

NATIONAL STEEL & SHIPBUILDING CO
Form S-3ASR
December 08, 2008

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 8, 2008

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

General Dynamics Corporation*

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

2941 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 100

Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4513

(703) 876-3000

13-1673581
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

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

David A. Savner, Esq.

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

2941 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 100

Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4513

(703) 876-3000

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

Copy to:

Joseph P. Gromacki, Esq.

Brian R. Boch, Esq.

Jenner & Block LLP

330 N. Wabash Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 222-9350

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)	Amount of Registration Fee (1)
		Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (1)		
Debt Securities Guarantees (2)				

- (1) An indeterminate amount of securities to be offered at indeterminate prices is being registered pursuant to this registration statement. The registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 456(b) and is omitting this information in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r).
- (2) No separate consideration will be received for any guarantees. Pursuant to Rule 457(n), no separate fee is required to be paid in respect of the guarantees of the debt securities which are being registered concurrently.

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***TABLE OF ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS**

Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter	State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization	I.R.S. Employer Identification No.	Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices
American Overseas Marine Corporation	Delaware	43-1273477	100 Newport Avenue Extension Quincy, Massachusetts 02171 (617) 786-8300
Bath Iron Works Corporation	Maine	39-1343528	700 Washington Street Bath, Maine 04530 (207) 443-3311
Electric Boat Corporation	Delaware	51-0369496	75 Eastern Point Road Groton, Connecticut 06340-4989 (860) 433-3000
General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, Inc.	Delaware	54-1828437	Four LakePointe Plaza 2118 Water Ridge Parkway Charlotte, North Carolina 28217 (704) 714-8000
General Dynamics Government Systems Corporation	Delaware	16-1190245	2941 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 100 Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4513 (703) 876-3000
General Dynamics Land Systems Inc.	Delaware	54-0582680	38500 Mound Road Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310-3268 (586) 825-4000
General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, Inc.	Virginia	06-1458069	11399 16th Court North, Suite 200 St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 (727) 578-8100
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation	Delaware	13-3554834	500 Gulfstream Road Savannah, Georgia 31408 (912) 965-3000
National Steel and	Nevada	95-2076637	P.O. Box 85278

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Shipbuilding Company

San Diego, California 92186-5278

(619) 544-3400

PROSPECTUS

DEBT SECURITIES

Guaranteed By:

American Overseas Marine Corporation

General Dynamics Armament and Technical
Products, Inc.

General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical
Systems, Inc.

Bath Iron Works Corporation

General Dynamics Government Systems
Corporation

Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation

Electric Boat Corporation

General Dynamics Land Systems Inc.

National Steel and Shipbuilding Company

We may offer from time to time our debt securities in one or more series pursuant to this prospectus. We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

We may sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities offered by this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investment in any securities offered by this prospectus involves risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 4 of this prospectus, in our periodic reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

The date of this prospectus is December 8, 2008

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell the securities described in this prospectus from time to time and in one or more offerings. 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 specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us together with the additional information described below under Where You Can Find More Information.

We have not authorized any agent, dealer, underwriter or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us. You should not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, and we are not making an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus.

References to we, us, our or the Company are to General Dynamics Corporation, unless expressly indicated otherwise. Reference to General Dynamics means General Dynamics Corporation, together with our consolidated subsidiaries, including the Guarantors. Guarantors means, initially, American Overseas Marine Corporation, Bath Iron Works Corporation, Electric Boat Corporation, General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, Inc., General Dynamics Government Systems Corporation, General Dynamics Land Systems Inc., General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, Inc., Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and National Steel and Shipbuilding Company.

SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this prospectus and in the information incorporated herein by reference contain forward-looking statements, which are based on management's expectations, estimates, projections and assumptions. Words such as expects, anticipates, plans, believes, scheduled, estimates and variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These include but are not limited to projections of revenues, earnings, segment performance, cash flows, contract awards, aircraft production, deliveries and backlog stability. Forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual future results and trends may differ materially from what is forecast in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors, including, without limitation:

general U.S. and international political and economic conditions, including the current global credit market dislocation;

changing priorities in the U.S. government's defense budget (including the outcome of supplemental defense spending measures, and changes in priorities in response to terrorist threats, continuing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and improved homeland security);

termination or restructuring of government contracts due to unilateral government action;

differences in anticipated and actual program performance, including the ability to perform under long-term fixed-price contracts within estimated costs, and performance issues with key suppliers and subcontractors;

expected recovery on contract claims and requests for equitable adjustment;

changing customer demand or preferences for business aircraft, including the effects of economic conditions on the business-aircraft market;

potential for changing prices for energy and raw materials; and

the status or outcome of legal and/or regulatory proceedings.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof or, in the case of any document incorporated by reference, the date of that document. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements in this section. We do not undertake any obligation to update or publicly release any revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events, circumstances or changes in expectations after the date such statements are made.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an internet site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically, including General Dynamics Corporation. Except as expressly set forth in the paragraph below, we are not incorporating the contents of the SEC website into this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the

documents listed below that we have filed with the SEC (File No. 1-3671) and any future filings made with the SEC by us under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, until we sell all of the securities (other than filings or portions of filings that are furnished under applicable SEC rules rather than filed):

