

ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION INC

Form S-3

November 09, 2009

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 6, 2009

Registration No.: 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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

**Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc.**

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

**Nevada**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of*

**84-1018684**  
*(I.R.S. Employer*

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*incorporation or organization)*

*Identification Number)*

**5215 West Laurel Street**

**Tampa, Florida 33607**

**(813) 876-1776**

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

**Gregory P. Stemm, Chief Executive Officer**

**5215 West Laurel Street**

**Tampa, Florida 33607**

**(813) 876-1776**

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

*Copies to:*

**David M. Doney, Esq.**

**Akerman Senterfitt**

**401 East Jackson Street, Suite 1700**

**Tampa, Florida 33602**

**Telephone: (813) 209-5070**

**Facsimile: (813) 218-5404**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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

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If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, 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 small reporting company. See the definition of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and small reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (check one):

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

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of<br>Securities to be Registered | Amount<br>to be<br>Registered(1) | Proposed<br>Maximum<br>Offering Price<br>Per Unit(2) | Proposed<br>Maximum<br>Aggregate<br>Offering Price | Amount of<br>Registration Fee(3) |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (4)        |                                  |  |  |                                  |
| Preferred Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (4)     |                                  |  |  |                                  |
| Debt Securities (5)                                   |                                  |  |  |                                  |
| Warrants (4)  |                                  |  |  |                                  |
| <b>Total (6)</b>                                      | \$50,000,000                     |  | \$50,000,000                                       | \$2,790.00                       |

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, which permits the registration fee to be calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price of all securities listed, the table does not specify information as to the amount of any particular security to be registered.
- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the Securities Act.
- (4) Subject to Note 6 below, the registrant is registering hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, and warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, or debt securities of the registrant as may be sold from time to time by the registrant. Pursuant to Rule 457(i), this includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, and debt securities as are issuable upon conversion of, or exchange for, preferred stock or debt securities or upon exercise of any warrant securities or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of any such securities.
- (5)

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Subject to Note 6 below, the registrant is registering hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities as may be sold from time to time by the registrant. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount at maturity as shall result in aggregate gross proceeds to the registrant not to exceed \$50,000,000, less the gross proceeds attributable to any securities previously issued pursuant to this registration statement.

- (6) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$50,000,000 separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder.

**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 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**Table of Contents**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may change. 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 it is not soliciting an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject to Completion Dated November 6, 2009**

**PROSPECTUS**

**\$50,000,000**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Warrants**

From time to time, we may sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, and/or warrants with a maximum aggregate offering price of \$50,000,000.

We will describe in one or more prospectus supplements the securities we are offering and selling, as well as the specific terms of the securities. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplements carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The securities may be sold directly by us to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled Plan of Distribution. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. 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. See Risk Factors beginning on page 1 of this prospectus. We may also include specific risk factors in an applicable prospectus supplement under the heading Risk Factors. You should review that section of the prospectus supplement for a discussion of matters that investors in our securities should consider.**

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol OMEX. On November 4, 2009, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market was \$1.38 per share.

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

**The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.**

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents**

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u>                             | 1           |
| <u>About Odyssey</u>                                     | 1           |
| <u>Risk Factors</u>                                      | 1           |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 2           |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>                | 2           |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u>                                   | 3           |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u>                      | 3           |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u>                    | 4           |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u>                           | 20          |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u>                              | 23          |
| <u>Legal Matters</u>                                     | 25          |
| <u>Experts</u>   | 25          |
| <u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u>         | 25          |
| <u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>               | 26          |

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. We are not making an offer of common stock in any state or jurisdiction where such an offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of such document.**

## **Table of Contents**

### **About this Prospectus**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, and/or warrants in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$50,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information. We may also add, update, or change in the prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with applicable prospectus supplements, includes all material information relating to this offering. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under **Where You Can Find More Information**.

In this prospectus, we use the terms **Odyssey**, **our company**, **we**, **us**, and **our** to refer to Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

### **About Odyssey**

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., or Odyssey, is engaged in the archaeologically sensitive exploration and recovery of deep-water shipwrecks throughout the world. We employ advanced, state-of-the-art technology including side-scan sonar, remotely-operated vehicles, or ROVs, and other advanced technology that enables us to locate and recover shipwrecks at depths that were previously unreachable in an economically feasible manner.

