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Ares Commercial Real Estate Corp  
Form S-3/A  
June 14, 2013

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 14, 2013

Registration No. 333-188496

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

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**Amendment No. 1  
to  
FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

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**Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Maryland**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**45-3148087**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**One North Wacker Drive, 48th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 252-7500**

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

**Michael D. Weiner  
2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
(310) 201-4100**

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

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**Copies of all communications to:**

**Monica J. Shilling  
Proskauer Rose LLP  
2049 Century Park East, Suite 3200  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
Tel: (310) 557-2900  
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**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:**  
**From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined by market conditions.**

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. ☐

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. ☐

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. ☐

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

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

## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(1)(7)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(2)(3)				
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(2)				
Subscription Rights(2)				
Warrants(4)				
Debt Securities(5)				
Units(6)				
Total			\$1,500,000,000(1)(7)	\$204,600(8)

(1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(o) solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee. The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the sale by the Registrant of the securities registered under this registration

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statement.

- (2) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, or subscription rights to purchase shares of common stock as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder.
- (3) Includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may, from time to time, be issued upon conversion or exchange of other securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible or exchangeable for common stock.
- (4) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of warrants as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder, representing rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities.
- (5) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate price to investors not to exceed \$1,500,000,000.
- (6) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of units. Each unit may consist of a combination of any one or more of the securities being registered hereunder and may also include securities issued by third parties, including the U.S. Treasury.
- (7) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$1,500,000,000.
- (8) Previously paid.

**THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, OR UNTIL THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.**

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**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject to Completion, dated June 14, 2013**

PROSPECTUS

**\$1,500,000,000**

**Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Debt Securities  
Subscription Rights  
Warrants  
Units**

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Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation is a Maryland corporation that was incorporated on September 1, 2011, and was initially funded and commenced investment operations on December 9, 2011. We are focused primarily on originating, investing in and managing middle market commercial real estate loans and other CRE-related investments. We completed our initial public offering on May 1, 2012. We are externally managed by Ares Commercial Real Estate Management LLC, a Securities and Exchange Commission registered investment adviser and a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, or "Ares Management," a global alternative asset manager and also a Securities and Exchange Commission registered investment adviser.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ACRE." On June 13, 2013 the last reported sales price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$15.77 per share.

**Investing in our securities involves material risks and uncertainties that should be considered. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 3 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$1,500,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights and warrants (including as part of a unit) offered hereby may be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

You should carefully read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, as well as any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein, before you invest in our securities. **This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

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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.

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The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement. Under this shelf registration statement, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$1,500,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units. You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted. You should not assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should read carefully the entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus, before making an investment decision.

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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This summary description about us and our business highlights selected information contained elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should read in their entirety this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and any other offering materials, together with all documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information." Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "ACRE," the "Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation, a Maryland corporation, together with its consolidated subsidiaries; our "Manager" refers to Ares Commercial Real Estate Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, our external manager and an affiliate of Ares Management; our "Manager's servicer" refers to Ares Commercial Real Estate Servicer LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and a subsidiary of our Manager; "Ares Management" refers to Ares Management LLC, its subsidiaries and its affiliated investment vehicles (other than us and portfolio companies of its affiliated investment vehicles) and "Ares Investments" refers to Ares Investments Holdings LLC, an affiliate of Ares Management. On February 22, 2012, we effected a one-for-two reverse stock split of our issued and outstanding common stock. Unless indicated otherwise, the information presented in this prospectus gives effect to this reverse stock split.*

**Our Company**

Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (together with our consolidated subsidiaries, the "Company," "ACRE," "we," "us" and "our") is a Maryland corporation that was incorporated on September 1, 2011, and was initially funded and commenced investment operations on December 9, 2011. We are focused primarily on originating, investing in and managing middle-market commercial real estate, or "CRE," loans and other CRE-related investments. We completed the initial public offering, or the "IPO," of our common stock on May 1, 2012. We are externally managed by Ares Commercial Real Estate Management LLC, "ACREM" or our "Manager," a Securities and Exchange Commission, or "SEC," registered investment adviser and a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, or "Ares Management," a global alternative asset manager and also a SEC registered investment adviser.