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 filed on February 22, 2008;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 30, June 29, and September 28, 2008 filed on May 6, 2008, August 5, 2008 and November 4, 2008, respectively; and

Current Reports filed on Form 8-K filed on March 7, May 8 and August 19, 2008.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning the office of:

General Dynamics Corporation

2941 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 100

Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4513

Attention: Corporate Secretary

Telephone: (703) 876-3000

You may also find additional information about us, including the documents mentioned above, on our website at www.generaldynamics.com. The information included on or linked to this website or any website referred to in any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus is not a part of this prospectus.

GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION

The Company is a Delaware corporation formed in 1952 as successor to the Electric Boat Company. General Dynamics' businesses include business aviation, land and amphibious combat systems, shipbuilding and marine systems and mission-critical information technology and communications.

General Dynamics operates in four primary business groups: Aerospace, Combat Systems, Marine Systems and Information Systems and Technology.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2941 Fairview Park Drive Suite 100, Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4513 and our telephone number is (703) 876-3000.

RISK FACTORS

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and the other information contained in this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement before acquiring any of such securities.

CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table shows our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	September 28, 2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	18.5	15.8	12.3	10.6	8.9	10.0

For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of pretax income from continuing operations, adjusted to add back fixed charges, and fixed charges consist of pretax interest on all indebtedness and an estimate of interest within rental expense.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. General corporate purposes may include additions to working capital, capital expenditures, refinancing of existing indebtedness including commercial paper, repayment of debt, and financing of possible acquisitions, investments or stock repurchases.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES

This prospectus sets forth some of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities and the guarantees. We will describe the particular terms of any series of debt securities and related guarantees, and the extent to which the general terms set forth below may apply, in the prospectus supplement relating to such securities.

The debt securities may be issued from time to time in series under an indenture dated as of August 27, 2001, by and among the Company, the guarantors thereunder and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly The Bank of New York), as trustee. This indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued thereunder and will govern debt securities up to the aggregate principal amount that we may authorize from time to time. Any such limit applicable to a particular series of debt securities will be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to that series. The debt securities may be guaranteed by certain subsidiary guarantors under the guarantees described below.

The summary set forth below highlights certain provisions contained in the indenture. However, this summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the indenture, a copy of which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Wherever defined terms are used but not defined in this section of the prospectus, those terms have the meanings assigned to them in the indenture, it being intended that those defined terms will be incorporated herein by reference.

Definitions

The following are certain terms defined in the indenture:

Attributable Debt means, as to any particular lease under which any Person is at the time liable, at any date as of which the amount thereof is to be determined, the total net amount of rent required to be paid by such Person under such lease during the remaining term thereof (excluding any subsequent renewal or other extension options held by the lessee), discounted from the respective due dates thereof to such date at the rate of 15% per annum, compounded monthly. The net amount of rent required to be paid under any such lease for any such period will be the aggregate amount of the rent payable by the lessee with respect to such period after excluding amounts required to be paid on account of maintenance and repairs, services, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates and similar charges and contingent rents (such as those based on sales). In the case of any lease which is terminable by the lessee upon the payment of a penalty in an amount which is less than the total discounted net amount of rent required to be paid from the later of the first date upon which such lease may be so terminated or the date of the determination of such net amount of rent, as the case may be, such net amount will also include the amount of such penalty, but no rent will be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated.

Consolidated Assets means the total assets of the Company and its subsidiaries calculated on a consolidated basis and in accordance with GAAP.

Material Subsidiary means, as of any date of determination, a subsidiary of the Company whose assets exceed ten percent (10%) of the Company's Consolidated Assets as of the date of such determination. However, the board of directors of the Company may declare any subsidiary of the Company to be a Material Subsidiary.

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

Principal Property means any manufacturing plant or warehouse, together with the land upon which it is erected and fixtures comprising a part thereof, owned by the Company or any Material Subsidiary and located in the United States, the gross book value of which on the date as of which the determination is being made is an

amount which exceeds 2% of Consolidated Assets, but not including any property financed through the issuance of any tax exempt governmental obligation, or any such manufacturing plant or warehouse or any portion thereof or any such fixture (together, with the land upon which it is erected and fixtures comprising a part thereof) which, in the opinion of the board of directors of the Company, is not of material importance to the total business conducted by the Company and its subsidiaries, considered as a single enterprise.

General Terms

All of the debt securities:

will be our general obligations;

will rank equally with each other and all of our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt; and

will be guaranteed by the guarantees of each of the Guarantors, which guarantees will rank equally with each other in respect of the debt securities and in respect of all other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt of such Guarantors.

The indenture provides for the issuance of debt securities in one or more series. Each time that we issue a new series of debt securities, the prospectus supplement relating to that series will specify the particular terms of those debt securities. Those terms may include but are not limited to the following:

the designation, issue, date and authorized denominations of such debt securities;

the aggregate principal amount offered and any limit on any future issues of additional debt of the same series;

the public offering price of such debt securities;

the date or dates on which such debt securities will mature, which may be fixed or extendible;

the rate or rates at which such debt securities will bear interest, which may be at a fixed or floating rate, if any;

the dates on which such interest, if any, will be payable;

the index used to determine any payments to be made on the debt securities;

the terms of any mandatory or optional redemption, including pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions;

the date or dates, if any, on which, and the price or prices at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous provisions, to redeem, or at the option of the holders, to purchase, such series of debt securities and other related terms and provisions;

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whether such debt securities are to be issued in the form of global securities and, if so, the identity of the depositary with respect to such global securities; and

any other terms of such series.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, debt securities will only be issued in fully registered form, without coupons. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the principal amount of the debt securities will be payable at the corporate trust office of the trustee in New York, New York. No service charge will be made on any security holder for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement for that series of debt securities; provided, however, that we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charges payable in connection therewith.

Certificated Debt Securities

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, as Depository (the Depository), or a nominee of the Depository (we will refer to any debt security represented by a global debt security as a book-entry debt security), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (we will refer to any debt security represented by a certificated security as a certificated debt security), as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as described under Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System below, book-entry debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

Payment of Interest and Exchange

You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at the office or agency of the Company in accordance with the terms of the indenture. You may transfer certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal of, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the old certificate representing those certificated debt securities, and we will execute, and the trustee will authenticate and deliver, a new certificate to the new holder.

Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System

Each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the Depository, and registered in the name of the Depository or a nominee of the Depository.

The Depository has indicated it intends to follow the following procedures with respect to book-entry debt securities.

Ownership of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities will be limited to persons that have accounts with the Depository for the related global debt security (participants) or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a global debt security, the Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the accounts of the participants with the respective principal amounts of the book-entry debt securities represented by the global debt security beneficially owned by such participants. The accounts to be credited will be designated by any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the book-entry debt securities. Ownership of book-entry debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of the ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the Depository for the related global debt security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants). The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities.

So long as the Depository for a global debt security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of that global debt security, the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the book-entry debt securities represented by such global debt security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as described herein, beneficial owners of book-entry debt securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of a certificate in definitive form representing securities and will not be considered the owners or holders of those securities under the indenture. Accordingly, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture, each person beneficially owning book-entry debt securities must rely on the procedures of the Depository for the related global debt security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest.

We understand, however, that under existing industry practice, the Depository will authorize the persons on whose behalf it holds a global debt security to exercise certain rights of holders of debt securities, and the indenture provides that we, the trustee and our respective agents will treat as the holder of a debt security the

persons specified in a written statement of the Depository with respect to that global debt security for purposes of obtaining any consents or directions required to be given by holders of the debt securities pursuant to the indenture.

We will make payments of principal of, and premium and interest on book-entry debt securities to the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the related global debt security. Neither we, the trustee nor any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the Depository, upon receipt of any payment of principal of, premium or interest on a global debt security, will immediately credit the accounts of the participants with payments in amounts proportionate to the respective amounts of book-entry debt securities held by each participant as shown on the records of the Depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities held through those participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

We will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for each global debt security if the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as Depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and a successor Depository registered as a clearing agency under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is not appointed by us within 90 days. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have any of the book-entry debt securities of any series represented by one or more global debt securities and, in that event, we will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for the global debt securities of that series. Global debt securities will also be exchangeable by the holders for certificated debt securities if an event of default with respect to the book-entry debt securities represented by those global debt securities has occurred and is continuing. Any certificated debt securities issued in exchange for a global debt security will be registered in such name or names as the Depository will instruct the trustee. We expect that such instructions will be based upon directions received by the Depository from participants with respect to ownership of book-entry debt securities relating to such global debt security.

We have obtained the foregoing information in this section concerning the Depository and its book-entry system from sources we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

Defeasance

The indenture provides that we (and to the extent applicable, the Guarantors), at our option:

will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of any series of debt securities, except in each case for, among other things, the rights of holders of debt securities to receive, from a trust fund, payments in respect of such securities when such payments are due and certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities, maintain paying agencies and hold moneys for payment in trust; or

will no longer be obligated to comply with the covenants described below under Limitation on Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance or Transfer and Covenants of the Company, and the Event of Default described in the fourth bullet point under Events of Default; Notice and Waiver will no longer constitute an Event of Default with respect to such series of debt securities;

in each case, if we deposit with the trustee, in trust, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to, the benefit of the holders of the debt securities of such series, money or the equivalent in securities of the U.S. government or government agencies backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, or a combination thereof, which through the payment of interest thereon and principal thereof in accordance with their terms will

provide money in an amount sufficient to pay all the principal (including any mandatory sinking fund payments) and any premium of, interest on and any repurchase or redemption obligations with respect to such series on the dates such payments are due in accordance with the terms of such series.

To exercise any such option, we are required, among other things, to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of such series to recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes and, in the case of securities being discharged pursuant to the first bullet point above, accompanied by a ruling, if then required, to such effect received from or published by the Internal Revenue Service; and

the creation of the defeasance trust would not violate the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

In addition, we are required to deliver to the trustee an officer's certificate stating that such deposit was not made by us with the intent of preferring the holders of the debt securities over other creditors of ours or with the intent of defeating, hindering, delaying or defrauding our creditors or others.

Events of Default; Notice and Waiver

The indenture provides that, if an Event of Default (as defined below) with respect to any series of debt securities issued thereunder occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may declare the principal of all the debt securities of such series, and all accrued interest, to be due and payable immediately; provided, however, if an Event of Default described in the fifth bullet point below occurs and is continuing, the principal of and any interest on the debt securities of such series then outstanding shall become immediately due and payable.

Events of Default in respect of any series are defined in the indenture as being:

default in payment of principal of, or premium, if any, on debt securities of such series when due at their stated maturity;

default for 30 days in payment of any interest due with respect to such series;

default in the payment of any sinking or purchase fund or analogous obligation when due by the terms of such series;

default for 60 days after written notice to us (or the Guarantors, if applicable) by the trustee or to us (or the Guarantors, if applicable) and the trustee by holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series in the performance, or breach, of any covenant or warranty pertaining to debt securities of such series (other than a covenant or warranty a default in the performance of which, or the breach of which, would otherwise constitute an Event of Default);

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency and reorganization with respect to us or any of our Material Subsidiaries or the entry of an order ordering the winding up or liquidation of our affairs or the affairs of our Material Subsidiaries; and

any guarantee by a Material Subsidiary ceases for any reason to be, or is asserted in writing by any such Material Subsidiary or the Company not to be, in full force and effect and enforceable in accordance with its terms except to the extent contemplated by the indenture and any such guarantee.

Any additions, deletions or other changes to the Events of Default that will be applicable to a series of debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of debt securities.

The indenture provides that the trustee will, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default with respect to the debt securities of any series, give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of all uncured and unwaived defaults known to it; provided, however, that except in the case of default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, on any of the debt securities of such series or in the payment of any sinking or purchase fund installment or analogous obligation relating to the debt securities of such series, the trustee will be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the debt securities of such series; and provided, further, that in the case of an Event of Default described in the fourth bullet point above, no such notice to the holders of the debt securities of such series shall be given until at least 90 days after the occurrence thereof. For the purpose of the trustee's duty to notify holders of defaults, the term "default" means any event that is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to debt securities of such series.

The trustee is entitled, subject to the duty of the trustee during an Event of Default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified to its reasonable satisfaction by the holders of the debt securities of such series before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the indenture at the request of holders of the debt securities of such series.

The indenture provides that the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting proceedings for remedies available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee in respect of such series, subject to certain conditions.

In certain cases, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such series, any past default with respect to the debt securities of such series except, among other things, a default not theretofore cured in payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, on any of the debt securities of such series or payment of any sinking or purchase fund or analogous obligation with respect to such debt securities.

Limitation on Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance or Transfer

We will not consolidate with or merge into any other Person or sell, lease, convey or transfer all or substantially all of our properties and assets to any Person, if upon any such consolidation, merger, sale, lease, conveyance or transfer we are not the surviving corporation, unless:

the Person formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or the Person that acquires by sale, lease, conveyance or transfer all or substantially all of our properties and assets will be organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or any state or the District of Columbia, and (if such Person is not the Company) will expressly assume, by supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the trustee, in form satisfactory to the trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on all the debt securities and the performance of every covenant of the indenture (as supplemented from time to time) on our part to be performed or observed;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Event of Default, and no event that, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default, will have happened and be continuing; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that such consolidation, merger, sale, lease, conveyance or transfer and such supplemental indenture comply with the applicable article of the indenture and that we have complied with all conditions precedent relating to such transaction.

In such event, we will be discharged from all obligations and covenants under the indenture and the debt securities, and may be liquidated and dissolved. The successor Person formed by such consolidation or into

which we are merged or to which such sale, lease, conveyance or transfer is made will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of ours under the indenture with the same effect as if such successor had been named as the Company in the indenture.

Modification of the Indenture

The Company, when authorized by a board resolution, and the trustee, at any time and from time to time, may, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities, enter into indentures supplemental to the indenture for, among others, one or more of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another Person to the Company or any Guarantor;

to add to our covenants, or the covenants of the Guarantors, or to surrender any of our rights or powers, or the rights or powers of the Guarantors, for the benefit of the holders of debt securities of any or all series;

to cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in the indenture; provided that any such supplemental indenture will not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series;

with certain exceptions, to add to the indenture any provisions that may be expressly permitted by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended;

to establish the form of any security, to provide for the issuance and set forth the terms of any series of debt securities and/or to add to the rights of the holders of the debt securities of any series;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of the appointment of any successor trustee;

to provide any additional Events of Default;

to provide for the issuance of debt securities in coupon or in fully registered form;

to secure any series of debt securities under the indenture's limitation on liens or otherwise; or

to evidence the addition of any subsidiary as a Guarantor or the release of any Guarantor and its obligations pursuant to the indenture.

The indenture contains provisions permitting the Company, when authorized by a board resolution, and the trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by such supplemental indenture, voting as a single class, to execute supplemental indentures by adding any provisions to or changing or eliminating any of the provisions of the indenture or modifying the rights of the holders of the debt securities of each such series under the indenture, except that no such supplemental indenture may, without the consent of each holder of each outstanding debt security affected by such supplemental indenture, among other things:

change the fixed maturity of any debt securities;

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reduce the principal amount thereof;

reduce the interest thereon or change the method of computing the interest thereon on any date;

change the currency or place of any payment;

amend or modify the terms of any of the guarantee provisions of the indenture in a manner adverse to the holders; or

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for any such supplemental indenture.

Covenants of the Company

The following covenants will apply to each series of debt securities:

Liens

The indenture provides that neither the Company nor any Material Subsidiary will incur, create, issue, assume, guarantee or otherwise become liable for any indebtedness for money borrowed that is secured by a lien on any of its assets or properties without securing the debt securities equally and ratably with such indebtedness for so long as any such indebtedness is secured. Exceptions include, among others:

liens for taxes not yet due or being contested;

liens imposed by law, such as mechanics liens, and other similar liens;

easements and similar liens not impairing the use or value of the property involved;

liens existing as of the date of the indenture;

liens created by subsidiaries of ours to secure indebtedness of such subsidiaries to us or to one or more other subsidiaries of ours;

liens affecting property of a Person existing at the time it is acquired by us;

liens on any property existing at the time of acquisition thereof or incurred to finance the purchase price thereof;

liens on any property to secure all or part of the cost of improvements or construction thereon;

liens on shares of stock, indebtedness or other securities of a Person that is not the Company or a subsidiary of ours;

liens to extend, renew or replace any liens referred to above; and

other liens arising in connection with our indebtedness and our subsidiaries' indebtedness in an aggregate principal amount for us and our subsidiaries, together with all Attributable Debt with respect to sale and leaseback transactions involving Principal Properties (with the exception of the transactions that are excluded as described in *Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions* below), not exceeding at the time such lien is issued, created or assumed 10% of our Consolidated Assets.

Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions

The indenture provides that the Company will not, and will not permit any Material Subsidiary to, enter into any sale and leaseback transaction covering any Principal Property that was or is owned or leased by the Company or a Material Subsidiary and that has been or is to be sold or transferred more than 120 days after the completion of construction and commencement of full operation of such Principal Property.

However, a sale and leaseback transaction of this kind will not be prohibited if:

Attributable Debt of the Company and its Material Subsidiaries in respect of the sale and leaseback transaction and all other sale and leaseback transactions entered into after the date when the Company first issued secur