Our corporate offices are located at 5215 West Laurel Street, Tampa, Florida 33607. Our telephone number is (813) 876-1776. Our Internet website address is [www.shipwreck.net](http://www.shipwreck.net), and all of our filings with the SEC are available free of charge on our website. Any information that is included on or linked to our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus.

### **Risk Factors**

The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in Odyssey and to the particular types of securities that we are offering under that prospectus supplement. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific factors discussed under the caption **Risk Factors** in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties, and assumptions discussed under the caption **Risk Factors** included in our latest Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and which may be amended, supplemented, or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future.



**Table of Contents****Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement includes and incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, or Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, with respect to our financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance, and business, which are usually identified by the use of words such as will, may, anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, projects, plans, predicts, continues, would, or similar expressions. We intend for these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and are including this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions.

These forward-looking statements reflect our current views and expectations about our plans, strategies, and prospects, which are based on the information currently available and on current assumptions.

We cannot give any guarantee that these plans, intentions, or expectations will be achieved. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those factors described under the heading Risk Factors and any risk factors contained in any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein.

You should read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents that we incorporate by reference herein and therein completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We may not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

**Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges**

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

|  | Ten<br>Months                    |             |                                |             |             | Nine Months<br>Ended<br>September 30,<br>2009 |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|
|  | Ended<br>December 31,<br>2004(1) | 2005        | Fiscal Year Ended December 31, |             | 2008        |   |
|  |                                  | 2006        | 2007                           |             |             |   |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (2) | 151.3x                           |             |                                |             |             |   |
| Coverage deficiency (in thousands)     |                                  | \$ (11,638) | \$ (19,088)                    | \$ (23,833) | \$ (24,841) | \$ (14,671)                                   |

- (1) On May 26, 2004, we adopted December as our new fiscal year effective December 31, 2004. Information in this column relates to the ten-month transition period ended December 31, 2004.
- (2) These ratios are calculated by dividing (a) earnings before income taxes plus fixed charges less preferred dividend requirements by (b) fixed charges. Fixed charges include interest expense, the portion of interest expense we deem to be representative of interest, and preferred stock dividend requirements. As of the date of this prospectus, we had 1,906,413 shares of preferred stock outstanding, 1,906,400 of which were designated as Series D Convertible Preferred Stock and 13 of which were designated as Series E Convertible Preferred stock. The holders of the shares of Series D or Series E Convertible Preferred Stock are not entitled to receive any dividends. Accordingly, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges is equal to the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends for each of the periods.

**Table of Contents**

**Use of Proceeds**

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus. Except as described in any prospectus supplement, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus for working capital, capital expenditures, and other general corporate purposes. However, we currently have no commitments or agreements for any uses. Pending such uses, we intend to invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

**Description of Capital Stock**

The following description of our capital stock, together with the additional information included in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of these types of securities but is not complete. You should read our certificate of incorporation, as amended, our bylaws, as amended, and the certificate of designation relating to any particular series of preferred stock before you purchase any of our capital stock or securities convertible into shares of our capital stock because those documents, and not this description, set forth the terms of our capital stock.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement the specific terms of any capital stock we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. If indicated in a prospectus supplement, the terms of such capital stock may differ from the terms described below.

**Authorized Capital Stock**

Our authorized capitalization consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, and 9,810,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.0001 per share.

The authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. If the approval of our stockholders is not so required, our board of directors may determine not to seek stockholder approval.

**Common Stock**

As of October 15, 2009, we had 59,326,194 shares of common stock outstanding. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by our shareholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of our preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to preferences applicable to shares of our preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking-fund provisions available to the common stock. All outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus will be, fully paid and nonassessable.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, Inc., Golden, Colorado.

### **Preferred Stock**

We have authority under our articles of incorporation to issue up to 9,810,000 shares of our preferred stock, par value \$.0001 per share, of which (a) 7,340,000 shares have been designated as Series D convertible preferred stock and (b) 20 shares have been designated as Series E convertible preferred stock. The remaining 2,469,980 are presently undesignated. As of October 15, 2009, there were 1,906,400 shares of Series D convertible preferred stock and 13 shares of Series E convertible preferred stock issued and outstanding. As of such date, there were no other shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Our board of directors, without further stockholder approval (except as may be required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded) has the authority to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges, and restrictions thereof, including:

dividend rights;

dividend rates;

conversion rights;

voting rights;

terms of redemption;

redemption prices;

liquidation preferences; and

the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of such series.