Our target investments include: "transitional senior" mortgage loans, "stretch senior" mortgage loans, subordinate debt mortgage loans such as B-notes and mezzanine loans and other select CRE debt and preferred equity investments. "Transitional senior" mortgage loans provide strategic, flexible, short-term financing solutions on transitional CRE middle market assets that are the subject of a business plan that is expected to enhance the value of the property. They are usually funded over time as the borrower's business plan for the property is executed, and have a lower initial loan-to-value ratio as compared to "stretch senior" mortgage loans. "Stretch senior" mortgage loans provide flexible "one stop" financing on quality CRE middle market assets that are typically stabilized or near-stabilized properties with healthy balance sheets and steady cash flows, with the mortgage loans having higher leverage (and thus higher loan-to-value ratios) than conventional mortgage loans and are typically fully funded at closing and non-recourse to the borrower (as compared to conventional mortgage loans, which are usually full recourse to the borrower).

On May 14, 2013, we announced that we entered into an agreement to purchase (the "Alliant Acquisition") EF&A Funding, L.L.C., d/b/a Alliant Capital LLC ("Alliant Capital"), which housed the multi-family residential mortgage loan origination and servicing business of the Alliant Companies, a family of privately owned, fully integrated national finance and investment firms. Completion of the Alliant Acquisition is subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions, and there can be no assurance that the transaction will close on the terms anticipated or at all. Upon Alliant Capital becoming one of our wholly owned subsidiaries, we will be able to utilize the platform of certain U.S. Government-sponsored entities, including the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal



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Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to originate and service multifamily residential mortgage loans.

We intend to elect and qualify to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or "REIT," under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the "Code," commencing with the Company's taxable year ended December 31, 2012. To the extent that we annually distribute at least 100% of our REIT taxable income (which does not equal net income, as calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or "GAAP") to our stockholders and comply with various other requirements as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes on our REIT taxable income, determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gains.

### **Corporate Information**

We are a Maryland corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at One North Wacker Drive, 48th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Our telephone number is (312) 252-7500. Our website is [www.arescre.com](http://www.arescre.com). The contents of our website are not a part of this prospectus. The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus. We own or have rights to trademarks or trade names that we use in conjunction with the operation of our business. Any trademark, trade name or service mark of any other company appearing in this prospectus or any document incorporated by reference herein belongs to its holder. Use or display by us of other parties' trademarks, trade names or service marks is not intended to and does not imply a relationship with, or endorsement or sponsorship by us of, the trademark, trade name or service mark owner.

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**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in the section "Risk Factors" contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, which has been filed with the SEC as well as other information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before making a decision to invest in our securities. Each of the risks described could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations or ability to make distributions to our stockholders. In such case, you could lose all or a portion of your original investment. See "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 61 of this prospectus.

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We make forward-looking statements in this prospectus that are subject to risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives. When we use the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "plan," "continue," "intend," "should," "may" or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking:

the use of proceeds of any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement;

our business and investment strategy;

our projected operating results;

the timing of cash flows, if any, from our investments;

the state of the U.S. economy generally or in specific geographic regions;

defaults by borrowers in paying debt service on outstanding items;

actions and initiatives of the U.S. Government and changes to U.S. Government policies;

our ability to obtain financing arrangements;

the amount of commercial mortgage loans requiring refinancing;

financing and advance rates for our target investments;

our expected leverage;

general volatility of the securities markets in which we may invest;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;

the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;

the return or impact of current and future investments;

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allocation of investment opportunities to us by our Manager;

changes in interest rates and the market value of our investments;

effects of hedging instruments on our target investments;

rates of default or decreased recovery rates on our target investments;

the degree to which our hedging strategies may or may not protect us from interest rate volatility;

changes in governmental regulations, tax law and rates, and similar matters (including interpretation thereof);

our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT;

our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

availability of investment opportunities in mortgage related and real estate related investments and securities;

the ability of our Manager to locate suitable investments for us, monitor, service and administer our investments and execute our investment strategy;

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our ability to successfully complete and integrate any acquisitions;

availability of qualified personnel;

estimates relating to our ability to make distributions to our stockholders in the future;

our understanding of our competition; and

market trends in our industry, interest rates, real estate values, the debt securities markets or the general economy.

The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. Some of these factors are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Such new risks and uncertainties may be included in the documents that we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus which will be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should carefully consider these risks before you make an investment decision with respect to our securities.

For more information regarding risks that may cause our actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in the other documents that we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus, which will be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

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

The following table sets forth (i) our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and (ii) our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated. For purposes of calculating these ratios, "earnings" includes income from continuing operations plus fixed charges. "Fixed charges" consists of interest expense and amortization of discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness. In computing the ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, preferred stock dividends consists of 2012 dividends on our Series A Convertible Preferred Stock. We redeemed all of the outstanding shares of our Series A Convertible Preferred Stock on May 1, 2012.

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2013	For the Year Ended December 31, 2012	For the Period September 1, 2011 (inception) to December 31, 2011
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	1.11x	1.34x	(3.17)x <sup>(a)</sup>
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	1.11x	1.07x	(3.17)x <sup>(a)</sup>

(a) Our earnings were insufficient to cover our fixed charges and our combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by \$0.2 million.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities to acquire target assets, repay indebtedness or for general corporate purposes. Further details relating to the use of the net proceeds will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES**

This prospectus contains a summary of our capital stock, preferred stock, subscription rights, debt securities, warrants and units. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms and conditions for each security.

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**DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK**

**General**

We were formed under the laws of the state of Maryland. The rights of our stockholders are governed by Maryland law as well as our charter and bylaws. The following summary of the terms of our capital stock is only a summary, and you should refer to the Maryland General Corporate Law (the "MGCL"), and our charter and bylaws for a full description. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the detailed information contained in our charter and bylaws. Copies of our charter and bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Our charter authorizes us to issue up to 450,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 50,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. Our charter authorizes our board of directors to amend our charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue without stockholder approval. Under Maryland law, stockholders are not generally liable for our debts or obligations.

Our charter also contains a provision permitting our board of directors, by resolution, to classify or reclassify any unissued common stock or preferred stock into one or more classes or series by setting or changing the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications, or terms or conditions of redemption of any new class or series of stock, subject to certain restrictions, including the express terms of any class or series of stock outstanding at the time. We believe that the power to classify or reclassify unissued shares of stock and thereafter issue the classified or reclassified shares provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise.

Our charter and bylaws contain certain provisions that could make it more difficult to acquire control of the Company by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions are expected to discourage certain types of coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids and to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of the Company to negotiate first with our board of directors. We believe that these provisions increase the likelihood that proposals initially will be on more attractive terms than would be the case in their absence and facilitate negotiations that may result in improvement of the terms of an initial offer that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders. See "Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure."

**Common Stock**

Subject to any preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on the ownership and transfer of stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to such distributions as may be authorized from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds and declared by us and, upon our liquidation, are entitled to receive all assets available for distribution to our stockholders. Holders of common stock generally will not have preemptive rights, which means that they will not have an automatic option to purchase any new shares that we issue, or preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights. Holders of common stock generally will have no appraisal rights unless our board of directors determines that appraisal rights apply, with respect to all or any classes or series of stock, to one or more transactions occurring after the date of such determination in connection with which stockholders would otherwise be entitled to exercise appraisal rights.

The holders of common stock vote together as a single class on all matters. Holders of shares of common stock are entitled to vote for the election of directors. Directors may be removed from office,



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only for cause, by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast not less than two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors. Vacancies on the board of directors resulting from death, resignation, removal or otherwise and newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the number of directors may be filled only by a majority of the directors then in office (although less than a quorum). Any such director elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the class in which such vacancy occurred and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal.

**Preferred Stock**

Our charter authorizes our board of directors, without stockholder approval, to designate and issue one or more classes or series of preferred stock and to set or change the voting, conversion or other rights, preferences, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions and qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption of each class of shares so issued. If any preferred stock is offered, the terms and conditions of such preferred stock, including any convertible preferred stock, will be set forth in articles supplementary and if such preferred stock is offered pursuant to a registration statement, described in a registration statement registering the issuance of such preferred stock. Because our board of directors has the power to establish the preferences and rights of each class or series of preferred stock, it may afford the holders of any series or class of preferred stock preferences, powers, and rights senior to the rights of holders of common stock or other preferred stock. If we ever create and issue additional preferred stock with a distribution preference over common stock or preferred stock, payment of any distribution preferences of new outstanding preferred stock would reduce the amount of funds available for the payment of distributions on the common stock and junior preferred stock. Further, holders of preferred stock are normally entitled to receive a preference payment if we liquidate, dissolve, or wind up before any payment is made to the common stockholders, likely reducing the amount common stockholders would otherwise receive upon such an occurrence. In addition, under certain circumstances, the issuance of additional preferred stock may delay, prevent, render more difficult or tend to discourage the following:

a merger, tender offer, or proxy contest;

the assumption of control by a holder of a large block of our securities; or

the removal of incumbent management.

Also, our board of directors, without stockholder approval, may issue additional preferred stock with voting and conversion rights that could adversely affect the holders of common stock or preferred stock.

**Meetings and Special Voting Requirements**

Subject to our charter restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock and except as may otherwise be specified in our charter, including with respect to the vote by the common stock for the election of directors, each holder of common stock is entitled at each meeting of stockholders to one vote per share owned by such stockholder on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our board of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of shares of our outstanding common stock can elect all the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares of common stock will not be able to elect any directors.

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business, unless declared advisable by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be

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cast on the matter. However, a Maryland corporation may provide in its charter for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Except for certain amendments of our charter relating to the removal of directors and the vote required to amend certain provisions of the charter, our charter provides for a majority vote in these situations.

An annual meeting of our stockholders will be held each year beginning in 2013. Special meetings of stockholders may be called upon the request of a majority of our directors, the chairman of the board of directors, the president or the chief executive officer and must be called by our secretary to act on any matter that may properly be considered at a meeting of stockholders upon the written request of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on such matter at the meeting (subject to the stockholders' compliance with certain procedures set forth in our bylaws). The presence of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting on any matter, either in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum.

One or more persons who together are and for at least six months have been stockholders of record of at least five percent of the outstanding shares of any class of our stock are entitled to receive a copy of our stockholder list upon request in accordance with Maryland law. The list provided by us will include each stockholder's name and address and the number of shares owned by each stockholder and will be made available within 20 days of the receipt by us of the request. Stockholders and their representatives shall also be given access to our bylaws, the minutes of stockholder proceedings, our annual statements of affairs and any voting trust agreements on file at our principal office during usual business hours. We have the right to request that a requesting stockholder represent to us that the list and records will not be used to pursue commercial interests.

### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our stock. The relevant sections of our charter provide that, subject to certain exceptions, no person or entity may own, or be deemed to own, beneficially or by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% in value of the aggregate of our outstanding shares of stock or 9.8% by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of our stock. For a description of these ownership limits and other restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, see "Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

### **Stockholder Liability**

The MGCL provides that our stockholders:

are not liable personally or individually in any manner whatsoever for any debt, act, omission or obligation incurred by us or our board of directors; and

are under no obligation to us or our creditors with respect to their shares other than the obligation to pay to us the full amount of the consideration for which their shares were issued.

### **Business Combinations**

Under Maryland law, "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the

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statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation's outstanding voting stock; or

an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding stock of the corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder under the statute if the board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which he otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, the board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These supermajority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Pursuant to the statute, our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination with Ares Investments or any of its affiliates. Consequently, the five-year prohibition and the supermajority vote requirements will not apply to business combinations between us and Ares Investments or any of its affiliates. As a result, Ares Investments or any of its affiliates may be able to enter into business combinations with us that may not be in the best interest of our stockholders, without compliance with the supermajority vote requirements and the other provisions of the statute.

The business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

With some exceptions, Maryland law provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of stockholders holding two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding "control shares":

owned by the acquiring person;

owned by our officers; and

owned by our employees who are also directors.

"Control shares" mean voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquirer in respect of which the acquirer can exercise or direct the exercise of voting



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power, would entitle the acquiring person to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more, but less than one-third of all voting power;

one-third or more, but less than a majority of all voting power; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition occurs when, subject to some exceptions, a person directly or indirectly acquires ownership or the power to direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy) of issued and outstanding control shares. A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of some specific conditions, including an undertaking to pay expenses, may compel our board of directors to call a special meeting of our stockholders to be held within 50 days of a request to consider the voting rights of the control shares. If no request for a meeting is made, we may present the question at any stockholders' meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement on or before the 10th day after the control share acquisition as required by the statute, then, subject to some conditions and limitations, we may redeem any or all the control shares (except those for which voting rights have been previously approved) for fair value, determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquirer or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquirer becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquirer in the control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation, or share exchange if we are a party to the transaction or to acquisitions approved or exempted by our charter or bylaws.

As permitted by the MGCL, our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions of our stock. There can be no assurance that this provision will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future.

### **Subtitle 8**

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Exchange Act and at least three independent directors to elect to be subject, by provision in its charter or bylaws or a resolution of its board of directors and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the charter or bylaws, to any or all of five provisions:

a classified board;

a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;

a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of the directors;

a requirement that a vacancy on the board of directors be filled only by affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office and for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred; and

a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

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Pursuant to Subtitle 8, we have elected in our charter and bylaws to provide that vacancies on our board of directors may be filled by the remaining directors and any such director elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the class in which such vacancy occurred and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. Through provisions unrelated to Subtitle 8, our charter also vests in the board of directors the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships, provides that any director may be removed from office, only for cause, by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast not less than two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors, and requires (unless called upon the request of a majority of our directors, the chairman of the board of directors, the president or the chief executive officer) the written request of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on any matter that may properly be considered at a meeting of stockholders to call a special meeting to act on such matter.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our shares of common stock will be Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

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**SUMMARY OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

Each stockholder is bound by and deemed to have agreed to the terms of our organizational documents by virtue of the election to become a stockholder. Our organizational documents consist of our charter and bylaws. The following is a summary of material provisions of our organizational documents and does not contain all of the information about our charter and bylaws that you should consider before investing in our common stock. Our organizational documents are filed as exhibits to our registration statement, of which this prospectus is part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

**Charter and Bylaw Provisions**

The rights of stockholders and related matters are governed by our organizational documents and Maryland law. Certain provisions of these documents or of Maryland law, summarized below, may make it difficult to change the composition of our board of directors and could have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a change in control of us, including an extraordinary transaction (such as a merger, tender offer or sale of all or substantially all of our assets) that might provide a premium price for holders of our common stock. See generally "Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure."

**Stockholders' Meetings and Voting Rights**

We expect we will hold an annual meeting of stockholders beginning in 2013. The purpose of each annual meeting will be to elect directors and to transact any other business. The chairman, the chief executive officer, the president or a majority of the directors also may call a special meeting of the stockholders. The secretary must call a special meeting to act on any matter that may properly be considered at a meeting of stockholders when stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on such matter at the meeting make a written request (subject to the stockholders' compliance with certain procedures set forth in our bylaws).

We will give notice of any annual or special meeting of stockholders not less than ten nor more than ninety days before the meeting. The notice must state the purpose of the special meeting. At any meeting of the stockholders, each stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share owned of record on the applicable record date. In general, the presence in person or by proxy of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting on any matter will constitute a quorum. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast and a majority of votes cast will be sufficient to approve any other matter that may properly come before the meeting, unless more than a majority of the votes cast is required by law or our charter.

**Classified Board of Directors**

Pursuant to our charter, our board of directors will be divided into three classes of directors. The initial terms of the first, second and third classes will expire in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Beginning in 2013, directors of each class will be chosen for three-year terms upon the expiration of their current terms with the term of office of only one of the three classes expiring each year. A classified board may render a change in control of us or removal of our incumbent management more difficult. We believe, however, that the longer time required to elect a majority of a classified board of directors helps to ensure the continuity and stability of our management and policies. Under our organizational documents, we must have at least the minimum number of directors required by the MGCL but not more than 15 directors. We currently have eight directors. A director may resign at any time. A director may be removed from office only for cause by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast not less than two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors. A vacancy on the board of directors caused by the death, removal or resignation of a director

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or by an increase in the number of directors, within the limits described above, may be filled only by the vote of a majority of the remaining directors whether or not the voting directors constitute a quorum.

These provisions preclude stockholders from (a) removing incumbent directors except upon a substantial affirmative vote, and (b) filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

Maryland law provides that any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors also may be taken without a meeting by the unanimous written or electronic consent of all directors.

The approval by our board of directors and by holders of a majority of our outstanding voting shares of stock is generally necessary for us to do any of the following:

amend certain provisions of our charter;

transfer all or substantially all of our assets other than in the ordinary course of business;

engage in mergers, consolidations or share exchanges; or

liquidate and dissolve.

### **Inspection of Books and Records; Stockholder Lists**

Any stockholder or his or her designated representative will be permitted, during usual business hours, to inspect and obtain copies of our bylaws, the minutes of stockholder proceedings, our annual statements of affairs and any voting trust agreements on file at our principal office. One or more persons who together are and for at least six months have been stockholders of record of at least five percent of the outstanding shares of any class of our stock may also request a copy of our stockholder list, although the request cannot be made to secure a copy of our stockholder list or other information for the purpose of selling the list or using the list or other information for a commercial purpose.

### **Amendment of the Charter and Bylaws**

Except for those amendments permitted to be made without stockholder approval and certain amendments relating to the removal of directors and the vote required to amend certain provisions of our charter (which require the approval of stockholders entitled to cast two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the matter), our charter may be amended only if the amendment is declared advisable by our board of directors and approved by the stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our bylaws may be amended in any manner not inconsistent with the charter by a majority vote of our directors present at a board meeting at which a quorum is present.

### **Dissolution or Termination of the Company**

As a Maryland corporation, we may be dissolved at any time after a determination by a majority of the entire board of directors that dissolution is advisable and the approval of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

### **Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business**

Proposals to elect directors or conduct other business at an annual or special meeting must be brought in accordance with our bylaws. The bylaws provide that any business may be transacted at the annual meeting without being specifically designated in the notice of meeting. However, with respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in the notice of the special meeting may be brought at that meeting.



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Our bylaws also provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (a) pursuant to the Company's notice of meeting, (b) by or at the direction of our board of directors, or (c) by any stockholder who is a stockholder of record both at the time of giving of notice pursuant to the bylaws and at the time of the annual meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each individual so nominated or on any such other business and who has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in our bylaws.

A notice of a director nomination or stockholder proposal to be considered at an annual meeting must be delivered to our secretary at our principal executive offices:

not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the 120th day nor earlier than 150 days prior to the first anniversary of the date of release of the proxy statement for the previous year's annual meeting; or

if the date of the meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from the anniversary date of the preceding year's annual meeting or if an annual meeting has not yet been held, not earlier than 150 days prior to the annual meeting or not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the later of the 120th day prior to the annual meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made.

The purpose of requiring stockholders to give us advance notice of nominations and other business is to afford our board of directors a meaningful opportunity to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees and the advisability of any other proposed business and, to the extent deemed necessary or desirable by our board of directors, to inform stockholders and make recommendations about such qualifications or business, as well as to provide a more orderly procedure for conducting meetings of stockholders. Although our bylaws do not give our board of directors any power to disapprove stockholder nominations for the election of directors or proposals recommending certain action, they may have the effect of precluding a contest for the election of directors or the consideration of stockholder proposals if proper procedures are not followed and of discouraging or deterring a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or to approve its own proposal without regard to whether consideration of such nominees or proposals might be harmful or beneficial to us and our stockholders.

Nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors may be made at a special meeting, (a) by or at the direction of our board of directors or (b) provided that the special meeting has been called for the purpose of electing directors, by any stockholder who is a stockholder of record both at the time of giving of notice and at the time of the special meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each individual so nominated and who complies with the notice procedures set forth in our bylaws.

A notice of a director nomination to be considered at a special meeting must be delivered to our secretary at our principal executive offices:

not earlier than 150 days prior to the special meeting; and

not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the later of either:

120 days prior to the special meeting; or

ten days following the day of our first public announcement of the date of the special meeting and the nominees proposed by our board of directors to be elected at the meeting.

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**Indemnification and Limitation of Directors' and Officers' Liability**

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision that eliminates such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The MGCL requires us (unless our charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that:

the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (a) was committed in bad faith or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under the MGCL, a Maryland