could trigger a limitation on our ability to use our net operating losses and tax credits in the future under Sections 382 and 383 of the Internal Revenue Code as enacted by the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

Management will have broad discretion as to the use of the proceeds from this offering, and we may not use the proceeds effectively.

As noted under Use of Proceeds, we intend to use the net proceeds from this offering and the preferred stock offering for general corporate purposes, including working capital and capital expenditures. As a result, our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds from this offering and could spend the proceeds in ways that do not improve our results of operations or enhance the value of our common stock. Our failure to apply these funds effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business and cause the price of our common stock to decline.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the 7,377,050 shares of common stock that we are offering will be approximately \$42.5 million, or approximately \$48.9 million if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase up to 1,106,558 additional shares of common stock, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

In addition, we estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from our concurrent preferred stock offering will be approximately \$121 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. While this offering and the preferred stock offering are not contingent upon each other, we may decide to not proceed with either offering if one of the offerings cannot be completed. We cannot assure you that either or both of the offerings will be completed. If either offering is not completed or the aggregate proceeds received in the offerings are less than expected, we will still need to raise the remainder of the equity capital required by the credit facility amendment discussed under Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments Credit Facility Amendment.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering and from the concurrent offering of series B preferred stock for general corporate purposes, which may include capital expenditures, including development and deployment of the Iridium NEXT system, working capital and general and administrative expenses.

Pending application of the net proceeds as described above, we intend to invest the net proceeds in a variety of capital preservation instruments, including direct or guaranteed obligations of the U.S. government, certificates of deposit and money market funds, in accordance with our investment policy.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is currently listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM. The following table sets forth, for the quarters indicated, the quarterly high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported on The Nasdaq Global Select Market.

	Common Stock	
	High	Low
Quarter Ended March 31, 2012	\$ 9.50	\$ 7.13
Quarter Ended June 30, 2012	9.15	8.16
Quarter Ended September 30, 2012	9.73	6.88
Quarter Ended December 31, 2012	7.83	5.25
Quarter Ended March 31, 2013	7.34	5.90
Quarter Ended June 30, 2013	7.85	5.98
Quarter Ended September 30, 2013	9.22	6.35
Quarter Ended December 31, 2013	6.91	5.37
Quarter Ended March 31, 2014	7.95	5.95

On May 8, 2014, the closing price of our common stock was \$6.13. As of April 30, 2014, there were 64 holders of record of our common stock.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have not paid any dividends on our common stock to date. We are currently restricted from declaring, making or paying dividends on our common stock pursuant to our Credit Facility, and we do not anticipate that we will declare any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

S-11

Table of Contents**SELECTED HISTORICAL AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA**

The following selection of historical data as of and for the quarters ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 was derived from our unaudited financial statements. The following selection of historical data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2009 was derived from our audited financial statements. The selected financial data below should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014 and Annual Report on form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, or our 2013 Form 10-K. The selected financial data is our historical data and is not necessarily indicative of our future results of operations. The operating results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of operating results for the entire year.

Statement of Operations Data (a)	For the Quarter Ended March 31,		For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
(In thousands, except per share amounts)							
Revenue:							
Services	\$ 73,430	\$ 68,787	\$ 292,092	\$ 273,491	\$ 262,322	\$ 236,351	\$ 53,014
Subscriber equipment	20,157	17,331	73,303	93,866	94,709	90,184	17,293
Engineering and support services	4,445	3,071	17,254	16,163	27,276	21,638	5,682
Total revenue	\$ 98,032	\$ 89,189	\$ 382,649	\$ 383,520	\$ 384,307	\$ 348,173	\$ 75,989
Total operating expenses	\$ 69,688	\$ 63,851	\$ 272,755	\$ 278,446	\$ 307,306	\$ 310,813	\$ 89,164
Operating income (loss)	\$ 28,344	\$ 25,338	\$ 109,894	\$ 105,074	\$ 77,001	\$ 37,360	\$ (13,175)
Net income (loss)	\$ 16,543	\$ 14,934	\$ 62,517	\$ 64,631	\$ 41,035	\$ 19,941	\$ (42,239)
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 16,759	\$ 14,847	\$ 62,185	\$ 64,499	\$ 40,720	\$ 20,009	\$ (42,217)
Weighted average shares outstanding basic	77,082	76,768	76,909	74,239	72,164	70,289	53,964
Weighted average shares outstanding diluted	87,711	87,397	87,511	78,182	73,559	72,956	53,964
Net income (loss) attributable to common per share basic	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.28	\$ (0.78)
Net income (loss) attributable to common per share diluted	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.27	\$ (0.78)

Balance Sheet Data	As of March 31,		As of December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
(In thousands)							
Total current assets	\$ 361,482	\$ 383,234	\$ 369,558	\$ 367,166	\$ 227,242	\$ 208,729	\$ 220,937
Total assets	\$ 2,363,457	\$ 1,976,575	\$ 2,309,796	\$ 1,916,341	\$ 1,374,186	\$ 1,047,449	\$ 826,396
Total long-term liabilities	\$ 1,300,138	\$ 965,059	\$ 1,268,802	\$ 951,131	\$ 576,278	\$ 258,692	\$ 107,844
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 956,311	\$ 891,852	\$ 939,495	\$ 876,558	\$ 702,018	\$ 654,916	\$ 629,621

Cash Flow Data	For the Quarter Ended March 31,		For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009

(In thousands)

Cash provided by (used in):							
Operating activities	\$ 42,465	\$ 57,196	\$ 183,048	\$ 174,023	\$ 183,461	\$ 151,438	\$ 23,168
Investing activities	\$ (52,661)	\$ (90,934)	\$ (485,836)	\$ (443,542)	\$ (359,337)	\$ (242,086)	\$ 354,537
Financing activities	\$ 8,338	\$ (15,370)	\$ 234,712	\$ 387,571	\$ 192,310	\$ 63,402	\$ (230,656)

- (a) The years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 reflect the results of a full year of operations. On September 29, 2009, we acquired, directly and indirectly, all the outstanding equity of Iridium Holdings, and the data presented in the table above for the year ended December 31, 2009 reflects the results of post-acquisition activities for three months ended December 31, 2009. The year ended December 31, 2009 included a \$34.1 million change in the fair value of warrants due to our determination that the exchange agreements entered into with the holders of 26.8 million warrants in connection with the acquisition of Iridium Holdings were derivative instruments. We conducted no material operating activities for the periods prior to the acquisition of Iridium Holdings in September 2009.

S-12

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus supplement, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, or our Restated Certificate, authorizes us to issue 300,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share. As of April 30, 2014, 76,838,663 shares of common stock were outstanding and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of our Restated Certificate, as well as our Amended and Restated Bylaws, or Bylaws, and the applicable provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, or DGCL. This information is qualified entirely by reference to the applicable provisions of our Restated Certificate, Bylaws and the DGCL. For information on how to obtain copies of our Restated Certificate and Bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, see [Where You Can Find Additional Information](#).

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. The holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive rights and no right to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Additional shares of authorized common stock may be issued, as authorized by our board of directors from time to time, without stockholder approval, except as may be required by applicable stock exchange requirements.

The rights of the holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of holders of shares of any preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

\$11.50 Warrants. As of March 31, 2014, there were 277,021 \$11.50 warrants outstanding. Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase from us one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$11.50 per share.

We may redeem each of the \$11.50 warrants at a price of \$0.01 upon 30 days prior notice, provided that the warrants are exercisable and the registration statement covering the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants remains effective and available. In addition, redemption can only be made if the closing price of our common stock is at least \$18.00 per share for any 20 trading days within a 30-trading-day period ending on the third day prior to the date on which notice of redemption is given. We maintain an effective registration statement covering the resale of the \$11.50 warrants and the shares of common stock acquired upon exercise of the \$11.50 warrants. If a registration statement is not effective at the time of exercise, holders of the \$11.50 warrants will not be entitled to exercise the warrants, and in no event (whether in the case of a registration statement not being effective or otherwise) will we be required to net cash settle any such warrant exercise. Consequently, the \$11.50 warrants may expire unexercised and unredeemed. The number of shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of each \$11.50 Warrant is subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of specified events. The \$11.50 warrants expire in February 2015.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our Restated Certificate, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or stock exchange listing rules), to designate and issue up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to establish from time to time

S-13

Table of Contents

the number of shares to be included in each such series, to fix the designations, powers, preferences, privileges and relative participating, optional or special rights and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of the common stock, and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any such series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding.

The board of directors, without stockholder approval, can issue preferred stock with voting, conversion or other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of common stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of the common stock and may adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and reduce the likelihood that common stockholders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

Series A Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock. In the fourth quarter of 2012, we issued 1,000,000 shares of 7.00% Series A Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock, or our series A preferred stock, in a private offering. We received proceeds of \$96.5 million from the sale of the series A preferred stock, net of the aggregate \$3.5 million in initial purchaser discount and additional offering costs. The remaining 1,000,000 authorized shares of preferred stock remain undesignated and unissued as of as of the date of this prospectus supplement, although we expect to designate 500,000 shares of series B preferred stock in connection with the preferred stock offering.

The series A preferred stock ranks, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, senior to our common stock and will rank pari passu with respect to our series B preferred stock.

If we are liquidated, dissolved or wound up, holders of shares of the series A preferred stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$100 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) up to but excluding the date of payment, before any payment is made to holders of our common stock and any other class or series of capital stock ranking junior to the series A preferred stock as to liquidation rights. We may only issue equity securities ranking senior to the series A preferred stock with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution and winding-up if we obtain the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding series A preferred stock together with each other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the series A preferred stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights are conferred.

Holders of series A preferred stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends on the shares of series A preferred stock when, as and if declared, quarterly in arrears on each March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, at a rate of 7% per annum of the \$100 liquidation preference per share of series A preferred stock (equivalent to an annual rate of \$7.00 per share of series A preferred stock). The series A preferred stock does not have a stated maturity date and is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

Holders of series A preferred stock may convert some or all of their outstanding shares of series A preferred stock initially at a conversion rate of 10.6022 shares of common stock per \$100 liquidation preference, which is equivalent to an initial conversion price of \$9.43 per share of common stock (subject to adjustment in certain events). Except as otherwise provided, the series A preferred stock will be convertible only into shares of our common stock.

On or after October 3, 2017, we may, at our option, cause some or all of the shares of series A preferred stock to be automatically converted into common stock at the then prevailing conversion rate, subject to certain conditions.

S-14

Table of Contents

On or prior to October 3, 2017, in the event of certain specified fundamental changes, holders of shares of series A preferred stock will have a special right to convert some or all of such shares of series A preferred stock on the fundamental change conversion date into the greater of (i) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the conversion rate then in effect plus a make-whole premium and (ii) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the lesser of (a) the liquidation preference of the series A preferred stock divided by the market value of our common stock on the effective date of such fundamental change and (b) 25.4453 (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the conversion rate); provided that the number of shares issuable upon conversion will not exceed 19.9% of our outstanding common stock at the time of the original offering, unless we have obtained stockholder approval in accordance with the rules of The Nasdaq Global Select Market. In certain circumstances, we may, at our option, elect to cash settle any conversions in connection with a fundamental change.

Holders of shares of series A preferred stock will generally have no voting rights. However, if we are in arrears on dividends on the series A preferred stock for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of shares of series A preferred stock (voting together as a class with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, including the series B preferred stock) will be entitled to vote at a special meeting called by at least 25% of such holders or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all unpaid dividends with respect to the series A preferred stock and any other such class or series of preferred stock have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside for payment, provided that the election of any such directors will not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of The Nasdaq Global Select Market (or any other exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or quoted). In addition, we may not make certain material and adverse changes to any rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the series A preferred stock without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the series A preferred stock together with the holders of all other shares of any class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the series A preferred stock with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation that are entitled to similar voting rights. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any such change materially and adversely affects the rights, preferences, privileges or voting power of the series A preferred stock disproportionately relative to other series of preferred stock on parity with the series A preferred stock, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the series A preferred stock is required.

Series B Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock. Concurrently with this offering of common stock, we are offering 500,000 shares of our 6.75% Series B Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, or the series B preferred stock (and the common stock issuable from time to time upon conversion of the series B preferred stock), which we refer to as the preferred stock offering, for aggregate gross proceeds of \$125 million. The preferred stock offering is being conducted as a separate public offering by means of a separate prospectus supplement. While this offering and the preferred stock offering are not contingent upon each other, we may decide not to proceed with either offering if one of the offerings cannot be completed. We cannot assure you that either or both of the offerings will be completed. If either offering is not completed, we will still need to raise the equity capital required by the credit facility amendment discussed under Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments Credit Facility Amendment.

The series B preferred stock will rank, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, senior to our common stock and will rank *pari passu* with respect to our series A preferred stock.

If we are liquidated, dissolved or wound up, holders of shares of the series B preferred stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$250 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) up to but excluding the date of payment, before any payment is made to holders of our common stock and

any other class or series of capital stock ranking junior to the series B preferred stock as to liquidation rights. We may only issue equity securities ranking senior to the series B preferred stock with respect

S-15

Table of Contents

to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution and winding-up if we obtain the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding series B preferred stock together with each other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the series B preferred stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights are conferred.

Holders of series B preferred stock will be entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends on the shares of series B preferred stock when, as and if declared, quarterly in arrears on each March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, beginning on September 15, 2014, at a rate of 6.75% per annum of the \$250 liquidation preference per share of series B preferred stock (equivalent to an annual rate of \$16.875 per share of series B preferred stock). The series B preferred stock will not have a stated maturity date and will not be subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

Holders of series B preferred stock will be able convert some or all of their outstanding shares of series B preferred stock initially at a conversion rate of 33.456 shares of common stock per \$250 liquidation preference, which is equivalent to an initial conversion price of \$7.47 per share of common stock (subject to adjustment in certain events). Except as otherwise provided, the series B preferred stock will be convertible only into shares of our common stock.

On or after May 15, 2019, we will be able to, at our option, cause some or all of the shares of series B preferred stock to be automatically converted into common stock at the then prevailing conversion rate, subject to certain conditions.

On or prior to May 15, 2019, in the event of certain specified fundamental changes, holders of shares of series B preferred stock will have a special right to convert some or all of such shares of series B preferred stock on the fundamental change conversion date into the greater of (i) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the conversion rate then in effect plus a make-whole premium and (ii) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the lesser of (a) the liquidation preference of the series B preferred stock divided by the market value of our common stock on the effective date of such fundamental change and (b) (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the conversion rate). In certain circumstances, we may, at our option, elect to cash settle any conversions in connection with a fundamental change.

Holders of shares of series B preferred stock will generally have no voting rights. However, if we are in arrears on dividends on the series B preferred stock for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of shares of series B preferred stock (voting together as a class with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, including the series A preferred stock) will be entitled to vote at a special meeting called by at least 25% of such holders or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all unpaid dividends with respect to the series B preferred stock and any other such class or series of preferred stock have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside for payment, provided that the election of any such directors will not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of The Nasdaq Global Select Market (or any other exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or quoted). In addition, we may not make certain material and adverse changes to any rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the series B preferred stock without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the series B preferred stock together with the holders of all other shares of any class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the series B preferred stock with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation that are entitled to similar voting rights. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any such change materially and adversely affects the rights, preferences, privileges or voting power of the series B preferred stock disproportionately relative to other series of preferred stock on parity with the series B preferred stock, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the series B preferred stock is required.

S-16

Table of Contents

Future Preferred Stock. Our board of directors will fix the designations, voting powers, preferences and rights of each series, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, of the preferred stock of each series that we offer under this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price per share;

the dividend rate per share, dividend period and payment dates and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or other securities of ours, including depositary shares and warrants, and, if applicable, the conversion period, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange period, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemption rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on issuances of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being issued as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications or restrictions of the preferred stock. The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class (or, in some cases, as a series) on an

Table of Contents

amendment to our Restated Certificate if the amendment would change the par value or, unless our Restated Certificate provided otherwise, the number of authorized shares of the class or change the powers, preferences or special rights of the class or series so as to adversely affect the class or series, as the case may be. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Antitakeover Effects of Provisions of Charter Documents and Delaware Law

Charter Documents. Our Restated Certificate and Bylaws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying or preventing changes in control or management of our company. The Restated Certificate provides that all stockholder action must be effected at a duly called meeting of stockholders and not by a consent in writing. Further, our Bylaws limit who may call special meetings of the stockholders. Our Restated Certificate does not include a provision for cumulative voting for directors. Under cumulative voting, a minority stockholder holding a sufficient percentage of a class of shares may be able to ensure the election of one or more directors. Finally, our Bylaws establish procedures, including advance notice procedures, with regard to the nomination of candidates for election as directors and stockholder proposals. These and other provisions of our Restated Certificate and Bylaws and Delaware law could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control or management of our company.

Delaware Takeover Statute. We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, which regulates acquisitions of some Delaware corporations. Section 203 generally prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

the board of directors of the corporation approved the business combination or the other transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder prior to the date of the business combination or other transaction;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the person becoming an interested stockholder, the person owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers of the corporation and shares issued under employee stock plans under which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to the date the person became an interested stockholder, the board of directors of the corporation approved the business combination and the stockholders of the corporation authorized the business combination at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding stock of the corporation not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 of the DGCL defines a business combination to include any of the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

Edgar Filing: Iridium Communications Inc. - Form 424B5

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the corporation's assets or outstanding stock involving the interested stockholder;

subject to exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any of its stock to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of its stock owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

S-18

Table of Contents

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any person who, together with the person's affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock.

Section 203 of the DGCL could depress our stock price and delay, discourage or prohibit transactions not approved in advance by our board of directors, such as takeover attempts that might otherwise involve the payment to our stockholders of a premium over the market price of our common stock.

Transfer Agent And Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, and its address is 6201 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. The transfer agent for any series of preferred stock that we may offer under this prospectus will be named and described in the prospectus supplement for that series.

Listing on The Nasdaq Global Select Market

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM.

We intend to list our series B preferred stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM.B.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We and the underwriters for the offering named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the common stock being offered. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from us the number of shares of our common stock set forth opposite its name below. Raymond James & Associates, Inc. is the representative of the underwriters.

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	4,426,230
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	1,475,410
William Blair & Company, L.L.C.	1,475,410
Total	7,377,050

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the shares sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares are purchased, other than those shares covered by the overallotment option described below. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof.

The underwriters are offering the shares, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel and other conditions specified in the underwriting agreement. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Overallotment option to purchase additional shares

We have granted to the underwriters an option to purchase up to 1,106,558 additional shares of common stock at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount. This option is exercisable for a period of 30 days. The underwriters may exercise this option solely for the purpose of covering overallotments, if any, made in connection with the sale of common stock offered hereby. To the extent that the underwriters exercise this option, the underwriters will purchase additional shares from us in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above.

Discounts and commissions

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds, before expenses, to us. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

		Total	
	Per Share	Without Overallotment	With Overallotment
Public offering price	\$ 6.100	\$ 45,000,005.00	\$ 51,750,008.80
Underwriting discount	.305	2,250,000.25	2,587,500.44
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$ 5.795	\$ 42,750,004.75	\$ 49,162,508.36

We estimate that the total expenses of the offering, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$225,000, which amount includes up to \$25,000 that we have agreed to reimburse the

S-20

Table of Contents

underwriters for their fees and expenses, and such expenses are payable by us. Pursuant to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, interpretations, total underwriter compensation will not exceed 8% of the gross proceeds of this offering.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock to securities dealers at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of \$0.10 per share. If all of the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and other selling terms.

Discretionary accounts

The underwriters do not intend to confirm sales of the shares to any accounts over which they have discretionary authority.

Price stabilization, short positions and penalty bids

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, overallotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions, penalty bids and purchases to cover positions created by short sales.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase shares of common stock so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum, and are engaged in for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock while the offering is in progress.

Overallotment transactions involve sales by the underwriters of shares of common stock in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase. This creates a syndicate short position which may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase in the overallotment option. In a naked short position, the number of shares involved is greater than the number of shares in the overallotment option. The underwriters may close out any short position by exercising their overallotment option and/or purchasing shares in the open market.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared with the price at which they may purchase shares through exercise of the overallotment option. If the underwriters sell more shares than could be covered by exercise of the overallotment option and, therefore, have a naked short position, the position can be closed out only by buying shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that after pricing there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Penalty bids permit the representative to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by that syndicate member is purchased in stabilizing or syndicate covering transactions to cover syndicate short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock in the open market may be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. These transactions may be effected on The Nasdaq Global Select Market, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

S-21

Table of Contents

Lock-up agreements

Pursuant to certain lock-up agreements, we and our executive officers and directors, have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, not to offer, sell, assign, transfer, pledge, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of or announce the intention to otherwise dispose of, or enter into any swap, hedge or similar agreement or arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of, directly or indirectly, or make any demand or request or exercise any right with respect to the registration of, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common stock without the prior written consent of Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., for a period of 90 days after the date of the pricing of this offering. The 90-day restricted period will be automatically extended if (i) during the last 17 days of the 90-day restricted period we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs or (ii) prior to the expiration of the 90-day restricted period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the 90-day restricted period, in either of which case the restrictions described above will continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the public announcement of the material news or the occurrence of the material event, as applicable, unless Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. waive, in writing, such extension.

This lock-up provision applies to common stock and to securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for common stock. The exceptions to the lock-up for executive officers and directors are: (a) transactions relating to shares of common stock or other securities acquired in open market transactions after the completion of this offering; (b) the transfer of shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock (i) as a bona fide gift to an immediate family member of the executive officer or director or to a trust formed for the benefit of an immediate family member, (ii) by will or intestate succession or (iii) by bona fide gift to a charity or educational institution; (c) the transfer of shares of common stock or any securities convertible into shares of common stock to us to cover tax withholding obligations; and (d) the establishment of a written trading plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act for the transfer of shares of common stock; provided that such plan either existed prior to the date of the lock-up agreements or does not provide for the transfer of shares during the restricted period. The exceptions to the lock-up for us are: (a) the sale of shares of common stock in this offering and the preferred stock offering; (b) common stock issued pursuant to employee benefit plans, qualified stock option plans or other employee compensation plans existing on the date hereof or pursuant to currently outstanding options, warrants or rights and described in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus; (c) common stock issued upon conversion of our series A preferred stock, (d) common stock issued upon the exercise of our \$11.50 warrants, (e) shares of common stock issued in under the stock purchase agreement entered into in connection with our registered direct offering and (f) transactions relating to shares of common stock or other securities acquired in open market transactions after the completion of the offering.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, or FSMA, received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares of our common stock in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and

S-22

Table of Contents

- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to shares of our common stock in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Switzerland

This prospectus supplement does not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a or Article 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations and the securities will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. Therefore, this prospectus supplement may not comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules (including any additional listing rules or prospectus schemes) of the SIX Swiss Exchange. Accordingly, the securities may not be offered to the public in or from Switzerland, but only to a selected and limited circle of investors who do not subscribe to the securities with a view to distribution. Any such investors will be individually approached by the underwriters from time to time.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, each, a Relevant Member State, an offer to the public of any shares of our common stock may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any shares of our common stock may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of shares of our common stock shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or any underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

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

Electronic offer, sale and distribution of shares

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and one or more of the underwriters participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The representative may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders.

Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on these websites is not part of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved or endorsed by us or any underwriter in its capacity as underwriter, and should not be relied upon by investors.

S-23

Table of Contents

Other relationships

Certain of the underwriters are also underwriters for our concurrent offering of the series B preferred stock. In addition, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates for which they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

S-24

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will be passed upon for us by Cooley LLP, Reston, Virginia. Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, New York, New York, is counsel for the underwriters in connection with this offering. Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP has from time to time acted as counsel for us in certain matters.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Iridium Communications Inc. appearing in Iridium Communications Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the effectiveness of Iridium Communications Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. For further information with respect to us and the securities we are offering under this prospectus, we refer you to the registration statement and the exhibits and schedules filed as a part of the registration statement. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of the securities offered by this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy the registration statement, as well as any other document filed by us with the SEC, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. You can also request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330. The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Iridium. The address of the SEC website is www.sec.gov.

We maintain a website at www.iridium.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The SEC file number for the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is 001-33963. The documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus contain important information that you should read about us.

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this document:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 and filed with the SEC on March 4, 2014;

Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 (other than information furnished rather than filed) and filed with the SEC on March 28, 2014;

our definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on April 9, 2014;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2014 and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2014;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on February 18, 2014, March 3, 2014, April 4, 2014 and May 5, 2014; and

the description of our common stock, which is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on September 23, 2009, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus all documents (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) that are filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial filing of this prospectus supplement but prior to the termination of the offering. These documents include periodic reports, such as Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy statements.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus, including exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to: Iridium Communications Inc., Attn: Investor Relations, 1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1400, McLean, Virginia 22102, telephone: (703) 287-7400.

Any statement contained herein or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this document will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the document to the extent that a statement

contained in this document or any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this document modifies or supersedes the statement.

S-26

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$225,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

From time to time, we may offer up to \$225,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. We may also offer securities as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, repurchase, exchange or exercise of any securities registered hereunder, including any applicable antidilution provisions.

This prospectus provides a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide specific terms of the securities offered in a supplement to this prospectus. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated by reference, before you invest in any of the securities being offered.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM. On March 26, 2014, the last reported sales price of our common stock was \$7.44 per share. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on The Nasdaq Global Select Market or any securities market or other exchange of the securities, if any, covered by the prospectus supplement.

We will sell these securities directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers, on a continuous or delayed basis. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled Plan of Distribution in this prospectus. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions, discounts or over-allotment options will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is April 11, 2014.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	i
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	5
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	18
<u>LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES</u>	20
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	24
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	26
<u>EXPERTS</u>	26
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	26
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	26
<u>DISCLOSURE OF COMMISSION POSITION ON INDEMNIFICATION FOR SECURITIES ACT LIABILITY</u>	27

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$225,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Each time we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in any documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading **Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference**, before investing in any of the securities offered.

THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO CONSUMMATE A SALE OF SECURITIES UNLESS IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

You should rely only on the information that we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus. This prospectus, any applicable supplement to this prospectus or any related free writing prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus, any applicable supplement to this prospectus or any related free writing prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction.

You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is delivered, or securities are sold, on a later date.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read the entire prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, including the risks of investing in our securities discussed under the heading **Risk Factors** contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should also carefully read the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including our financial statements, and the exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, as used in this prospectus, the terms **Iridium**, **the Company**, **we**, **us** and **our** refer to Iridium Communications Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its subsidiaries. We use **Iridium®**, **Netted Iridium®**, **Iridium Force®**, **Iridium OpenPort®**, **Iridium Extreme®**, **Iridium Pilot®**, **AireonSM** and **Iridium PRIMESM** and the Iridium logo as trademarks in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks or trade names referred to in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Our Company

We are the second largest provider by revenue of mobile voice and data communications services via satellite, and the only commercial provider of communications services offering true global coverage. Our satellite network provides communications services to regions of the world where existing wireless or wireline networks do not exist or are limited, including remote land areas, open ocean, the polar regions and regions where the telecommunications infrastructure has been affected by political conflicts or natural disasters.

We provide voice and data communications services to businesses, the U.S. and foreign governments, non-governmental organizations and consumers via our constellation of 66 in-orbit satellites, in-orbit spares and related ground infrastructure. We utilize an interlinked mesh architecture to route traffic across our satellite constellation using radio frequency crosslinks between satellites. This unique architecture minimizes the need for local ground facilities to support the constellation, which facilitates the global reach of our services and allows us to offer services in countries and regions where we have no physical presence.

Our commercial end user base, which we view as our primary growth engine, is diverse and includes markets such as emergency services, maritime, government, utilities, oil and gas, mining, recreation, forestry, heavy equipment, construction and transportation. Many of our end users view our products and services as critical to their daily operations and integral to their communications and business infrastructure. For example, multinational corporations in various sectors use our services for business telephony, e-mail and data transfer services, including telematics, and to provide mobile communications services for employees in areas inadequately served by terrestrial networks. Ship crews and passengers use our services for ship-to-shore calling as well as to send and receive e-mail and data files, and to receive electronic media, weather reports, emergency bulletins and electronic charts. Shipping operators use our services to manage operations on board ships and to transmit data, such as course, speed and fuel stock. Aviation end users use our services for air-to-ground telephony and data communications for position reporting, emergency tracking, weather information, electronic flight bag updates and fleet information.

The U.S. government, directly and indirectly, has been and continues to be our largest single customer, generating \$74.7 million in service and engineering and support service revenue, or 19% of our total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2013. This does not include revenue from the sale of equipment that may be ultimately purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies through third-party distributors, or airtime

Table of Contents

services purchased by U.S. or non-U.S. government agencies that are provided through our commercial gateway, as we lack visibility into these activities and the related revenue. In October 2013, we entered into a new multi-year, fixed-price contract with the U.S. government to provide satellite airtime services for an unlimited number of U.S. Department of Defense, or DoD, and other federal government subscribers, with a total contract value of \$400 million over its five-year term.

The DoD owns and operates a dedicated gateway in Hawaii that is only compatible with our satellite network. The U.S. armed services, State Department, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, Customs and Border Protection, and other U.S. government agencies, as well as other nations' governmental agencies, use our voice and data services for a wide variety of applications. Our voice and data products are used for numerous primary and backup communications solutions, including logistical, administrative, morale and welfare, tactical and emergency communications. In addition, our products are installed in ground vehicles, ships, rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft and are used for command-and-control and situational awareness purposes. Our satellite network provides increased network security to the DoD because traffic is routed across our satellite constellation before being brought down to earth through the dedicated, secure DoD gateway, thus providing additional levels of protection. Since our network was launched in the mid-1990s, the DoD has made significant investments to build and upgrade its dedicated gateway and to purchase our handsets and voice and data devices, all of which are only compatible with our satellite network. In addition, the DoD continues to invest directly and indirectly in additional services on our network such as Distributed Tactical Communications Services, which we refer to as Netted Iridium.

We sell our products and services to commercial end users exclusively through a wholesale distribution network, encompassing 75 service providers, more than 190 value-added resellers, or VARs, and 55 value-added manufacturers, which create and sell Iridium-based technology either directly to the end user or indirectly through other service providers, VARs or dealers. These distributors often integrate our products and services with other complementary hardware and software and have developed a broad suite of applications using our products and services to target specific lines of business. We expect that demand for our services will increase as more applications are developed and deployed that utilize our technology.

At December 31, 2013, we had approximately 664,000 billable subscribers worldwide, representing a 9% increase compared to December 31, 2012. Total revenue decreased slightly from \$383.5 million in 2012 to \$382.6 million in 2013.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1400, McLean, Virginia 22102, and our main telephone number is (703) 287-7400. Our website is located at <http://www.iridium.com>. We do not incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information on, or accessible through, our website, and you should not consider it as part of this prospectus.

The Securities We May Offer

We may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and warrants to purchase any of such securities, with a total value of up to \$225,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus, together with any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of the offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

aggregate principal amount or aggregate offering price;

Table of Contents

maturity, if applicable;

original issue discount, if any;

rates and times of payment of interest or dividends, if any;

redemption, conversion, exchange or sinking fund terms, if any;

conversion or exchange prices or rates, if any, and, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the conversion or exchange prices or rates and in the securities or other property receivable upon conversion or exchange;

ranking;

restrictive covenants, if any;

voting or other rights, if any; and

important United States federal income tax considerations.

The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. However, no prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell the securities directly to investors or through underwriters, dealers or agents. We, and our underwriters or agents, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we do offer securities through underwriters or agents, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of those underwriters or agents;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

the estimated net proceeds to us.

Common Stock. We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. Under our certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or market on which our securities are then traded), to issue up to 300,000,000 shares of common stock. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any then outstanding shares of preferred stock. Our common stock does not carry any preemptive rights enabling a holder to subscribe for, or receive shares of, any class of our common stock or any other securities convertible into shares of any class of our common stock, or any redemption rights.

Preferred Stock. We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Under our certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or

Table of Contents

market on which our securities are then traded), to designate up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to determine the designations, voting powers, preferences and rights of each series of the preferred stock, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, conversion rights, preemptive rights, terms of redemption or repurchase, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of any series, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of the common stock. We have designated and currently have outstanding 1,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock. Any convertible preferred stock we may issue will be convertible into our common stock or exchangeable for our other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at the holder's option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus, we will fix the designations, voting powers, preferences and rights of such series of preferred stock, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock that we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

Debt Securities. We may issue debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all of our senior indebtedness. Convertible debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or preferred stock. Conversion may be mandatory or at the holder's option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

The debt securities will be issued under one or more documents called indentures, which are contracts between us and a national banking association or other eligible party, as trustee. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Forms of indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

Warrants. We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the particular series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. Forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue. Warrants may be issued under an applicable warrant agreement that we enter into with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of warrants being offered.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully review the risks and uncertainties described under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before deciding whether to purchase any of the securities being registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Each of the risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our securities, and the occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also significantly impair our business operations.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements. These are based on our management's current beliefs, expectations and assumptions about future events, conditions and results and on information currently available to us. Discussions containing these forward-looking statements may be found, among other places, in the Sections entitled "Business," "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" incorporated by reference from our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto, filed with the SEC.

Any statements in this prospectus, or incorporated herein, about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance are not historical facts and are forward-looking statements. Within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, these forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the expected operational life of our existing constellation; expected growth in revenue, subscribers, Operational EBITDA and Operational EBITDA margin; the transition to the Iridium NEXT constellation; features of the Iridium NEXT system; the features of, and market for, our future products and services; expected Iridium NEXT project costs and deployment schedule; the ongoing availability and adequacy of the Iridium NEXT financing; expected revenues from Aireon and potential revenues from Iridium PRIMESM. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of words or phrases such as "anticipates," "may," "can," "believes," "expects," "projects," "intends," "likely," "will," or other comparable terminology that are predictions of or indicate future events, trends or prospects, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements are risks and uncertainties inherent in our business, including, without limitation, uncertainties regarding expected Operational EBITDA and Operational EBITDA margin; growth in subscribers and revenue; overall Iridium NEXT costs; our ability to continue to borrow under the Iridium NEXT financing; potential delays in the Iridium NEXT deployment; levels of demand for mobile satellite services; our ability to successfully develop and market new products and services; the development, deployment and marketing of the AireonSM system; the successful marketing and deployment of Iridium PRIME payloads and our ability to maintain the health, capacity and content of our satellite constellation; general industry and economic conditions, and competitive, legal, governmental and technological factors; and the other risks discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 4, 2014, as well as "Risk Factors" sections of future filings made under the Exchange Act following the date of this prospectus. Given these risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are beyond our control, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements publicly, or to revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or developments occurring after the date of this prospectus, even if new information becomes available in the future.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference securities dividends for each of the periods indicated. The following table is qualified by the more detailed information appearing in the computation table set forth in Exhibit 12.1 to the registration statement of which this prospectus is part and the historical financial statements, including the notes to those financial statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	1.88	3.29	4.74	11.24	(a)
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends	1.70	3.11	4.74	11.24	(a)

(a) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2009 were inadequate to cover fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred dividends. The coverage deficiency was \$44.8 million.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby. Except as described in any applicable prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectuses that we may authorize to be provided to you in connection with a specific offering, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby for general corporate purposes, which may include research and development, capital expenditures, including development and deployment of the Iridium NEXT system, working capital and general and administrative expenses. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to invest in or acquire businesses or technologies that we believe are complementary to our own, although we have no current plans, commitments or agreements with respect to any acquisitions as of the date of this prospectus. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus our intended use for the net proceeds received from the sale of any securities sold pursuant to the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. Pending these uses, we intend to invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus, our certificate of incorporation authorizes us to issue 300,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share. As of March 23, 2014, 76,838,663 shares of common stock were outstanding and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of our certificate of incorporation, as well as our bylaws and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. This information is qualified entirely by reference to the applicable provisions of our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law. For information on how to obtain copies of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, see [Where You Can Find Additional Information](#).

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. The holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the

Table of Contents

election of directors. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive rights and no right to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Additional shares of authorized common stock may be issued, as authorized by our board of directors from time to time, without stockholder approval, except as may be required by applicable stock exchange requirements.

The rights of the holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of holders of shares of any preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, or the Restated Certificate, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or stock exchange listing rules), to designate and issue up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in each such series, to fix the designations, powers, preferences, privileges and relative participating, optional or special rights and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of the common stock, and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any such series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding.

The board of directors, without stockholder approval, can issue preferred stock with voting, conversion or other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of common stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of the common stock and may adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and reduce the likelihood that common stockholders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

Series A Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock. In the fourth quarter of 2012, we issued 1,000,000 shares of 7.00% Series A Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock, or the Series A Preferred Stock, in a private offering. We received proceeds of \$96.5 million from the sale of the Series A Preferred Stock, net of the aggregate \$3.5 million in initial purchaser discount and additional offering costs. The remaining 1,000,000 authorized shares of preferred stock remain undesignated and unissued as of March 23, 2014.

The Series A Preferred Stock ranks, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, senior to our common stock.

If we are liquidated, dissolved or wound up, holders of shares of the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$100.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) up to but excluding the date of payment, before any payment is made to holders of our common stock and any other class or series of capital stock ranking junior to the Series A Preferred Stock as to liquidation rights. We may only issue equity securities ranking senior to the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution and winding-up if we obtain the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding Series A Preferred Stock together with each other class or series of

preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights are conferred.

Table of Contents

Holders of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends on the shares of Series A Preferred Stock when, as and if declared, quarterly in arrears on each March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, at a rate of 7.00% per annum of the \$100 liquidation preference per share of Series A Preferred Stock (equivalent to an annual rate of \$7.00 per share of Series A Preferred Stock). The Series A Preferred Stock does not have a stated maturity date and is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

Holders of Series A Preferred Stock may convert some or all of their outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock initially at a conversion rate of 10.6022 shares of common stock per \$100 liquidation preference, which is equivalent to an initial conversion price of \$9.43 per share of common stock (subject to adjustment in certain events). Except as otherwise provided, the Series A Preferred Stock will be convertible only into shares of our common stock.

On or after October 3, 2017, we may at our option cause some or all of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into common stock at the then prevailing conversion rate, subject to certain conditions.

On or prior to October 3, 2017, in the event of certain specified fundamental changes, holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock will have a special right to convert some or all of such shares of Series A Preferred Stock on the fundamental change conversion date into the greater of (i) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the conversion rate then in effect plus a make-whole premium and (ii) a number of shares of our common stock equal to the lesser of (a) the liquidation preference of the Series A Preferred Stock divided by the market value of our common stock on the effective date of such fundamental change and (b) 25.4453 (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the conversion rate); provided that the number of shares issuable upon conversion will not exceed 19.9% of our outstanding common stock at the time of the Offering unless we have obtained stockholder approval in accordance with the rules of The Nasdaq Global Select Market. In certain circumstances, we may, at our option, elect to cash settle any conversions in connection with a fundamental change.

Holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock will generally have no voting rights. However, if we are in arrears on dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock (voting together as a class with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) will be entitled to vote at a special meeting called by at least 25% of such holders or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all unpaid dividends with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock and any other such class or series of preferred stock have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside for payment, provided that the election of any such directors will not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of The Nasdaq Global Select Market (or any other exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or quoted). In addition, we may not make certain material and adverse changes to any rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series A Preferred Stock without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the Series A Preferred Stock together with the holders of all other shares of any class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation that are entitled to similar voting rights. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any such change materially and adversely affects the rights, preferences, privileges or voting power of the Series A Preferred Stock disproportionately relative to other series of preferred stock on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the Series A Preferred Stock is required.

Future Preferred Stock. Our board of directors will fix the designations, voting powers, preferences and rights of the each series, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, of the preferred stock of each series that we offer under this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus

Table of Contents

is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price per share;

the dividend rate per share, dividend period and payment dates and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or other securities of ours, including depositary shares and warrants, and, if applicable, the conversion period, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange period, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemption rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on issuances of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being issued as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications or restrictions of the preferred stock.

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class (or, in some cases, as a series) on an

Table of Contents

amendment to our certificate of incorporation if the amendment would change the par value or, unless the certificate of incorporation provided otherwise, the number of authorized shares of the class or change the powers, preferences or special rights of the class or series so as to adversely affect the class or series, as the case may be. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Antitakeover Effects of Provisions of Charter Documents and Delaware Law

Charter Documents. Our Restated Certificate and Amended and Restated Bylaws, or Bylaws, each as amended to date, include a number of provisions that may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying or preventing changes in control or management of our company. The Restated Certificate provides that all stockholder action must be effected at a duly called meeting of stockholders and not by a consent in writing. Further, our Bylaws limit who may call special meetings of the stockholders. Our Restated Certificate does not include a provision for cumulative voting for directors. Under cumulative voting, a minority stockholder holding a sufficient percentage of a class of shares may be able to ensure the election of one or more directors. Finally, our Bylaws establish procedures, including advance notice procedures, with regard to the nomination of candidates for election as directors and stockholder proposals. These and other provisions of our Restated Certificate and Bylaws and Delaware law could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control or management of our company.

Delaware Takeover Statute. We are subject to Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, or DGCL, which regulates acquisitions of some Delaware corporations. Section 203 generally prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

the board of directors of the corporation approved the business combination or the other transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder prior to the date of the business combination or other transaction;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the person becoming an interested stockholder, the person owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers of the corporation and shares issued under employee stock plans under which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to the date the person became an interested stockholder, the board of directors of the corporation approved the business combination and the stockholders of the corporation authorized the business combination at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding stock of the corporation not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 of the DGCL defines a business combination to include any of the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the corporation's assets or outstanding stock involving the interested stockholder;

subject to exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any of its stock to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of its stock owned by the interested stockholder; or

Table of Contents

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any person who, together with the person's affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock.

Section 203 of the DGCL could depress our stock price and delay, discourage or prohibit transactions not approved in advance by our board of directors, such as takeover attempts that might otherwise involve the payment to our stockholders of a premium over the market price of our common stock.

Transfer Agent And Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, and its address is 6201 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. The transfer agent for any series of preferred stock that we may offer under this prospectus will be named and described in the prospectus supplement for that series.

Listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol IRDM.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the indenture, we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

We will issue the debt securities under either the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture that we will enter into with trustee named in the applicable indenture. If we offer senior debt securities, we will issue them under the senior indenture. If we issue subordinated debt securities, we will issue them under the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. We have filed the forms of indentures as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

The following summary of material provisions of the debt securities and the indentures is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete indenture that contains the terms of the debt securities.

General

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. It provides that we may issue debt securities up to the principal amount that we may authorize and may be in any currency or currency unit that we may designate. Except for the limitations on consolidation, merger and sale of all or substantially all of our

Table of Contents

assets contained in the indenture, the terms of the indenture do not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to give holders of any debt securities protection against changes in our operations, financial condition or transactions involving us.

We may issue the debt securities issued under the indenture as discount securities, which means they may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. These debt securities, as well as other debt securities that are not issued at a discount, may be issued with original issue discount, or OID, for U.S. federal income tax purposes because of interest payment and other characteristics or terms of the debt securities. Material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities issued with OID will be described in more detail in any applicable prospectus supplement.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the title of the series of debt securities;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount that may be issued;

the maturity date or dates;

the form of the debt securities of the series;

the applicability of any guarantees;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

whether the debt securities rank as senior debt, senior subordinated debt, subordinated debt or any combination thereof, and the terms of any subordination;

if the price (expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount thereof) at which such debt securities will be issued is a price other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount thereof payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or if applicable, the portion of the principal amount of such debt securities that is convertible into another security or the method by which any such portion shall be determined;

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

if applicable, the date or dates after which, or the period or periods during which, and the price or prices at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;

the date or dates, if any, on which, and the price or prices at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

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

any and all terms, if applicable, relating to any auction or remarketing of the debt securities of that series and any security for our obligations with respect to such debt securities and any other terms which may be advisable in connection with the marketing of debt securities of that series;

Table of Contents

whether the debt securities of the series shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of a global security or securities; the terms and conditions, if any, upon which such global security or securities may be exchanged in whole or in part for other individual securities; and the depositary for such global security or securities;

if applicable, the provisions relating to conversion or exchange of any debt securities of the series and the terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be so convertible or exchangeable, including the conversion or exchange price, as applicable, or how it will be calculated and may be adjusted, any mandatory or optional (at our option or the holders' option) conversion or exchange features, the applicable conversion or exchange period and the manner of settlement for any conversion or exchange;

if other than the full principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of debt securities of the series which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

additions to or changes in the covenants applicable to the particular debt securities being issued, including, among others, the consolidation, merger or sale covenant;

additions to or changes in the Events of Default with respect to the securities and any change in the right of the trustee or the holders to declare the principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, with respect to such securities to be due and payable;

additions to or changes in or deletions of the provisions relating to covenant defeasance and legal defeasance;

additions to or changes in the provisions relating to satisfaction and discharge of the indenture;

additions to or changes in the provisions relating to the modification of the indenture both with and without the consent of holders of debt securities issued under the indenture;

the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars;

whether interest will be payable in cash or additional debt securities at our or the holders' option and the terms and conditions upon which the election may be made;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which we will pay amounts in addition to the stated interest, premium, if any and principal amounts of the debt securities of the series to any holder that is not a United States person for federal tax purposes;

any restrictions on transfer, sale or assignment of the debt securities of the series; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, any other additions or changes in the provisions of the indenture, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. We will include provisions as to settlement upon conversion or exchange and whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock or our other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Table of Contents

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indenture will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of our assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets (other than a subsidiary of ours) must assume all of our obligations under the indenture or the debt securities, as appropriate.

Events of Default under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indenture with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay any installment of interest on any series of debt securities, as and when the same shall become due and payable, and such default continues for a period of 90 days; provided, however, that a valid extension of an interest payment period by us in accordance with the terms of any indenture supplemental thereto shall not constitute a default in the payment of interest for this purpose;

if we fail to pay the principal of, or premium, if any, on any series of debt securities as and when the same shall become due and payable whether at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration or otherwise, or in any payment required by any sinking or analogous fund established with respect to such series; provided, however, that a valid extension of the maturity of such debt securities in accordance with the terms of any indenture supplemental thereto shall not constitute a default in the payment of principal or premium, if any;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement contained in the debt securities or the indenture, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive written notice of such failure, requiring the same to be remedied and stating that such is a notice of default thereunder, from the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indenture, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of

Table of Contents

any series will have the right to 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, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under the indenture or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies only if:

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

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request;

such holders have offered to the trustee indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred by the trustee in compliance with the request; and

the trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indenture.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters:

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture or in the debt securities of any series;

to comply with the provisions described above under Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger or Sale;

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

to add to our covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us in the indenture;

to add to, delete from or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities, as set forth in the indenture;

to make any change that does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series in any material respect;

Table of Contents

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided above under Description of Debt Securities General to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment under any indenture by a successor trustee; or

to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

In addition, under the indenture, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we and the trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of any series of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver.

Discharge

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

provide for payment;

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

pay principal of and premium and interest on any debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

recover excess money held by the trustee;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indenture provides that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global

Table of Contents

form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. To the extent the debt securities of a series are issued in global form and as book-entry, a description of terms relating will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indenture and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indenture and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will impose no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indenture at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check that we will mail to the holder or by wire

Table of Contents

transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not limit the amount of indebtedness which we may incur, including senior indebtedness or subordinated indebtedness, and do not limit us from issuing any other debt, including secured debt or unsecured debt.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplements and free writing prospectuses, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may issue under this prospectus, which may consist of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities and may be issued in one or more series. Warrants may be issued independently or together with common stock, preferred stock or debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and may be attached to or separate from those securities. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. However, no prospectus supplement will fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness.

We have filed forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement, if any, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

Table of Contents

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of warrants being offered, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at which, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which, and the currency in which, these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreements and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

the terms of any rights to force the exercise of the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

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

the manner in which the warrant agreements and warrants may be modified;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or, payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we otherwise

Table of Contents

specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent in connection with the exercise of the warrant.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and warrant agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Outstanding Warrants to Purchase Common Stock

As of March 23, 2014, we had outstanding warrants to purchase 277,021 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$11.50 per share. We may redeem each of the warrants at a price of \$0.01 upon 30 days prior notice, provided that the warrants are exercisable and the registration statement covering the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants remains effective and available, and provided further that such redemption can only be made if the closing price of the common stock is at least \$18.00 per share for any 20 trading days within a 30-trading-day period ending on the third day prior to the date on which notice of redemption is given. If the registration statement is not still effective at the time of exercise, the holders of the warrants will not be entitled to exercise the warrants, and in no event, whether in the case of a registration statement not being effective or otherwise, will we be required to net cash settle any such warrant exercise. Consequently, the warrants may expire unexercised and unredeemed. The number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of each warrant is subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of specified events. The warrants expire in February 2015.

LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own

Table of Contents

names on the books that we or any applicable trustee or depositary maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depositary or its participants. Consequently, for global securities, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a global security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not legal holders, of the securities.

Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities that are not issued in global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we or any applicable trustee or depositary will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we or any such trustee or depositary will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee or third party employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with its participants or customers or by

Table of Contents

law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture, or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form because the securities are represented by one or more global securities or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we issue to, deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under **Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated**. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and legal holder of all securities represented by a global security, and

investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued as a global security, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Table of Contents

Special Considerations For Global Securities

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depositary, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depositary that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only as global securities, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in the global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in the global security;

we and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security, nor will we or any applicable trustee supervise the depositary in any way;

the depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in the global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, a global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own names, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

A global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

Table of Contents

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

The applicable prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository, and neither we nor any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We may also sell equity securities covered by this registration statement in an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act. Such offering may be made into an existing trading market for such securities in transactions at other than a fixed price, either:

on or through the facilities of The Nasdaq Global Select Market or any other securities exchange or quotation or trading service on which such securities may be listed, quoted or traded at the time of sale; and/or

to or through a market maker otherwise than on The Nasdaq Global Select Market or such other securities exchanges or quotation or trading services.

Such at-the-market offerings, if any, may be conducted by underwriters acting as principal or agent.

A prospectus supplement or supplements (and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

the name or names of any underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

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

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement are underwriters of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities, and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities related to this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on The Nasdaq Global Select Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on The Nasdaq Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Table of Contents

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters in connection with the offering and the validity of the securities offered by this prospectus, and any supplement thereto, will be passed upon by Cooley LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Iridium Communications Inc. appearing in Iridium Communications Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the effectiveness of Iridium Communications Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. For further information with respect to us and the securities we are offering under this prospectus, we refer you to the registration statement and the exhibits and schedules filed as a part of the registration statement. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of the securities offered by this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy the registration statement, as well as any other document filed by us with the SEC, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. You can also request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330. The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Iridium. The address of the SEC website is www.sec.gov.

We maintain a website at www.iridium.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The

Table of Contents

SEC file number for the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is 001-33963. The documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus contain important information that you should read about us.

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this document:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on March 4, 2014;

Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on March 28, 2014;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on February 18, 2014 and March 3, 2014; and

the description of our common stock, which is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on September 23, 2009, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus all documents (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) that are filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (i) after the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement, or (ii) after the date of this prospectus but prior to the termination of the offering. These documents include periodic reports, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy statements.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus, including exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to: Iridium Communications Inc., Attn: Investor Relations, 1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1400, McLean, Virginia 22102, telephone: (703) 287-7400.

Any statement contained herein or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this document will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the document to the extent that a statement contained in this document or any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this document modifies or supersedes the statement.

**DISCLOSURE OF COMMISSION POSITION ON INDEMNIFICATION FOR
SECURITIES ACT LIABILITY**

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore,

unenforceable.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-i
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-ii
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-9
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-11
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>	S-11
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-11
<u>Selected Historical Consolidated Financial and Operating Data</u>	S-12
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	S-13
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-25
<u>Experts</u>	S-25
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-25
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	S-26
Prospectus	
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Summary</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	5
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	5
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock</u>	
<u>Dividends</u>	6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	6
Table of Contents	113

<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	11
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	18
<u>Legal Ownership of Securities</u>	20
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	24
<u>Legal Matters</u>	26
<u>Experts</u>	26
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	26
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	26
<u>Disclosure of Commission Position on Indemnification for Securities Act Liability</u>	27

7,377,050 Shares

Iridium Communications Inc.

Common Stock

Prospectus Supplement

Raymond James

Deutsche Bank Securities

William Blair

May 8, 2014