If our board of directors elects to exercise this authority, the rights and privileges of holders of shares of our common stock could be made subject to the rights and privileges of such series of preferred stock.

Although our board of directors has no intention at the present time of doing so, it could issue a series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of such series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer, or other takeover attempt.

### **Description of Debt Securities**

#### **General**

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus that are common to all series. The specific terms relating to any series of our debt securities that we offer will be described in a prospectus supplement. You should read the applicable prospectus



## **Table of Contents**

supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. Because the terms of specific series of debt securities offered may differ from the general information that we have provided below, you should rely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement that contradicts any information below.

As required by federal law for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities will be governed by a document called an indenture. An indenture is a contract between a financial institution, acting on your behalf as trustee of the debt securities offered, and us. The debt securities will be issued pursuant to an indenture that we will enter into with a trustee that will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. When we refer to the indenture in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which your debt securities are issued, as may be supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to your debt securities. The trustee has two main roles. First, subject to some limitations on the extent to which the trustee can act on your behalf, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default on our obligations under the indenture. Second, the trustee performs certain administrative duties for us with respect to the debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the following section is a summary of the principal terms and provisions that will be included in the indenture. This summary is not complete. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the indenture. If we refer to particular provisions in the indenture, such provisions, including the definition of terms, are incorporated by reference in this prospectus as part of this summary. We urge you to read the indenture and any supplement thereto that are applicable to you because the indenture, and not this section, defines your rights as a holder of debt securities. The form of indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

### **General Terms of Debt Securities**

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities offered hereby will be unsecured obligations of Odyssey and will be either our senior unsecured obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the senior debt securities, or our subordinated unsecured obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities will rank equal in right of payment to all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the senior debt securities and all of our other senior indebtedness, as described below under Subordination Provisions.

The indenture contains covenants with respect to the following matters:

payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest;

maintenance of an office or agency in each place of payment;

arrangements regarding the handling of money held in trust;

maintenance of corporate existence;

maintenance of insurance; and

statement by officers as to default.

We may agree to additional covenants for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities, and, if so, these will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Table of Contents**

The indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that we can issue under it, nor does it limit us from incurring or issuing other unsecured or secured debt. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture pursuant to which the debt securities are issued will not contain any financial covenants or other provisions that protect you in the event we issue a large amount of debt, or in the event that we are acquired by another entity (including in a highly leveraged transaction).

### **Specific Terms of Debt Securities**

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. The terms of the debt securities described in such prospectus supplement may include the following, as applicable to the series of debt securities offered thereby:

the title of the debt securities;

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

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and whether there is any limit on such aggregate principal amount;

whether we may reopen the series of debt securities for issuances of additional debt securities of such series;

the date or dates, or how the date or dates will be determined, when the principal amount of the debt securities will be payable;

the amount payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities, or how this amount will be determined;

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, that the debt securities will bear, if any, or how such interest rate or rates will be determined;

the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, or how such date or dates will be determined;

the interest payment dates and the record dates for these interest payments;

whether the debt securities are redeemable at our option;

whether there are any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to purchase or otherwise redeem the debt securities;

the form in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than in registered book-entry only form represented by global securities; whether we will have the option of issuing debt securities in certificated form; whether we will have the option of issuing certificated debt securities in bearer form if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons; any restrictions on the offer,

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sale, or delivery of bearer securities and the terms, if any, upon which bearer securities of the series may be exchanged for registered securities of the series and vice versa (if permitted by applicable laws and regulations);

the currency or currencies of the debt securities;

**Table of Contents**

whether the amount of payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula, or other method (which could be based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices, or other indices) and how these amounts will be determined;

the place or places for payment, transfer, conversion, and/or exchange of the debt securities;

the denominations in which the offered debt securities will be issued;

the applicability of the provisions of the indenture described under "defeasance" and any provisions in modification of, in addition to, or in lieu of any of these provisions;

material federal income tax considerations that are specific to the series of debt securities offered;

any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

whether the debt securities will contain provisions restricting the declaration of dividends or requiring the maintenance of any asset ratio or the creation or maintenance of reserves;

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

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed offered at an "original issue discount";

whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities and the applicable terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange;

if the debt securities are to be secured, the provisions applicable to such security; and

any other terms specific to the series of debt securities offered.

**Redemption**

If the debt securities are redeemable, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such redemption, including:

the redemption prices (or method of calculating the same);

the redemption period (or method of determining the same);



whether such debt securities are redeemable in whole or in part at our option; and

any other provisions affecting the redemption of such debt securities.

**Conversion and Exchange**

If any series of the debt securities offered are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or other securities (which could include securities issued by third parties, including our affiliates), the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange, including:

the conversion price or exchange ratio (or method of calculating the same);

the conversion or exchange period (or method of determining the same);

## **Table of Contents**

whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, at our option, or at the option of the holder;

the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or the exchange ratio; and

any other provisions affecting conversion or exchange of such debt securities.

### **Form and Denomination of Debt Securities**

#### ***Denomination of Debt Securities***

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be denominated in U.S. dollars, in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and multiples thereof.

#### ***Registered Form***

We may issue the debt securities in registered form, in which case we may issue them either in book-entry form only or in certificated form. We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities issued in book-entry form will be represented by global securities, as described below under Global Securities.

#### ***Bearer Form***

We also will have the option of issuing debt securities in non-registered form, as bearer securities, if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons. In that case, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the mechanics for holding the bearer securities, including the procedures for receiving payments, for exchanging the bearer securities for registered securities of the same series, and for receiving notices. The applicable prospectus supplement will also describe the requirements with respect to our maintenance of offices or agencies outside the United States and the applicable U.S. federal tax law requirements.

### **Holders of Registered Debt Securities**

#### ***Book-Entry Holders***

We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities held in book-entry form will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a depository or its nominee. The depository or its nominee will hold such global securities on behalf of financial institutions that participate in such depository's book-entry system. These participating financial institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the global securities either on their own behalf or on behalf of their customers.

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

## **Table of Contents**

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

### ***Street Name Holders***

In the event that we issue debt securities in certificated form, or in the event that a global security is terminated, investors may choose to hold their debt securities either in their own names or in street name. Debt securities held in street name are registered in the name of a bank, broker, or other financial institution chosen by the investor, and the investor would hold a beneficial interest in those debt securities through the account that he or she maintains at such bank, broker, or other financial institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers, and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions will pass along the payments that they receive from us to their customers who are the beneficial owners pursuant to agreements that they have entered into with such customers or by law; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities or the terms of the indenture. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect holders, and not direct holders, of the debt securities.

### ***Registered Holders***

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

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the registered holder of the debt securities, we have no further responsibility with respect to such payment or notice even if that registered holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend an indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture), we would seek the approval only from the registered holders, and not the indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the registered holders contact the indirect holders is up to the registered holders.

Notwithstanding the above, when we refer to you or your in this prospectus, we are referring to investors who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the registered holders or only indirect holders of the debt securities offered. When we refer to your debt securities in this prospectus, we mean the series of debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

### ***Special Considerations for Indirect Holders***

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker, or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, we urge you to check with that institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

**Table of Contents**

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for its consent as a registered holder of the debt securities, if ever required;

if permitted for a particular series of debt securities, whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a registered holder of such debt securities;

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

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

**Global Securities**

A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we 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 debt securities that we issue in book-entry form. A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, 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 holder of all debt 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 either with the depository or with another institution that has an account with the depository. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a registered holder of the debt security, but an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

***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 depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. The depository that holds the global security will be considered the registered holder of the debt securities represented by such global security.

If debt securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in his or her name and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below under *Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated*.

## **Table of Contents**

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under  **Holders of Registered Debt Securities** above.

An investor may not be able to sell his or her interest in the debt securities to some insurance companies and 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 debt securities in circumstances where certificates representing the debt 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 debt securities. Neither the trustee nor we have any responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for the depositary's records of ownership interests in a global security. Additionally, neither the trustee nor we supervise the depositary in any way.

DTC requires that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security that is deposited in its book-entry system use immediately available funds. Your broker or bank may also require you to use immediately available funds when purchasing or selling interests in a global security.

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

### ***Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated***

In a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in the global security will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form, referred to as **certificated** debt securities. After such an exchange, it will be up to the investor as to whether to hold the certificated debt securities directly or in street name. We have described the rights of direct holders and street name holders under

**Holders of Registered Debt Securities** above. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in a global security exchanged for certificated debt securities to be held directly in their own names upon termination of a global security.

The special situations for termination of a global security are as follows: