

HARSCO CORP
Form 424B5
May 12, 2008

Table of Contents

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, but is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not 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.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
File No. 333-150825

Subject to Completion, dated May 12, 2008

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus dated May 12, 2008)

Harsco Corporation

\$
% Senior Notes due 2018

Interest payable May and November

Issue price:

We are offering \$ % Senior Notes due 2018. We will pay interest on the notes on May and November of each year, or the first business day thereafter if May or November is not a business day, commencing on November , 2008. We may redeem some or all of the notes at any time and from time to time at the redemption price described herein.

We must offer to repurchase the notes upon the occurrence of a change of control triggering event at the price described in this prospectus supplement in Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all our other senior unsecured indebtedness from time to time outstanding.

See Risk Factors on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which is incorporated by reference herein, to read about certain risks you should consider before investing in the notes.

	Price to Public⁽¹⁾	Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Proceeds to Harsco
Per note	%	%	%
Total	\$	\$	\$
(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from May , 2008.			

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

Delivery of the notes offered hereby in book-entry form only will be made through the offices of The Depository Trust Company and its participants, including Euroclear and Clearstream, on or about May , 2008.

Joint Book-Running Managers

JPMorgan

Citi

RBS Greenwich Capital

May , 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Summary</u>	S-2
<u>The Company</u>	S-2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-8
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-9
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	S-10
<u>Certain Material United States Federal Tax Considerations</u>	S-19
<u>Certain ERISA Considerations</u>	S-23
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-25
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-28
<u>Experts</u>	S-28

Prospectus

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	ii
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u>	ii
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	iii
<u>Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	iv
<u>Our Business</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	3
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	3
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	4
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	13
<u>Legal Matters</u>	15
<u>Experts</u>	15

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this document may only be accurate on the date of this document.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We provide information to you about this offering in two separate documents. The accompanying prospectus provides general information about us and securities we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement describes the specific details regarding this offering. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both documents combined. Additional information is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, in the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus that we may provide to you. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of these documents. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

References in this prospectus supplement to the terms we, us, Harsco, the Company or other similar terms mean Harsco Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless we state otherwise or the context indicates otherwise.

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The nature of our business and the many countries in which we operate subject us to changing economic, competitive, regulatory and technological conditions, risks and uncertainties. Some of the statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. In accordance with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we provide the following cautionary remarks regarding important factors which, among others, could cause future results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements, expectations and assumptions expressed or implied herein. Forward-looking statements contained herein could include, among other things, statements about our management confidence and strategies for performance; expectations for new and existing products, technologies and opportunities; and expectations regarding growth, sales, cash flows, earnings and Economic Value Added (EVA[®]). These statements can be identified by the use of such terms as may, could, expect, anticipate, intend, believe comparable terms.

Factors that could cause results to differ include, but are not limited to: changes in the worldwide business environment in which we operate, including general economic conditions; changes in currency exchange rates, interest rates and capital costs; changes in the performance of stock and bond markets that could affect, among other things, the valuation of the assets in our pension plans and the accounting for pension assets, liabilities and expenses; changes in governmental laws and regulations, including environmental, tax and import tariff standards; market and competitive changes, including pricing pressures, market demand and acceptance for new products, services and technologies; unforeseen business disruptions in one or more of the many countries in which we operate due to political instability, civil disobedience, armed hostilities or other calamities; the seasonal nature of our business; the successful integration of our acquisitions; the amount and timing of repurchases of our common stock, if any; and other risk factors listed from time to time in our SEC reports. A further discussion of these, along with other potential factors, can be found in this prospectus supplement under Risk Factors and in Part I, Item 1A, Risk Factors, of our

annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. We caution that these factors may not be exhaustive and that many of these factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a prediction of actual results. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made, and we undertake no duty to update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a forward-looking statement herein should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans and objectives will be achieved.

S-1

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary information is qualified in its entirety by the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents we have incorporated by reference, and in the indenture as described under Description of the Notes.

THE COMPANY

Harsco was incorporated as a Delaware corporation in 1956. Our executive offices are located at 350 Poplar Church Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011. Our main telephone number is (717) 763-7064, and our Internet website address is www.harsco.com. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not a part of this prospectus.

The Company's operations fall into two reportable segments: Access Services and Mill Services, plus an All Other category labeled Minerals & Rail Services and Products. For the year ended December 31, 2007, the Access Services Segment, the Mill Services Segment and the All Other Category Minerals & Rail Services and Products contributed revenues of approximately \$1,415.9 million, \$1,522.3 million and \$750.0 million, respectively, or 39%, 41% and 20% of our total revenues, respectively.

Access Services Segment

Our Access Services Segment includes our brand names of SGB Group, Hünnebeck Group and Patent Construction Systems Divisions. Our Access Services Segment is a leader in the construction services industry as one of the world's most complete providers of rental scaffolding, shoring, forming and other access solutions. The United Kingdom-based SGB Group Division operates from a network of international branches throughout Europe, the Middle East and Asia/Pacific; the Germany-based Hünnebeck Division serves Europe, the Middle East and South America, while the United States-based Patent Construction Systems Division serves North America including Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Major services include the rental of concrete shoring and forming systems, scaffolding and powered access equipment for non-residential and infrastructure projects; as well as a variety of other access services including project engineering and equipment erection and dismantling and, to a lesser extent, access equipment sales.

Mill Services Segment

Our Mill Services Segment, which consists of the MultiServ Division, is the world's largest provider of on-site, outsourced mill services to the global steel and metals industries. MultiServ provides its services on a long-term contract basis, supporting each stage of the metal-making process from initial raw material handling to post-production by-product processing and on-site recycling. Working as a specialized, high-value-added services provider, MultiServ rarely takes ownership of its customers' raw materials or finished products. Similar services are provided to the producers of non-ferrous metals, such as aluminum, copper and nickel.

All Other Category Minerals & Rail Services and Products

Our All Other Category includes the Excell Minerals, Reed Minerals, Harsco Track Technologies, IKG Industries, Patterson-Kelley and Air-X-Changers Divisions.

Excell Minerals is a multinational company that extracts high-value metallic content for production re-use on behalf of leading steelmakers and also specializes in the development of minerals technologies for commercial applications, including agriculture fertilizers and performance-enhancing additives for cement products.

Reed Minerals industrial abrasives and roofing granules are produced from power-plant utility coal slag at a number of locations throughout the United States. Our BLACK BEAUTY® abrasives are used for industrial surface preparation, such as rust removal and cleaning of bridges, ship hulls and various structures. Roofing granules are sold to residential roofing shingle manufacturers, primarily for the replacement roofing

Table of Contents

market. This Division is the United States largest producer of slag abrasives and third largest producer of residential roofing granules.

Harsco Track Technologies is a global provider of equipment and services to maintain, repair and construct railway tracks. Our railway track maintenance services support railroad customers worldwide. The railway track maintenance equipment product class includes specialized track maintenance equipment used by private and government-owned railroads and urban transit systems worldwide.

IKG Industries manufactures a varied line of industrial grating products at several plants in North America. These products include a full range of bar grating configurations, which are used mainly in industrial flooring, and safety and security applications in the power, paper, chemical, refining and processing industries.

Patterson-Kelley is a leading manufacturer of heat transfer products such as boilers and water heaters for commercial and institutional applications, and also powder processing equipment such as blenders, dryers and mixers for the chemical, pharmaceutical and food processing industries.

Air-X-Changers is a leading supplier of custom-designed and manufactured air-cooled heat exchangers for the natural gas industry. Our heat exchangers are the primary apparatus used to condition natural gas during recovery, compression and transportation from underground reserves through the major pipeline distribution channels.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	Harsco Corporation
Securities Offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of notes.
Maturity	The notes will mature on May , 2018.
Interest Payment Dates	May and November of each year, or the first business day thereafter if May or November is not a business day, commencing on November , 2008.
Interest Rate	The notes will bear interest at % per year.
Further Issuances	We may create and issue further notes ranking equally and ratably with the notes offered by this prospectus supplement in all respects, so that such further notes will be consolidated and form a single series with the notes offered by this prospectus supplement and will have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise.
Optional Redemption	We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time at the redemption prices described herein under the caption Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.
Change of Control Offer	If we experience a change of control triggering event, we may be required to offer to purchase the notes at a purchase price equal to 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest. See Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer.
Certain Covenants	The indenture governing the notes will contain certain restrictions, including a limitation that restricts our ability and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to create or incur secured indebtedness. Certain sale and leaseback transactions are similarly limited. See Description of the Notes Certain Covenants.
Ranking	The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all our other senior unsecured indebtedness, including all other unsubordinated debt securities issued under the indenture, from time to time outstanding. The indenture provides for the issuance from time to time of senior unsecured indebtedness by us in an unlimited amount. See Description of the Notes.
Form and Denomination	The notes will be issued in fully registered form in denominations of \$2,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
DTC Eligibility	The notes will be represented by global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as DTC, or its nominee. See Description of the Notes Book-Entry Procedures.

Same Day Settlement

Beneficial interests in the notes will trade in DTC's same-day funds settlement system until maturity. Therefore, secondary market trading activity in such interests will be settled in immediately available funds.

S-4

Table of Contents

Use of Proceeds	We expect to receive net proceeds, after deducting underwriting discounts but before deducting other offering expenses, of approximately \$ from this offering. Proceeds will be used to repay a portion of the amounts outstanding under our U.S. and Euro commercial paper programs and for other general corporate purposes of the Company. See Use of Proceeds.
No Listing of the Notes	We do not intend to apply to list the notes on any securities exchange or to have the notes quoted on any automated quotation system.
Governing Law	The notes will be, and the indenture is, governed by the laws of the State of New York, United States of America.
Trustee, Registrar and Paying Agent	The Bank of New York

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the notes involves risk. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, and in consultation with your own financial and legal advisors, you should carefully consider the following risk factors, as well as the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 under the heading Risk Factors and other filings we may make from time to time with the SEC. You should also refer to the other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not yet identified may also materially harm our business, operating results and financial condition and could result in a complete loss of your investment.

The notes are subject to prior claims of any secured creditors and the creditors of our subsidiaries, and if a default occurs we may not have sufficient funds to fulfill our obligations under the notes.

The notes are our unsecured general obligations, ranking equally with our other senior unsecured indebtedness but below any secured indebtedness and effectively below the debt and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. The indenture governing the notes permits us and our subsidiaries to incur secured debt under specified circumstances. If we incur any secured debt, our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries will be subject to prior claims by our secured creditors. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, assets that secure debt will be available to pay obligations on the notes only after all debt secured by those assets has been repaid in full. Holders of the notes will participate in our remaining assets ratably with all of our unsecured and unsubordinated creditors, including our trade creditors.

If we incur any additional obligations that rank equally with the notes, including trade payables, the holders of those obligations will be entitled to share ratably with the holders of the notes in any proceeds distributed upon our insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding up. This may have the effect of reducing the amount of proceeds paid to you. If there are not sufficient assets remaining to pay all these creditors, all or a portion of the notes then outstanding would remain unpaid.

The indenture does not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur.

The indenture under which the notes will be issued does not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur. Other than as described under Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer in this prospectus supplement, such indenture does not contain any financial covenants or other provisions that would afford the holders of the notes any substantial protection in the event we participate in a highly leveraged transaction.

Our existing and future indebtedness may limit cash flow available to invest in the ongoing needs of our business, which could prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the notes.

After giving effect to this notes offering and the repayment of a portion of the amounts outstanding under our U.S. and Euro commercial paper programs, our total pro forma indebtedness at March 31, 2008 would have been approximately _____ and our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the three months ended March 31, 2008 would have been approximately _____:1. Additionally, we have the ability under our existing credit facilities to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Our level of indebtedness could have important consequences to you. For example, it could:

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to the payment of debt service, reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;

increase our vulnerability to adverse economic or industry conditions;

limit our ability to obtain additional financing in the future to enable us to react to changes in our business; or

place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to businesses in our industry that have less indebtedness.

S-6

Table of Contents

Additionally, any failure to comply with covenants in the instruments governing our debt could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, would have a material adverse effect on us.

To service our indebtedness, we will require a significant amount of cash. Our ability to generate cash depends on many factors beyond our control. We also depend on the business of our subsidiaries to satisfy our cash needs. If we cannot generate the required cash, we may not be able to make the necessary payments under the notes.

Our ability to make payments on our indebtedness, including the notes, and to fund planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. Our ability to generate cash, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. We also depend on the business of our subsidiaries to satisfy our cash needs. Changes in the laws of foreign jurisdictions in which we operate may adversely affect the ability of some of our foreign subsidiaries to repatriate funds to us. Additionally, our historical financial results have been, and we anticipate that our future financial results will be, subject to fluctuations. We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from our operations or that future borrowings will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our indebtedness, including the notes, or to fund our other liquidity needs and make necessary capital expenditures.

An active trading market for the notes may not develop.

There is no existing market for the notes and we do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or any automated quotation system. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that a trading market for the notes will ever develop or will be maintained. Further, there can be no assurance as to the liquidity of any market that may develop for the notes, your ability to sell your notes or the price at which you will be able to sell your notes. Future trading prices of the notes will depend on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, our financial condition and results of operations, the then-current ratings assigned to the notes and the market for similar securities. Any trading market that develops would be affected by many factors independent of and in addition to the foregoing, including:

- the time remaining to the maturity of the notes;
- the outstanding amount of the notes;
- the terms related to optional redemption of the notes; and
- the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally.

The underwriters have advised us that they currently intend to make a market in the notes, but they are not obligated to do so and may cease market making at any time without notice.

We may not be able to repurchase the notes upon a change of control.

Upon the occurrence of specific kinds of change of control events, each holder of notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part of such holder's notes at a price equal to 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase. The terms of our existing credit facilities and other financing arrangements may require repayment of amounts outstanding in the event of a change of control and limit our ability to fund the repurchase of the notes in certain circumstances. If we experience a change of control triggering event, there can be no assurance that we would have sufficient financial resources available to satisfy our obligations to

repurchase the notes. Our failure to repurchase the notes as required under the supplemental indenture governing the notes would result in a default under the supplemental indenture, which could have material adverse consequences for us and the holders of the notes. In addition, the change of control offer provisions of the notes may in certain circumstances make more difficult or discourage a sale or takeover of the Company and, thus, the removal of incumbent management. See Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer.

S-7

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive net proceeds, after deducting underwriting discounts but before deducting other offering expenses, of approximately \$ from this offering. We intend to use the proceeds to repay approximately \$ of the amount outstanding under our U.S. commercial paper program and approximately \$ of the amount outstanding under our Euro commercial paper program and for other general corporate purposes.

At May 9, 2008, the weighted average maturity of the approximately \$413 million of outstanding commercial paper under our U.S. commercial paper program was approximately 10.1 days and the weighted average interest rate of such commercial paper was 2.99%. Also at May 9, 2008, the weighted average maturity of the approximately 114 million (approximately \$175 million) of outstanding commercial paper under our Euro commercial paper program was approximately 28.6 days and the weighted average interest rate of such commercial paper was 4.58%.

Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates are dealers and/or participants under our commercial paper programs and may receive a portion of the net proceeds of this offering as a result of their ownership of a portion of our commercial paper. See Underwriting.

S-8

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth:

our unaudited consolidated capitalization (including short-term debt) as of March 31, 2008; and

our pro forma as adjusted capitalization as of March 31, 2008, as adjusted to give effect to the offering of the notes and the repayment of a portion of the amounts outstanding under our U.S. and Euro commercial paper programs with the net proceeds of the notes as described under Use of Proceeds.

You should read this table in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements, the related notes and other financial information contained in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2008 filed with the SEC on May 8, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus as well as the other financial information incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	As of March 31, 2008	
	Actual	Pro Forma as Adjusted
	<i>(In millions of U.S. dollars)</i>	
Short-term debt:		
Short-term borrowings	\$ 177	\$
Current maturities of long-term debt	8	
Total short-term debt⁽¹⁾	185	
Long-term debt:		
Notes offered hereby	-	
Other long-term debt	1,007	
Total long-term debt⁽¹⁾	1,007	
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, Series A junior participating cumulative preferred stock	-	-
Common stock, par value \$1.25	139	139
Additional paid-in capital	131	131
Retained earnings	1,944	1,944
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	76	76
Treasury stock, at cost	(622)	(622)
Total stockholders equity	1,668	1,668
Total capitalization	\$ 2,860	\$

(1)

Commercial paper is classified as long-term debt when the Company has the ability and intent to refinance it on a long-term basis through existing long-term credit facilities. At March 31, 2008, the Company classified \$115 million of commercial paper as short-term debt. The remaining \$451 million in commercial paper at March 31, 2008 was classified as long-term debt.

S-9

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

The following description of the particular terms of the notes supplements, and to the extent inconsistent, replaces, the description in the accompanying prospectus of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities to which description reference is hereby made. References to we, our, us and the Company in the following description refer to Harsco Corporation and not its subsidiaries. Capitalized terms defined in the accompanying prospectus and not defined herein are used herein as therein defined.

General

The aggregate principal amount of the notes is \$. The notes will mature and become due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest thereon, on May , 2018. The notes will bear interest at the rate of % per annum from May , 2008.

Interest on the notes will be payable semiannually in arrears on May and November of each year, or the first business day thereafter if May or November is not a business day, beginning on November , 2008 to the persons in whose names the respective notes are registered at the close of business on the and preceding the respective interest payment dates. If any payment date is not a business day, then payment will be made on the next business day, but without any additional interest or other amount. Interest will be computed on the notes on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The notes will be our direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally and ratably with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The notes will be effectively subordinated to all of our current and future secured debt.

The notes will not be subject to any sinking fund.

The notes will be represented by one or more registered notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by notes in definitive form. See Book-Entry Procedures in this prospectus supplement. The notes will be issued in U.S. dollars and only in minimum denominations of \$2,000, and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000.

The notes will constitute a series of debt securities to be issued under a base indenture between Harsco and The Bank of New York, as trustee, the terms of which are described in the accompanying prospectus, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture, the terms of which are described in this prospectus supplement.

Further Issuances

We may from time to time, without notice to or consent of the holders of the respective notes, create and issue additional notes ranking equally and ratably with the notes in all respects (or in all respects except for the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such additional notes or except, in some cases, for the first payment of interest following the issue date of such additional notes). The additional notes may be consolidated and form a single series with the notes of such series and will have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the notes.

Same-Day Settlement and Payment

The notes will trade in the same-day funds settlement system of the Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as DTC, until maturity or until we issue the notes in definitive form. DTC will therefore require secondary market trading activity in the notes to settle in immediately available funds. We can give no assurance as to the effect, if any, of settlement in immediately available funds on trading activity in the notes.

Ranking

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all our other senior unsecured indebtedness, including any other debt securities issued under the indenture, from time to time outstanding.

Table of Contents

Optional Redemption

The notes will be redeemable in whole or in part, at our option, at any time and from time to time at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate as defined below, plus basis points, plus accrued interest thereon to the date of redemption.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of notes to be redeemed.

Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption. If less than all of the notes are to be redeemed, the notes to be redeemed shall be selected by lot by DTC, in the case of notes represented by a global security, or by the trustee by a method that the trustee deems to be fair and appropriate, in the case of notes that are not represented by a global security.

For purposes of the optional redemption provisions of the notes, the following terms will be applicable:

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to a maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date).

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (i) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the trustee obtains fewer than six such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such Quotations, or (iii) if only one Reference Dealer Quotation is received, such quotation.

Independent Investment Banker means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers that we appoint.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (i) J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc. and their successors, provided, however, that if any of the foregoing ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a **Primary Treasury Dealer**), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer and (ii) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Change of Control Offer

If a change of control triggering event occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes as described above, we will be required to make an offer (a "change of control offer") to each holder of the notes to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of that holder's notes on the terms set forth in the notes. In a change of control offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased to, but not including, the date of repurchase (a "change of control payment"). Within 30 days following any change of control triggering event or, at our option, prior to any change of control, but after public announcement of the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the

S-11

Table of Contents

change of control, a notice will be mailed to holders of the notes describing the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the change of control triggering event and offering to repurchase such notes on the date specified in the applicable notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (a change of control payment date). The notice will, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the change of control, state that the change of control offer is conditioned on the change of control triggering event occurring on or prior to the applicable change of control payment date specified in the notice.

On each change of control payment date, we will, to the extent lawful:

accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the applicable change of control offer;

deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the change of control payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the applicable change of control offer; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being repurchased.

We will not be required to make a change of control offer upon the occurrence of a change of control triggering event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and the third party repurchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the change of control payment date an event of default under the indenture, other than a default in the payment of the change of control payment upon a change of control triggering event.

We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a change of control triggering event. To the extent that the provisions of any such securities laws or regulations conflict with the change of control offer provisions of the notes, we will comply with those securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the change of control offer provisions of the notes by virtue of any such conflict.

For purposes of the change of control offer provisions of the notes, the following terms will be applicable:

Change of control means the occurrence of any of the following: (i) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or more series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our assets and our subsidiaries' assets, taken as a whole, to any person, other than us or one of our subsidiaries; (ii) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of our outstanding voting stock or other voting stock into which the Company's voting stock is reclassified, consolidated, exchanged or changed, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; (iii) we consolidate with, or merge with or into, any person, or any person consolidates with, or merges with or into, us, in any such event pursuant to a transaction in which any of our outstanding voting stock or the voting stock of such other person is converted into or exchanged for cash, securities or other property, other than any such transaction where the shares of our voting stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction constitute, or are converted into or exchanged for, a majority of the voting stock of the surviving person or any direct or indirect parent company of the surviving person immediately after giving effect to such transaction; (iv) the first day on which a majority of the members of our Board of Directors are not continuing directors; or (v) the adoption of a plan relating to the liquidation or dissolution of the Company. The term person, as

used in this definition, has the meaning given thereto in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

The definition of change of control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries,

S-12

Table of Contents

taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require us to repurchase such holder's notes as a result of a sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our and our subsidiaries' assets, taken as a whole, to any person or group or persons may be uncertain.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a change of control if (i) we become a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (ii)(A) the direct or indirect holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of our voting stock immediately prior to that transaction or (B) immediately following that transaction no person (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting stock of such holding company.

Change of control triggering event means the occurrence of both a change of control and a rating event.

Continuing directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of our Board of Directors who (i) was a member of such Board of Directors on the date the notes were issued or (ii) was nominated for election, elected or appointed to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the continuing directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination, election or appointment (either by a specific vote or by approval of our proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

Fitch means Fitch Inc., and its successors.

Investment grade means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P, and the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any replacement rating agency or rating agencies selected by us.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc., and its successors.

Rating agencies means (i) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P; and (ii) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

Rating event means a decrease in the ratings of the notes below investment grade by at least two of the three rating agencies on any date from the date that is 60 days prior to the date of the first public notice of an arrangement that could result in a change of control until the end of the 60-day period following the consummation of such change of control (which period shall be extended so long as the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the rating agencies).

S&P means Standard & Poor's Rating Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and its successors.

Voting stock means, with respect to any specified person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date, the capital stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of such person.

Table of Contents

Certain Covenants

We have agreed to three principal limitations on our activities. The restrictive covenants summarized below will apply to the notes as long as any of the notes are outstanding, unless waived or amended with the indenture. See *Description of Debt Securities Modification and Waiver* in the accompanying prospectus.

Limitations on Liens

We and our restricted subsidiaries cannot create, incur, assume or guarantee any secured debt without in any such case effectively providing concurrently with the creation, incurrence, assumption or guarantee of such debt that the lien created thereby secures the notes equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) such debt. The foregoing restriction will not apply to debt that is secured by:

purchase money security interests (including those incurred in connection with future construction) and security interests in property acquired by us or a restricted subsidiary existing at the time such property is acquired;

security interests existing on the property, shares or indebtedness of a corporation at the time it becomes a restricted subsidiary or arising thereafter pursuant to contractual commitments entered into prior to and not in contemplation of such corporation's becoming a restricted subsidiary;

any security interest on property of a corporation existing at the time such corporation is merged into or consolidated with us or a restricted subsidiary or arising thereafter pursuant to contractual commitments entered into prior to and not in contemplation of such corporation's being merged or consolidated with us or a restricted subsidiary;

mechanics and other statutory liens arising in the ordinary course of business;

liens for taxes not yet due and for contested taxes against which adequate reserves have been established, and judgment liens if the judgment is being contested and so long as execution thereof is stayed;

leases and certain landlords' liens;

certain governmental liens arising in connection with contracts or other transactions, including security interests arising in connection with the financing of principal property, or in connection with any governmental regulation, privilege or license; and

any extension, renewal or replacement of any of the above.

However, we and our restricted subsidiaries may issue, assume or guarantee secured debt not otherwise permitted without equally and ratably securing the notes if the sum of (a) the amount of such secured debt plus (b) the aggregate value of sale and leaseback transactions (subject to certain exceptions) described below, does not exceed 10% of our consolidated net tangible assets.

Limitations on Sale and Leaseback Transactions.

We and our restricted subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in any sale and leaseback transaction with respect to any of our principal property, unless:

we or a restricted subsidiary would be entitled to incur, without the benefit of the exceptions referred to in the first paragraph under Limitations on Liens above, secured debt equal to the amount realized upon the sale or transfer involved in such transaction without equally and ratably securing the notes; or

an amount equal to the value of the property leased is applied to: (i) the purchase or construction of properties, facilities or equipment used for operating purposes; or (ii) the retirement of our funded debt, or the funded debt of any of our restricted subsidiaries, other than funded debt owed to us or a restricted subsidiary; provided, however, that the amount to be applied to the retirement of our funded debt shall be reduced by the sum of: (a) the principal amount of any notes delivered

S-14

Table of Contents

within 120 days after such sale or transfer to the trustee for retirement and cancellation; and (b) the principal amount of funded debt, other than notes, voluntarily retired by us within 120 days after such sale or transfer.

No retirement referred to above may be effected by payment at maturity.

Limitations on Transfer of a Principal Property to an Unrestricted Subsidiary

We and our restricted subsidiaries cannot transfer any principal property to an unrestricted subsidiary unless, within 120 days of the transfer, we apply an amount equal to the fair value of the principal property to: (x) the retirement of funded debt of ours or any of our restricted subsidiaries other than funded debt owed to us or a restricted subsidiary; and/or (y) the purchase or construction of properties, facilities or equipment used for operating purposes as described in the second alternative under **Limitations on Sales and Leaseback Transactions** above.

For purposes of the covenants described above, the following terms will be applicable:

consolidated net tangible assets means the aggregate amount of assets (less applicable reserves and other properly deductible items) appearing on our consolidated balance sheet except goodwill and similar intangible assets, less our consolidated current liabilities (subject to certain exceptions).

funded debt means all indebtedness for money borrowed maturing more than one year from the date of our most recent consolidated balance sheet or maturing less than one year but by its terms being renewable or extendible beyond one year from such date at our option.

principal property means any manufacturing plant or manufacturing facility, warehouse, office building or other operating facility located within the United States, and any equipment located in any such plant or facility (together with the land on which such plant or facility is erected and fixtures comprising a part of such plant or facility), owned or leased by us or by one or more of our restricted subsidiaries on or acquired or leased by us or by one or more of our restricted subsidiaries after May , 2008, other than any such principal property, that our board of directors declares not to be of material importance to the overall business that we and our restricted subsidiaries conduct, taken as a whole.

restricted subsidiary means:

any subsidiary other than an unrestricted subsidiary; and

any subsidiary which was an unrestricted subsidiary but which has been or is designated by our board of directors after the date of the indenture to be a restricted subsidiary.

sale and leaseback transaction means any sale or transfer of any principal property in full operation for more than 120 days prior to such sale or transfer if the sale or transfer is made with the intention of, or as part of an arrangement involving, the lease of such property to us or a restricted subsidiary (except a lease for a period not exceeding 36 months with the intention that the use of such property by us or such restricted subsidiary will be discontinued on or before the expiration of such period).

secured debt means indebtedness of ours or a restricted subsidiary for borrowed money (other than our indebtedness to a restricted subsidiary, the indebtedness of a restricted subsidiary to us or the indebtedness of a restricted subsidiary to another restricted subsidiary) on which, by the terms of such indebtedness, interest is paid or payable, which:

is secured by a security interest in any principal property or in the stock or indebtedness of a restricted subsidiary; or

in the case of our indebtedness, is guaranteed by a restricted subsidiary.

subsidiary means any corporation of which we, directly or indirectly, own voting securities entitling us to elect a majority of the directors.

S-15

Table of Contents

unrestricted subsidiary means, in each case unless and until such subsidiary or subsidiaries shall have been designated to be a restricted subsidiary :

any subsidiary acquired or organized after the date of the indenture, provided that such subsidiary is not a successor, directly or indirectly, to any restricted subsidiary ;

any subsidiary the principal business and assets of which are located outside the United States or its territories and possessions; and

any subsidiary substantially all of the assets of which consist of stock or other securities of a subsidiary or subsidiaries of the character described immediately above.

Concerning the Trustee

The Trustee has provided various services to us in the past and may do so in the future as a part of its regular business.

Book-Entry Procedures

DTC. DTC will act as securities depository for the notes. The notes will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co., which is DTC's nominee. One fully-registered global note will be issued with respect to the notes. See Description of Debt Securities Global Securities in the accompanying prospectus for a description of DTC's procedures with respect to global notes.

DTC advises that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, including transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, Inc., and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to DTC's system is also available to others, including securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear transactions through or maintain a direct or indirect custodial relationship with a direct participant either directly, or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Redemption notices will be sent to DTC. If less than all of the notes within a series are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the series to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will consent or vote with respect to the notes. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the notes are credited on the record date, which are identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

We may, at any time, decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, certificates representing the notes will be printed and delivered.

Beneficial interests in the global notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the global notes through DTC either directly if they are participants in DTC or indirectly through organizations that are participants in DTC.

S-16

Table of Contents

Clearstream. Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (Clearstream), is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository. Clearstream holds securities for its participating organizations (Clearstream Participants) and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides Clearstream Participants with, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and establishment of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector (*Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier*). Clearstream Participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, and may include the Underwriters. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream Participant either directly or indirectly.

Distributions with respect to notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream Participants in accordance with its rules and procedures to the extent received by DTC for Clearstream.

Euroclear. Euroclear was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear (Euroclear Participants) and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear Participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear includes various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. (the Euroclear Operator), under contract with Euro-clear Clearance System S.C., a Belgian cooperative corporation (the Cooperative). All operations are conducted by the Euroclear Operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not the Cooperative. The Cooperative establishes a policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear Participants. Euroclear Participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the Underwriters. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear Participant, either directly or indirectly.

The Euroclear Operation is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking Commission.

Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear to facilitate the initial issuance of the notes sold outside of the United States and cross-market transfers of the notes associated with secondary market trading.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the procedures provided below in order to facilitate transfers, they are under no obligation to perform these procedures, and these procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time.

Clearstream and Euroclear will record the ownership interests of their participants in much the same way as DTC, and DTC will record the total ownership of each of the U.S. agents of Clearstream and Euroclear, as participants in DTC. When notes are to be transferred from the account of a DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream participant or a Euroclear participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one day prior to settlement. Clearstream or Euroclear, as the case may be, will instruct its U.S. agent to receive notes against payment. After settlement, Clearstream or Euroclear will credit its participant's account. Credit for the notes will appear on the next day (European time).

Because settlement is taking place during New York business hours, DTC participants will be able to employ their usual procedures for sending notes to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Clearstream or Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement

S-17

Table of Contents

date. As a result, to the DTC participant, a cross-market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two DTC participants.

When a Clearstream or Euroclear participant wishes to transfer notes to a DTC participant, the seller will be required to send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream or Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer these notes against payment for them. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream or Euroclear participant the following day, with the proceeds back valued to the value date, which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York, if settlement is not completed on the intended value date, that is, if the trade fails, proceeds credited to the Clearstream or Euroclear participant's account will instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

You should be aware that you will only be able to make and receive deliveries, payments and other communications involving the notes through Clearstream and Euroclear on the days when clearing systems are open for business. Those systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time zone differences there may be problems with completing transactions involving Clearstream and Euroclear on the same business day as the United States.

The information in this section concerning DTC, its book-entry system, Clearstream and Euroclear and their respective systems has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we have not attempted to verify the accuracy of this information.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain United States federal income and certain estate tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of the notes. It is not a complete analysis of all the potential tax considerations relating to the notes. This summary is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code, and currently effective administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all relating to the United States federal income tax treatment of debt instruments. These authorities may be changed, perhaps with retroactive effect, so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those set forth below.

This summary assumes that you purchased your outstanding notes upon their initial issuance at their initial offering price and that you held your outstanding notes, and you will hold your notes, as capital assets for United States federal income tax purposes. This summary does not address the tax considerations arising under the laws of any foreign, state or local jurisdiction. In addition, this discussion does not address all tax considerations that may be applicable to holders particular circumstances or to holders that may be subject to special tax rules, such as, for example:

- holders subject to the alternative minimum tax;
- banks, insurance companies, or other financial institutions;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- dealers in securities or commodities;
- expatriates;
- traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;
- holders whose functional currency is not the United States dollar;
- persons that will hold the notes as a position in a hedging transaction, straddle, conversion transaction or other risk reduction transaction;
- persons deemed to sell the notes under the constructive sale provisions of the Code; or
- partnerships or other pass-through entities.

If a partnership holds notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership that will hold notes, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the notes to you.

This summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations is for general information only and is not tax advice. You are urged to consult your tax advisor with respect to the application of United States federal income tax laws to your particular situation as well as any tax consequences arising under the United States federal estate or gift tax rules or under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

Consequences to U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the general U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to you if you are a U.S. Holder of the notes. Certain consequences to Non-U.S. Holders of the notes are described under Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders, below. U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of a note that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision of the United States;

S-19

Table of Contents

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust that (1) is subject to the supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more U.S. persons or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Payments of Interest

Stated interest on the notes will generally be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time it is paid or accrued in accordance with your method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Disposition of Notes

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note, you generally will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on such disposition (except to the extent any amount realized is attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, which is treated as interest as described above) and your adjusted tax basis in the note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a note generally will equal the cost of the note to such holder.

Gain or loss recognized on the disposition of a note generally will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of such disposition, the U.S. Holder's holding period for the note is more than 12 months. The deductibility of capital losses by U.S. Holders is subject to certain limitations.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to certain payments of principal, premium (if any) and interest on and the proceeds of certain sales of notes unless you are an exempt recipient. A backup withholding tax (currently at a rate of 30%, but subject to periodic reductions through 2006) will apply to such payments if you fail to provide your taxpayer identification number or certification of exempt status or have been notified by the Internal Revenue Service, or I.R.S., that payments to you are subject to backup withholding.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will generally be allowed as a refund or a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability provided that you furnish the required information to the I.R.S. on a timely basis.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

Non-U.S. Holders

As used in this prospectus, the term Non-U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of a note that is, for United States federal income tax purposes:

a nonresident alien individual;

a foreign corporation;

an estate the income of which is not subject to United States federal income taxation on a net income basis; or

a trust that (1) is either not subject to the supervision of a court within the United States or does not have any United States person with authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust and (2) does not have a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership, including any entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes, is a holder of a note, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner in such a partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners in

S-20

Table of Contents

such a partnership should consult their tax advisors as to the particular United States federal income tax consequences applicable to them of acquiring, holding or disposing of the notes.

Under United States federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, if you are a Non-U.S. Holder of a note:

We generally will not be required to deduct United States withholding tax from payments of interest to you if:

1. you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote,
2. you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is directly or indirectly related to us through stock ownership,
3. you are not a bank whose receipt of interest on a note is pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of business, and
4. the U.S. payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and:

you have furnished to the U.S. payor an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are a non-United States person,

in the case of payments made outside the United States to you at an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), you have furnished to the U.S. payor documentation that establishes your identity and your status as a non-United States person,

the U.S. payor has received a withholding certificate (furnished on an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form or statement) from a person claiming to be a (1) withholding foreign partnership, (2) qualified intermediary, or (3) securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business, and such person is permitted to certify under U.S. Treasury regulations, and does certify, either that it assumes primary withholding tax responsibility with respect to the interest payment or has received an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN (or acceptable substitute form) from you or from other holders of notes on whose behalf it is receiving payment, or

the U.S. payor otherwise possesses documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest made to you on the notes will be subject to the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax, unless you provide us either with (1) a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN (or successor form) claiming an exemption from (or a reduction of) withholding under the benefit of an applicable tax treaty or (2) a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI (or successor form) stating that interest paid on the note is not subject to withholding tax because the interest is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, generally in the case of an applicable tax treaty, attributable to your permanent establishment in the United States).

Generally, no deduction for any United States federal withholding tax will be made from any principal payments or from gain that you realize on the sale, exchange or other disposition of your note. In addition, a Non-U.S. Holder of a note will not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of such note, unless: (1) that gain or income is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder or (2) the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and

S-21

Table of Contents

certain other conditions are met. If you are described in clause (1), see **Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business** below. If you are described in clause (2), any gain realized from the sale, redemption, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of the notes will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable treaty rate), which may be offset by certain losses.

Further, generally, a note held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States should not be includible in the individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes if:

the decedent did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote at the time of death and

the income on the note would not have been, if received at the time of death, effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the decedent.

Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business

If any interest on the notes or gain from the sale, redemption, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of the notes is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by you (and, generally in the case of an applicable tax treaty, attributable to your permanent establishment in the United States), then the income or gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular graduated income tax rates, but will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax if certain certification requirements are satisfied. You can generally meet these certification requirements by providing a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI or appropriate substitute form to us, or our paying agent. If you are a corporation, the portion of your earnings and profits that is effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business (and, generally in the case of an applicable tax treaty, attributable to your permanent establishment in the United States) may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, although an applicable tax treaty may provide for a lower rate.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Generally, information returns will be filed with the United States Internal Revenue Service in connection with payments on the notes and proceeds from the sale or other disposition of the notes. You may be subject to backup withholding tax on these payments unless you comply with certain certification procedures to establish that you are not a United States person. The certification procedures required to claim an exemption from withholding tax on interest described above will satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding as well. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your United States federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Table of Contents**CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS**

The following summary regarding certain aspects of the United States Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA, and the Code is based on ERISA and the Code, judicial decisions and United States Department of Labor and Internal Revenue Service regulations and rulings that are in existence on the date of this prospectus supplement. This summary is general in nature and does not address every issue pertaining to ERISA that may be applicable to us, the notes or a particular investor. Accordingly, each prospective investor should consult with his, her or its own counsel in order to understand the ERISA-related issues that affect or may affect the investor with respect to this investment.

ERISA and the Code impose certain requirements on employee benefit plans that are subject to Title I of ERISA and plans subject to Section 4975 of the Code (each such employee benefit plan or plan, a Plan) and on those persons who are fiduciaries with respect to Plans. In considering an investment of the assets of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA in the notes, a fiduciary must, among other things, discharge its duties solely in the interest of the participants of such Plan and their beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to such participants and beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan. A fiduciary must act prudently and must diversify the investments of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA so as to minimize the risk of large losses, as well as discharge its duties in accordance with the documents and instruments governing such Plan. In addition, ERISA generally requires fiduciaries to hold all assets of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA in trust and to maintain the indicia of ownership of such assets within the jurisdiction of the district courts of the United States. A fiduciary of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA should consider whether an investment in the notes satisfies these requirements.

An investor who is considering acquiring the notes with the assets of a Plan must consider whether the acquisition and holding of the notes will constitute or result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction. Section 406(a) of ERISA and Sections 4975(c)(1)(A), (B), (C) and (D) of the Code prohibit certain transactions that involve a Plan and a party in interest as defined in Section 3(14) of ERISA or a disqualified person as defined in Section 4975(e)(2) of the Code with respect to such Plan. Examples of such prohibited transactions include, but are not limited to, sales or exchanges of property (such as the notes) or extensions of credit between a Plan and a party in interest or disqualified person. Section 406(b) of ERISA and Sections 4975(c)(1)(E) and (F) of the Code generally prohibit a fiduciary with respect to a Plan from dealing with the assets of the Plan for its own benefit (for example when a fiduciary of a Plan uses its position to cause the Plan to make investments in connection with which the fiduciary (or a party related to the fiduciary) receives a fee or other consideration).

ERISA and the Code contain certain exemptions from the prohibited transactions described above, and the Department of Labor has issued several exemptions, although certain exemptions do not provide relief from the prohibitions on self-dealing contained in Section 406(b) of ERISA and Sections 4975(c)(1)(E) and (F) of the Code. Exemptions include Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code pertaining to certain transactions with non-fiduciary service providers; Department of Labor Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption (PTCE) 95-60, applicable to transactions involving insurance company general accounts; PTCE 90-1, regarding investments by insurance company pooled separate accounts; PTCE 91-38, regarding investments by bank collective investment funds; PTCE 84-14, regarding investments effected by a qualified professional asset manager; and PTCE 96-23, regarding investments effected by an in-house asset manager. There can be no assurance that any of these exemptions will be available with respect to the acquisition of the notes. Under Section 4975 of the Code, excise taxes are imposed on disqualified persons who participate in non-exempt prohibited transactions (other than a fiduciary acting only as such).

As a general rule, a governmental plan, as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA (a Governmental Plan), a church plan, as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA, that has not made an election under Section 410(d) of the Code (a Church Plan) and non-United States plans are not subject to the requirements of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code. Accordingly, assets of such plans may be invested without regard to the fiduciary and prohibited transaction considerations described above. Although a Governmental Plan, a Church Plan or a non-United States plan is not subject to ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, it may be subject to other United States federal, state or local laws or non-United States laws that regulate its

Table of Contents

investments (a Similar Law). A fiduciary of a Government Plan, a Church Plan or a non-United States plan should make its own determination as to the requirements, if any, under any Similar Law applicable to the acquisition of the notes.

The notes may be acquired by a Plan or an entity whose underlying assets include the assets of a Plan or by a Governmental Plan, a Church Plan or a non-United States Plan, but only if the acquisition will not result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or a violation of Similar Law. Therefore, any investor in the notes will be deemed to represent and warrant to us and the trustee that (1)(a) it is not (i) a Plan, (ii) an entity whose underlying assets include the assets of a Plan, (iii) a Governmental Plan, (iv) a Church Plan or (v) a non-United States plan, (b) it is a Plan or an entity whose underlying assets include the assets of a Plan and the acquisition and holding of the notes will not result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, or (c) it is a Governmental Plan, a Church Plan or a non-United States plan that is not subject to (i) ERISA, (ii) Section 4975 of the Code or (iii) any Similar Law that prohibits or taxes (in terms of an excise or penalty tax) the acquisition or holding of the notes; and (2) it will notify us and the trustee immediately if, at any time, it is no longer able to make the representations contained in clause (1) above. Any purported transfer of the notes to a transferee that does not comply with the foregoing requirements shall be null and void *ab initio*.

This offer is not a representation by us or the underwriters that an acquisition of the notes meets all legal requirements applicable to investments by Plans, entities whose underlying assets include assets of a Plan, Governmental Plans, Church Plans or non-United States plans or that such an investment is appropriate for any particular Plan, entities whose underlying assets include assets of a Plan, Governmental Plan, Church Plan or non-United States plan.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We intend to offer the notes through the underwriters. Subject to the terms and conditions described in an underwriting agreement, which we refer to as the underwriting agreement, between us and the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and the underwriters severally have agreed to purchase from us, the principal amounts of the notes listed opposite their names below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of notes
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	\$
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc.	
Total	\$

The underwriters have agreed to purchase all of the notes sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these notes are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the notes, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the notes, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officers' certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Commissions and Discounts

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, to other dealers a discount not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. After the initial public offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$ and are payable by us.

New Issue of Notes

The notes are new issues of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make markets in the notes after completion of the offering. However, they are under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading markets for the notes or that active public

markets for the notes will develop. If active public trading markets for the notes do not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

Stabilization and Short Positions

In connection with the offering, the underwriters are permitted to engage in transactions that stabilize the market price of the notes. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain the price of the notes. If the underwriters create a short position in the notes in connection with the offering (i.e., if they sell more notes than are on the cover page of this prospectus supplement) the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing notes in the open market. Purchases of a security to stabilize the price or to reduce a

Table of Contents

short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Sales Outside the United States

The notes may be offered and sold in the United States and certain jurisdictions outside the United States in which such offer and sale is permitted.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes that are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the other underwriter; or
- (d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive;

provided that no such offer of notes shall require the Company or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

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

Company; and

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

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in Hong Kong, by means of any document, any notes other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (ii) in other circumstances that do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance

S-26

Table of Contents

(Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or that do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance; and

- (b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes that are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

This offering has not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948 of Japan, as amended) (the FIEL), and the underwriters have agreed that they will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means, unless otherwise provided herein, any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FIEL and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

Other Relationships

Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and/or commercial and investment banking services for us, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates are dealers and/or participants under our commercial paper programs and may receive a portion of the net proceeds of this offering as a result of their ownership of a portion of our outstanding commercial paper. If the underwriters receive more than 10% of the net proceeds of the offering in the aggregate, the offering will be conducted in accordance with Rule 2710(h) of the Conduct Rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. administered by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Jones Day will pass upon the validity of the notes. Certain legal matters relating to the offering of the notes will be passed upon for us by Mark E. Kimmel, Esq., our general counsel. Certain legal matters relating to the offering of the notes will be passed upon for the underwriters by Linklaters LLP, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

S-28

Table of Contents

Prospectus

**Harsco Corporation
Debt Securities**

We intend to offer from time to time our debt securities. We may sell these securities in one or more offerings at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of offering.

We will provide the specific terms of the securities to be offered in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell our securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those offered securities.

We may offer our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers or directly to investors. Each prospectus supplement will provide the amount, price and terms of the plan of distribution relating to the securities to be sold pursuant to such prospectus supplement. We will set forth the names of any underwriters or agents in the accompanying prospectus supplement, as well as the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale. In addition, the underwriters, if any, may over-allot a portion of the securities.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the ticker symbol **HSC** on that exchange. If we decide to seek a listing of any securities offered by this prospectus, we will disclose the exchange or market on which the securities will be listed, if any, or where we have made an application for listing, if any, in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should consider carefully any risk factors contained in a prospectus supplement, as well as the risk sectors set forth in our most recently filed annual report on Form 10-K and other filings we may make from time to time with the SEC. See **Risk Factors on page 2.**

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 May 12, 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
About This Prospectus	ii
Where You Can Find Additional Information	ii
Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference	iii
Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	iv
Our Business	1
Risk Factors	2
Use of Proceeds	3
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	3
Description of Debt Securities	4
Plan of Distribution	13
Legal Matters	15
Experts	15

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of offering.

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 about the terms of that offering. For a more complete understanding of the offering of the securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information under the heading *Where You Can Find Additional Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference*.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus that we may provide to you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of these documents. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

References in this prospectus to the terms *we*, *us* or *Harsco* or other similar terms mean Harsco Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless we state otherwise or the context indicates otherwise. References in this prospectus to the term *the Company* mean Harsco Corporation.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements and other information filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. The address for the SEC's website is www.sec.gov.

Our Internet website address is www.harsco.com. Through this Internet website (found in the *Investor Relations* link), we make available, free of charge, our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after these reports are electronically filed or furnished to the SEC. Information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus, and the reference to our website does not constitute incorporation by reference into this prospectus of the information contained at that site.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information in documents 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 considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in or omitted from this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the completion of the offering of securities described in this prospectus:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008; and

our current reports on Form 8-K, as filed with the SEC on January 28, 2008 and February 7, 2008.

You may obtain copies of these filings without charge by requesting the filings in writing or by telephone at the following address.

350 Poplar Church Road
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
Attention: General Counsel
(717) 763-7064

We will not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus any documents or portions thereof that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our current reports on Form 8-K after the date of this prospectus unless, and except to the extent, specified in such current reports.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 covering the securities to be offered and sold by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement, some of which is contained in exhibits to the registration statement. The registration statement, including the exhibits, can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices referred to above. Any statement made in this prospectus or the prospectus supplement concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual document.

Table of Contents

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The nature of our business and the many countries in which we operate subject us to changing economic, competitive, regulatory and technological conditions, risks and uncertainties. Some of the statements contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference into this prospectus are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. In accordance with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we provide the following cautionary remarks regarding important factors which, among others, could cause future results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements, expectations and assumptions expressed or implied herein. Forward-looking statements contained herein could include, among other things, statements about our management confidence and strategies for performance; expectations for new and existing products, technologies and opportunities; and expectations regarding growth, sales, cash flows, earnings and Economic Value Added (EVA®). These statements can be identified by the use of such terms as may, could, expect, anticipate, intend, believe comparable terms.

Factors that could cause results to differ include, but are not limited to: changes in the worldwide business environment in which we operate, including general economic conditions; changes in currency exchange rates, interest rates and capital costs; changes in the performance of stock and bond markets that could affect, among other things, the valuation of the assets in our pension plans and the accounting for pension assets, liabilities and expenses; changes in governmental laws and regulations, including environmental, tax and import tariff standards; market and competitive changes, including pricing pressures, market demand and acceptance for new products, services and technologies; unforeseen business disruptions in one or more of the many countries in which we operate due to political instability, civil disobedience, armed hostilities or other calamities; the seasonal nature of our business; the successful integration of our acquisitions; the amount and timing of repurchases of our common stock, if any; and other risk factors listed from time to time in our SEC reports. We caution that these factors may not be exhaustive and that many of these factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a prediction of actual results. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made, and we undertake no duty to update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a forward-looking statement herein should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans and objectives will be achieved.

Table of Contents

OUR BUSINESS

Harsco is a diversified, multinational provider of market-leading industrial services and engineered products. Our operations fall into two reportable segments: Access Services and Mill Services, plus an all other category labeled Minerals & Rail Services and Products. We have locations in 50 countries, including the United States.

Harsco was incorporated as a Delaware corporation in 1956. Our executive offices are located at 350 Poplar Church Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011. Our main telephone number is (717) 763-7064, and our Internet website address is www.harsco.com. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves risk. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, and in consultation with your own financial and legal advisors, you should carefully consider any risk factors contained in a prospectus supplement, as well as the risk factors set forth in our most recently filed annual report on Form 10-K under the heading "Risk Factors" and other filings we may make from time to time with the SEC. You should also refer to the other information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not yet identified may also materially harm our business, operating results and financial condition and could result in a complete loss of your investment.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in any applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities to which this prospectus relates for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment of debt, acquisitions, investments, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and advances to or investments in our subsidiaries. Pending any specific application, we may invest net proceeds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term debt.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the periods presented:

Three months ended March 31, 2008⁽¹⁾	2007⁽¹⁾	2006⁽²⁾	Year ended December 31,		
			2005⁽²⁾	2004⁽²⁾	2003⁽²⁾
3.80	3.87	3.77	3.63	3.01	2.68

(1) Does not include interest related to FIN 48 obligations.

(2) Pre-tax income from continuing operations (net of minority interest in net income) restated to reflect the Gas Technologies business group as a discontinued operation. Portion of rentals revised to include recurring short-term rentals in the Access Services Segment.

Fixed charges represent interest expense, capitalized interest and the portion of rental expense representing the interest factor for continuing operations. Earnings represent the aggregate of income from continuing operations before extraordinary items (excluding undistributed earnings of unconsolidated entities), income taxes, net adjustments for capitalized interest and fixed charges deducted from earnings.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following is a general description of the debt securities that we may offer from time to time under this prospectus. The financial terms and other specific terms of the debt securities being offered will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the issuance of those securities. Those terms may vary from the terms described here. Although the debt securities that we may offer include debt securities denominated in United States dollars, we also may choose to offer debt securities in any other currency, including the euro.

The debt securities will be governed by an indenture between us and a financial institution acting as the trustee. The trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on your behalf, described under [Events of Default Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs](#). Additionally, the trustee performs administrative duties for us.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. This summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of the debt securities and the indenture described in the related prospectus supplement, including definitions used in the indenture. The particular terms of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus and the indenture may vary from the terms described below.

General

The debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus will be issued under an indenture between us and The Bank of New York, as trustee.

The indenture will be governed by New York law. A copy of a form of the senior indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy of the indenture.

We may offer the debt securities from time to time in as many distinct series as we may choose. All debt securities will be direct, unsecured obligations of ours. Any senior debt securities that we offer under this prospectus will have the same rank as all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The indenture will not limit the amount of debt that we may issue under the indenture. The indenture also will not limit the amount of other unsecured debt or other securities that we or our subsidiaries may issue.

Our primary sources of payment for our payment obligations under the debt securities will be revenues from our operations and investments and cash distributions from our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation whatsoever to pay any amounts due on debt securities issued by us or to make funds available to us. Our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us will depend upon their operating results and will be subject to applicable laws and contractual restrictions. The indenture does not restrict our subsidiaries from entering into agreements that prohibit or limit their ability to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us.

To the extent that we must rely on cash from our subsidiaries to pay amounts due on the debt securities, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all our subsidiaries' liabilities, including their trade payables. Accordingly, our subsidiaries may be required to pay all of their creditors in full before their assets are available to us. Even if we are recognized as a creditor of our subsidiaries, our claims would be effectively subordinated to any security interests in their assets and also could be subordinated to some or all other claims on their assets and earnings.

Other than the restrictions described below or any restrictions described in an applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture and the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus will not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to protect holders of the debt securities if we participate in a highly leveraged transaction. Other than the restrictions described below or any restrictions described in an applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture and the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus also will not contain provisions that give holders of the debt securities the right to require us to repurchase their debt securities if our credit ratings decline due to a takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring or otherwise.

Table of Contents

You should look in the applicable prospectus supplement for the following terms of the debt securities being offered:

the title of the debt securities;

if other than United States dollars, the currency in which the debt securities may be purchased and the currency in which principal, premium, if any, and interest will be paid;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

the price at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which the debt securities will mature and the right, if any, to extend the maturity date or dates;

the annual rate or rates, if any, at which the debt securities will bear interest, including the method of calculating interest if a floating rate is used;

the date or dates from which the interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which the interest will be payable or the manner of determination of the interest payment dates and the record dates for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable;

the place or places where principal, any premium and interest will be payable;

any redemption, repayment or sinking fund provision;

the application, if any, of defeasance provisions to the debt securities;

if other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the debt securities that would be payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities;

any obligation we may have to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities at the option of a holder upon the happening of any event and the terms and conditions of redemption, repurchase or repayment;

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

if the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities may be determined by reference to an index, the manner in which that amount will be determined;

any additional covenants applicable to the debt securities;

any additional events of default applicable to the debt securities;

the terms of subordination, if applicable;

the terms of conversion or exchange, if applicable;

any material provisions described in this prospectus that do not apply to the debt securities; and

any other material terms of the debt securities, including any additions to the terms described in this prospectus, and any terms which may be required by or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that is below the prevailing market rate may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. Special United States federal income tax and other special considerations applicable to any discounted debt securities, or to debt securities issued at face value which are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

In addition to the debt securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus, we may issue other debt securities in public or private offerings from time to time. These other debt securities may be issued under other indentures or documentation that are not described in this prospectus, and those debt securities may contain provisions materially different from the provisions applicable to one or more issues of debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus.

Restrictive Covenants

We will agree in the indenture to certain covenants for the benefit only of holders of the debt securities governed by the indenture. The covenants summarized below will apply to each series of debt securities issued pursuant to the indenture as long as any of those debt securities are outstanding, unless waived, amended or the prospectus supplement states otherwise.

Payment. We will pay principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities at the place and time described in the debt securities. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay interest on any debt security to the person in whose name that security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that interest payment.

Any money deposited with the trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal of or any premium or interest on any debt security that remains unclaimed for two years after that amount has become due and payable will be paid to us at our request. After this occurs, the holder of that security must look only to us for payment of that amount and not to the trustee or paying agent.

Merger and Consolidation. We will not merge or consolidate with any other entity or sell or convey all or substantially all of our assets to any person, firm, corporation or other entity, except that we may merge or consolidate with, or sell or convey all or substantially all of our assets to, any other entity if:

we are the continuing entity or the successor entity (if other than us) is organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, a State thereof or the District of Columbia and the successor entity expressly assumes payment of the principal and interest on all the debt securities, and the performance and observance of all of the covenants and conditions of the indenture to be performed by us; and

there is no default under the indenture.

Upon such a succession, we will be relieved from any further obligations under the indenture.

Waiver of Certain Covenants. Unless otherwise provided in an applicable prospectus supplement, we may, with respect to the debt securities of any series, omit to comply with any covenant provided in the terms of those debt securities if, before the time for such compliance, holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series waive such compliance in that instance or generally.

Events of Default

You will have special rights if an Event of Default occurs and is not cured, as described later in this subsection. Unless described otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, the term **Event of Default** means any of the following with respect to an issue of debt securities offered under this prospectus:

we do not pay interest on an issue of debt securities within 30 days of the due date;

we do not pay the principal of, or premium, if any, on an issue of debt securities on the applicable due date;

we do not pay any sinking fund installment on an issue of debt securities within 30 days of the due date;

we remain in breach of any other covenant or warranty in the debt securities of such series or in the indenture for 90 days after we receive a notice of default stating that we are in breach, as provided in the indenture;

Table of Contents

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur; or

any other Event of Default described in the applicable prospectus supplement occurs.

Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs. Unless provided otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, if an Event of Default has occurred and continues with respect to an issue of debt securities, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all of the debt securities of the affected series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. Under some circumstances, a declaration of acceleration of maturity may be canceled by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series.

The trustee generally is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless one or more of the holders have provided to the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it.

If reasonable protection from expenses and liabilities is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee and to waive certain past defaults regarding the relevant series. The trustee may refuse to follow those directions in some circumstances.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing regarding a series of debt securities, the trustee may use any sums that it holds under the indenture for its own reasonable compensation and expenses incurred prior to paying the holders of debt securities of that series.

Before any holder of any series of debt securities may institute action for any remedy, except payment on such holder's debt security when due, the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding must request the trustee to take action. Holders must also offer and give the trustee satisfactory security and indemnity against liabilities incurred by the trustee for taking such action.

Street Name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee and to make or cancel a declaration of acceleration.

We will furnish every year to the trustee a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that, to their knowledge, we are in compliance with the indenture and the debt securities offered pursuant to the indenture, or else specifying any default.

An Event of Default regarding one series of debt securities issued under the indenture is not necessarily an Event of Default regarding any other series of debt securities.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

The following discussion of satisfaction and discharge, defeasance and covenant defeasance will be applicable to a series of debt securities only if we choose to have them apply to that series. If we do so choose, we will state that in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Satisfaction and Discharge. The indenture will be satisfied and discharged if:

we deliver to the trustee all debt securities then outstanding for cancellation; or

all debt securities not delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, are to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year and we deposit an amount sufficient to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest to the date of maturity, redemption or deposit (in the case of debt securities that have become due and payable), provided that in either case we have paid all other sums payable under the indenture.

Table of Contents

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance. The indenture provides, if such provision is made applicable to the debt securities of a series, that:

we may elect either:

- n to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to any debt security of such series (except for the obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt security, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency in respect of the debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (defeasance); or
- n to be released from our obligations with respect to the restrictions described above under Restrictive Covenants together with additional covenants that may be included for a particular series; and

the Events of Default described in the third, fourth and sixth bullets under Events of Default, shall not be Events of Default under the indenture with respect to such series (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the trustee (or other qualifying trustee), in trust for such purpose, of money certain United States government obligations and/or, in the case of debt securities denominated in United States dollars, certain state and local government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt security, on the scheduled due dates.

In the case of defeasance, the holders of such debt securities are entitled to receive payments in respect of such debt securities solely from such trust. Such a trust may only be established if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in the indenture) to the effect that the holders of the debt securities affected thereby will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance described above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable United States federal income tax law occurring after the date of the indenture.

Modification and Waiver

The indenture contains provisions permitting us and the trustee to modify the indenture or enter into or modify any supplemental indenture without the consent of the holders of the debt securities in regard to matters as will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities, including, without limitation, the following:

- to evidence the succession of another corporation to us;
- to add to our covenants further covenants for the benefit or protection of the holders of any or all series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the indenture;
- to add any additional events of default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;
- to add to or change any of the provisions of the indenture to facilitate the issuance of debt securities in bearer form with or without coupons, or to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities in

uncertificated form;

to add to, change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture in respect of one or more series of debt securities thereunder, under certain conditions designed to protect the rights of any existing holder of those debt securities;

to secure all or any series of debt securities;

to establish the forms or terms of the debt securities of any series;

Table of Contents

to evidence the appointment of a successor trustee and to add to or change provisions of the indenture necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the indenture by more than one trustee; or

to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision of the indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with another provision of the indenture or to make other amendments that do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any series of debt securities in any material respect.

We and the trustee may otherwise modify the indenture or any supplemental indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of each series of debt securities affected thereby at the time outstanding, except that no such modifications shall, without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby:

extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities or any installment of interest or premium on any debt securities, or reduce the principal amount thereof or reduce the rate of interest or premium payable upon redemption, or reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or change the currency in which the debt securities are payable or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment after the stated maturity thereof or the redemption date, if applicable, or adversely affect any right of the holder of any debt security to require us to repurchase that security;

reduce the percentage of debt securities of any series, the consent of the holders of which is required for any waiver or supplemental indenture;

modify the provisions of the indenture relating to the waiver of past defaults or the waiver or certain covenants or the provisions described in this section, except to increase any percentage set forth in those provisions or to provide that other provisions of the indenture may not be modified without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby;

change any obligation of ours to maintain an office or agency;

change any obligation of ours to pay additional amounts;

adversely affect the right of repayment or repurchase at the option of the holder; or

reduce or postpone any sinking fund or similar provision.

With respect to any vote of holders of a series of debt securities, we will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture.

Street Name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indenture or debt securities or request a waiver.

Street Name and Other Indirect Holders

Investors who hold securities in accounts at banks or brokers, which is referred to as holding in Street Name, generally will not be recognized by us as legal holders of debt securities. Instead, we would recognize only the bank or broker,

or the financial institution that the bank or broker uses to hold its securities. These intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions pass along principal, interest and other payments on the debt securities, either because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to. If you hold debt securities in Street Name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

Table of Contents

how it would handle voting if applicable;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a direct holder as described below; and

if applicable, how it would pursue rights under your debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests.

Direct Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, run only to persons who are registered as holders of debt securities issued under the indenture. As noted above, we do not have obligations to you if you hold in Street Name or other indirect means, either because you choose to hold debt securities in that manner or because the debt securities are issued in the form of global securities as described below. For example, once we make payment to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment even if that holder is legally required to pass the payment along to you as a Street Name customer but does not do so.

Global Securities

Global Securities. A global security is a special type of indirectly held debt security as described above under Street Name and Other Indirect Holders. If we choose to issue debt securities in the form of global securities, the ultimate beneficial owners can only hold the debt securities in Street Name. We would do this by requiring that the global security be registered in the name of a financial institution we select and by requiring that the debt securities included in the global security not be transferred to the name of any other direct holder unless the special circumstances described below occur. The financial institution that acts as the sole direct holder of the global security is called the depositary. Any person wishing to own a debt security issued in the form of a global security must do so indirectly by virtue of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depositary. The applicable prospectus supplement will indicate whether a series of debt securities will be issued only in the form of global securities and, if so, will describe the specific terms of the arrangement with the depositary.

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

An investor should be aware that if a series of debt securities are issued only in the form of global securities:

the investor cannot get debt securities of that series registered in his or her own name;

the investor cannot receive physical certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities of that series;

the investor will be a Street Name holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities of that series and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities of that series, as described under Street Name and Other Indirect Holders ;

the investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities of that series to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in the form of physical certificates; and

the depositary's policies will govern payments, transfers, exchange and other matters relating to the investor's interest in the global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depositary in any way.

Table of Contents

Special Situations When The Global Security Will be Terminated. In a few special situations, a global security will terminate, and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing debt securities. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold debt securities directly or in Street Name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own bank or brokers to find out how to have their interests in debt securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. The rights of Street Name investors and direct holders in debt securities have been previously described in subsections entitled Street Name and Other Indirect Holders and Direct Holders.

The special situations for termination of a global security are:

when the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary, and we do not appoint a successor depositary;

when an Event of Default on the series of debt securities has occurred and has not been cured; and

at any time if we decide to terminate a global security.

The applicable prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, only the depositary is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer

Unless we inform you otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue the debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus in registered form, without interest coupons, and only in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000. We will not charge a service charge for any registration or transfer or exchange of the debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus. We may, however, require the payment of any tax or other governmental charge payable for that registration.

Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations in accordance with the terms of the indenture. Holders may present debt securities for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or any transfer agent we designate. The security registrar or transfer agent will effect the transfer or exchange when it is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request.

We will appoint the trustee under the indenture as security registrar for the debt securities issued under the indenture. If a prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agents initially designated by us, we may at any time rescind that designation or approve a change in the location through which any transfer agent acts. We are required to maintain an office or agency for transfers and exchanges in each place of payment with respect to debt securities we may offer under the indenture. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

In the case of any redemption of debt securities offered under this prospectus, neither the security registrar nor the transfer agent will be required to register the transfer or exchange of any debt security during a period beginning 15 business days prior to the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption and ending on the close of business on the day of mailing of the notice, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement:

payments on a series of debt securities will be made in United States dollars by check mailed to the holder's registered address or, with respect to global securities, by wire transfer;

Table of Contents

we will make interest payments to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest payment; and

the trustee will be designated as our paying agent for payments on debt securities issued under the indenture. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts.

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

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the offered securities in and outside the United States:

to or through underwriters or dealers;

directly to purchasers, including our affiliates and shareholders, in a rights offering;

in at the market offerings, within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market on an exchange or otherwise;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods.

The prospectus supplement will include the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price or initial public offering price of the securities;

the net proceeds from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

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

any commissions paid to agents; and

any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Sale through Underwriters or Dealers

If underwriters are used in the sale, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them regarding the securities. The underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account, subject to conditions in the underwriting agreement. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer the securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters

may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. To the extent expressly set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, these transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue these activities at any time.

Some or all of the securities that we offer through this prospectus may be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom we sell our securities for public offering and sale

Table of Contents

may make a market in those securities, but they will not be obligated to do so and they may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you of the liquidity of, or continued trading markets for, any securities that we offer.

If dealers are used in the sale of the securities, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales through Agents

We may sell the securities directly to purchasers. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents designated from time to time. In the applicable prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any sales of these securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Remarketing Arrangements

Offered securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreements, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers, underwriters or remarketing firms may be required to make. Agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Jones Day will pass upon the validity of the issuance of the securities offered hereby.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents