

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS INC

Form 424B3

October 19, 2009

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424 (b)(3)
File No. 333-161842

PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**Offer to Exchange
Cash and Shares of Common Stock
for
2.125% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due
2024
(CUSIP No. 628852AG0)**

**Disclosure Statement
for
Solicitation of Acceptances of
Prepackaged Plan of Reorganization**

THIS EXCHANGE OFFER AND THE SOLICITATION PERIOD FOR THE PREPACKAGED PLAN WILL EXPIRE AT 11:59 P.M., NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON OCTOBER 19, 2009, UNLESS EXTENDED OR EARLIER TERMINATED BY US. AS OF THE DATE OF THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF EXTENDING SUCH DATE.

NCI Building Systems, Inc. is proposing a financial restructuring to address an immediate need for liquidity in light of a potentially imminent default under, and acceleration of, our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to a default under, and acceleration of, our other indebtedness, including the \$180.0 million in principal amount of 2.125% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024, which we refer to as the convertible notes), and the high likelihood that we will be required to repurchase the convertible notes on November 15, 2009, the first scheduled mandatory repurchase date under the convertible notes indenture. We are proposing to effect the financial restructuring through one of the following two approaches:

an out-of-court financial restructuring, which we refer to as the recapitalization plan, consisting of:

this exchange offer to acquire any and all of the convertible notes for cash and shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the related letter of transmittal;

a \$250.0 million investment, which we refer to as the CD&R investment, by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund VIII, L.P., which we refer to as the CD&R Fund, a fund managed by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc., which we refer to as CD&R, a leading private equity investment firm, involving a private placement to the CD&R Fund of a newly created series of our preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, to be designated as the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, which we refer to as the Series B convertible preferred stock;

the refinancing of our existing credit facility, which we refer to as the term loan refinancing, under which we and the lenders under our existing credit agreement will enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement, providing for, among other things, the repayment of approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance; and

the ABL financing, pursuant to which we will enter into an agreement for a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility;

OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE
(if conditions to completion of the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or waived)

an in-court financial restructuring, through which we would seek to accomplish the results contemplated by the recapitalization plan through the effectiveness of a prepackaged plan of reorganization, which we refer to as the prepackaged plan, acceptances for which we are soliciting in compliance with chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, which we refer to as the Bankruptcy Code, pursuant to this prospectus/disclosure statement.

We refer to the financial restructuring, whether accomplished through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, as the restructuring. For a description of this exchange offer and the procedures for tendering convertible notes, see *The Exchange Offer*. For a description of the prepackaged plan and the procedures for submitting ballots, see *The Prepackaged Plan*.

We have entered into lock-up and voting agreements, each of which we refer to as a lock-up agreement and which collectively we refer to as the lock-up agreements, with the holders of convertible notes and holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, pursuant to which such holders have agreed, in accordance with the terms of the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to the extent that they hold convertible notes, to tender their convertible notes in this exchange offer; (2) to the extent that they hold obligations under our existing credit agreement, to support the term loan refinancing by accepting their portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement substantially in the form attached as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth in Annex L; and (3) to vote all of their convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit facility in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. Including the holders that are subject to a lock-up agreement, we have commitments from holders of convertible notes holding more than 79% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes, and commitments or consents from 100% of lenders under our existing credit agreement, to support the restructuring and vote their convertible notes and/or obligations in favor of the prepackaged plan.

Holders of convertible notes will receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes and related accrued interest that we accept in the exchange offer. In the alternative, under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes will receive the same consideration for each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes and related accrued interest. The closing of this exchange offer is conditioned upon, among other things, at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes being validly tendered and not withdrawn, which we refer to as the minimum tender condition, the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment (which is itself subject to several conditions, including the consummation of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the Austrian Cartel Act of 2005, which we refer to as the Austrian Act) and the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part. See *The Exchange Offer* *Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer*.

The shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer, or in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, have been authorized to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, which we refer to as the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance. Our common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol *NCS*. We will not receive any proceeds from this exchange offer. See *Source and Use of Proceeds*.

We urge you to carefully read the *Risk Factors* section beginning on page 28 before you make any decision regarding this exchange offer or the prepackaged plan.

NONE OF THIS EXCHANGE OFFER, THE PREPACKAGED PLAN NOR THE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OFFERED HEREBY HAVE BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR ANY BANKRUPTCY COURT, NOR HAS THE SEC, ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR ANY BANKRUPTCY COURT PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Dealer-Manager for the Exchange Offer is:

Greenhill & Co., LLC

October 19, 2009

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE RESTRUCTURING</u>	1
<u>SUMMARY</u>	13
<u>Our Business</u>	13
<u>Liquidity</u>	13
<u>The Restructuring</u>	14
<u>This Exchange Offer</u>	19
<u>The Prepackaged Plan</u>	20
<u>Capitalization</u>	22
<u>Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data</u>	24
<u>Selected Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Data</u>	26
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	28
<u>Risks Relating to NOT Accepting the Exchange Offer or Rejecting the Prepackaged Plan</u>	28
<u>Risks Relating to Accepting the Exchange Offer or to the Effectiveness of the Prepackaged Plan and</u>	
<u>Becoming Holders of Common Stock</u>	30
<u>Risks Relating to the Prepackaged Plan</u>	38
<u>Other Risks Relating to the Company</u>	44
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	52
<u>RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</u>	54
<u>THE RESTRUCTURING</u>	55
<u>Overview</u>	55
<u>Background to the Restructuring</u>	56
<u>Reasons for the Restructuring</u>	62
<u>Opinion of Greenhill Relating to the CD&R Investment</u>	63
<u>Description of the CD&R Investment</u>	69
<u>The Investment Agreement</u>	70
<u>Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock</u>	93
<u>Stockholders Agreement</u>	103
<u>Registration Rights Agreement</u>	111
<u>Indemnification Agreement</u>	115
<u>Retirement of Convertible Notes</u>	116
<u>Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing</u>	116
<u>The Term Loan Refinancing</u>	117
<u>The ABL Financing</u>	120
<u>The Lock-Up Agreements</u>	123
<u>ACCOUNTING TREATMENT</u>	131
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	133
<u>SOURCE AND USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	140
<u>THE EXCHANGE OFFER</u>	141
<u>Purpose of the Exchange Offer</u>	141
<u>Terms of the Exchange Offer</u>	141
<u>Certain Matters Relating to Non-U.S. Jurisdictions</u>	141
<u>Financing of the Exchange Offer; Pro Forma Ownership</u>	142
<u>Exchange Offer Expiration Date</u>	142

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Extensions; Amendments</u>	142
<u>Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes</u>	143
<u>Book-Entry Transfer</u>	145
<u>Effect of Letter of Transmittal</u>	145
<u>Binding Interpretations</u>	145
<u>Acceptance of Convertible Notes for Exchange; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Common Stock</u>	146
<u>Withdrawal Rights</u>	147
<u>Return of Convertible Notes Not Accepted for Exchange</u>	148
<u>Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer</u>	148
<u>Resale of the Shares of Common Stock</u>	149
<u>No Appraisal Rights</u>	149
<u>Material Differences in the Rights of Holders of Convertible Notes and Common Stock</u>	149
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	150
<u>Exchange Agent</u>	150
<u>Information Agent</u>	151
<u>Interests of Directors and Executive Officers</u>	151
<u>Schedule TO</u>	151
<u>THE PREPACKAGED PLAN</u>	152
<u>Anticipated Events in a Reorganization Case</u>	153
<u>Solicitations of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	153
<u>Summary of Classification and Treatment of Claims and Equity Interest Under the Prepackaged Plan</u>	155
<u>Holder of Claims Entitled to Vote; Voting Record Date</u>	159
<u>Vote Required for Class Acceptance of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	160
<u>Classifications under the Prepackaged Plan</u>	160
<u>Classification and Allowance of Claims and Interests</u>	160
<u>Summary of Distributions under the Prepackaged Plan</u>	161
<u>Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	166
<u>Acceptance of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	167
<u>Feasibility of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	167
<u>Best Interests Test</u>	167
<u>Liquidation Analysis</u>	168
<u>Alternatives to Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	173
<u>Solicitation and Voting Procedures</u>	174
<u>Means for Implementing the Prepackaged Plan</u>	178
<u>Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan Without Acceptance by All Classes of Impaired Claims</u>	179
<u>Valuation Analysis and Financial Projections</u>	180
<u>Distributions</u>	182
<u>Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	183
<u>Modification of the Prepackaged Plan</u>	183
<u>Withdrawal of Prepackaged Plan</u>	184
<u>Effect of Prepackaged Plan Confirmation</u>	184
<u>Settlement, Release, Injunction and Related Provisions</u>	185
<u>Treatment of Trade Creditors and Employees During Our Reorganization Case</u>	189
<u>Restriction on Transfer of Securities</u>	191

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Securities Laws Matters</u>	192
<u>Certain Transactions by Stockbrokers</u>	192
<u>UNAUDITED PROJECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE PREPACKAGED PLAN</u>	193
<u>DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	199
<u>Existing Board of Directors</u>	199
<u>Board of Directors from and after the Closing of the Restructuring</u>	199
<u>Executive Officers</u>	201
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND CONVERTIBLE NOTES</u>	202
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	203
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	204
<u>Capital Stock</u>	204
<u>Preferred Stock</u>	204
<u>Effect of New Issuance of Preferred Stock</u>	205
<u>Possible Anti-Takeover Effects of Delaware Law and Relevant Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation</u>	205
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	206
<u>Consequences to U.S. Holders</u>	207
<u>Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders</u>	209
<u>Consequences to Non-Participating Holders if the Recapitalization Plan Is Consummated</u>	211
<u>Consequences to the Company</u>	211
<u>CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS</u>	213
<u>General Fiduciary Matters</u>	213
<u>Prohibited Transaction Issues</u>	213
<u>Representation</u>	214
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	215
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	215
<u>EXPERTS</u>	216
<u>VALIDITY OF SECURITIES</u>	216
<u>Annex A Prepackaged Plan of Reorganization</u>	
<u>Annex B Investment Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex C Amendment to Investment Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex D Amendment No. 2 to Investment Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex E Amendment No. 3 to Investment Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex F Amendment No. 4 to Investment Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex G Form of Stockholders Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex H Form of Certificate of Designations</u>	
<u>Annex I Form of Registration Rights Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex J Form of Indemnification Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex K Form of Amended Credit Agreement</u>	
<u>Annex L Amended Terms of the Term Loan Refinancing</u>	
<u>Annex M Opinion of Greenhill & Co., LLC</u>	
<u>Annex N Lock-Up and Voting Agreement (dated August 31, 2009)</u>	
<u>Annex O Amendment No. 1 to the Lock-Up and Voting Agreement (dated August 31, 2009)</u>	
<u>Annex P Lock-Up and Voting Agreement (dated October 8, 2009)</u>	
<u>Annex Q ABL Term Sheet</u>	
<u>Annex R Form of ABL Agreement</u>	

Table of Contents

NONE OF NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., THE CD&R FUND, CD&R, GREENHILL & CO., LLC (THE DEALER-MANAGER), MORROW & CO., LLC (THE INFORMATION AGENT), COMPUTERSHARE TRUST COMPANY, N.A. (THE EXCHANGE AGENT), FINANCIAL BALLOTING GROUP LLC (THE VOTING AGENT) OR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AFFILIATES IS MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER YOU SHOULD TENDER YOUR CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN THE EXCHANGE OFFER OR VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN. YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION WHETHER TO TENDER CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN THE EXCHANGE OFFER AND WHETHER TO VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN.

This prospectus/disclosure statement incorporates important business and financial information about us from documents that we have filed with the SEC but have not been included in, or delivered with, this prospectus/disclosure statement. For a listing of the documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement, see Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference. This information is available without charge upon written or oral request to NCI Building Systems, Inc., 10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, Texas 77064, Attn: Investor Relations Department, or made by telephone at (281) 897-7788. To obtain timely delivery, holders of convertible notes must request the information no later than the fifth business day prior to the expiration date of the exchange offer.

We have not authorized any person to provide any information or to make any representation in connection with the exchange offer or the prepackaged plan other than the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus/disclosure statement or the accompanying letter of transmittal or ballot, and if any person provides any of this information or makes any representation of this kind, that information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by us.

The Company is not aware of any jurisdiction in which the making of the exchange offer or the tender of convertible notes in connection therewith would not be in compliance with the laws of such jurisdiction. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus/disclosure statement are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer and solicitation presented in this document does not extend to you. In those jurisdictions where the securities, blue sky or other laws require this exchange offer, or the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan, to be made by a licensed broker or dealer and the dealer-manager or any of its affiliates is such a licensed broker or dealer in such jurisdictions, this exchange offer, or the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan, shall be deemed to be made by the dealer-manager or such affiliate (as the case may be) on our behalf in such jurisdictions. The exchange offer and solicitation of acceptances of the prepackaged plan are being made on the basis of this prospectus/disclosure statement and the accompanying letter of transmittal or ballot and are subject to the terms and conditions described herein. Any decision to participate in the exchange offer or to vote on the prepackaged plan must be based on the information contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement, the accompanying letter of transmittal or the ballot, or specifically incorporated by reference herein. In making an investment decision, prospective investors must rely on their own examination of us and the terms of the restructuring and the new securities, including the merits and risks involved. Prospective investors should not construe anything in this prospectus/disclosure statement as legal, business or tax advice. Each prospective investor should consult its advisors as needed to make its investment decision and to determine whether it is legally permitted to participate in the exchange offer or to vote on the prepackaged plan under applicable legal investment or similar laws or regulations.

Each prospective investor must comply with all applicable laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction in which it participates in this exchange offer or in the solicitation for acceptances to the prepackaged plan, or in

which it possesses or distributes this prospectus/disclosure statement, and must obtain any consent, approval or permission required by it for participation in this exchange offer or in the solicitation for acceptances to the prepackaged plan, under the laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction to which it is subject, and none of us, the dealer-manager, the information agent, the exchange agent, the voting agent, CD&R, the CD&R Fund or any of our or their respective representatives shall have any responsibility therefor.

Table of Contents

Neither CD&R nor the CD&R Fund is making this exchange offer or soliciting votes for the prepackaged plan, and none of CD&R, the CD&R Fund, any of their respective affiliates or any of their, or their respective affiliates' representatives is responsible for the accuracy of any information in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

The information contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement is as of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement only and is subject to change or amendment without notice. Neither the delivery of this prospectus/disclosure statement, nor any sale made hereunder, shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date on the front cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement or that the information incorporated by reference herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of such information.

This prospectus/disclosure statement contains summaries believed to be accurate and materially complete with respect to certain documents, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. Copies of documents referred to herein will be made available to prospective investors upon request to the information agent or the voting agent.

In this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein, we rely on and refer to information and statistics regarding our industry. We obtained this market data from independent industry publications or other publicly available information. Although we believe that these sources are reliable, we and the dealer-manager have not independently verified the accuracy and completeness of this information and the estimated information and statistics contained in such publications or publicly available information are inherently uncertain, involve risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed in Risk Factors.

All references to NCI refer to NCI Building Systems, Inc. only and all references to we, our, ours, us, the Company and similar terms are to NCI Building Systems, Inc., and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE RESTRUCTURING

The following are some questions and answers regarding the restructuring, including the recapitalization plan (which includes this exchange offer) and the prepackaged plan. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should carefully read this prospectus/disclosure statement, including the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement, to understand fully the terms of the restructuring, the recapitalization plan (which includes this exchange offer) and the prepackaged plan, as well as the other considerations that are important to you in making your investment decision. You should pay special attention to the Risk Factors beginning on page 28 and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 52.

General

Q: What is the purpose of the restructuring?

A: The purpose of the restructuring is to address the Company's immediate need for liquidity in light of a potentially imminent default under, and acceleration of, our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to a default under, and acceleration of, our other indebtedness, including the convertible notes indenture), and the high likelihood that we will be required to repurchase the convertible notes on November 15, 2009, the first scheduled mandatory repurchase date under the convertible notes indenture.

The restructuring consists of four related transactions:

the CD&R investment, which involves the sale and issuance to the CD&R Fund of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock for \$250.0 million;

the retirement of the convertible notes;

the term loan refinancing, which involves the refinancing of our existing credit facility under which we will repay approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement providing for a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance; and

the ABL financing, which involves our entry into a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility.

Each of the transactions comprising the restructuring may be accomplished through either the out-of-court recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, the in-court prepackaged plan. If the restructuring is being accomplished through the recapitalization plan, the retirement of the convertible notes tendered in the exchange offer would be accomplished through this exchange offer and the refinancing of our existing credit facility would be accomplished through an amendment to our existing credit agreement. In the alternative, if the restructuring is being accomplished through the prepackaged plan, the retirement of the convertible notes as well as the refinancing of our existing credit facility would be accomplished through the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan. See The Restructuring.

The closing of the exchange offer is conditioned on the satisfaction or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waiver of the minimum tender condition, which requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding

convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer. If the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, we intend, but are not required, to retire any remaining convertible notes outstanding after the consummation of this exchange offer by exercising our redemption right under the convertible notes indenture on or after November 20, 2009; if we do not so exercise our redemption right, such remaining convertible notes will otherwise be retired pursuant to the terms of the convertible notes indenture.

For a more detailed description of this exchange offer, see The Exchange Offer.

Q: What is the recapitalization plan?

A: The recapitalization plan is one method to accomplish the restructuring. Under the recapitalization plan:

Table of Contents

the CD&R investment would be effected through a private placement transaction;

the retirement of the convertible notes tendered in this exchange offer would be effected through this exchange offer, pursuant to which the Company is offering to acquire any and all of its outstanding convertible notes in exchange for cash and shares of common stock;

the term loan refinancing would be effected through an amendment to our existing credit agreement by us and the lenders under our existing credit agreement; and

the ABL financing would be effected through our entry into the ABL agreement.

If the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, we intend, but are not required, to retire any remaining convertible notes outstanding after the consummation of this exchange offer by exercising our redemption right under the convertible notes indenture on or after November 20, 2009; if we do not so exercise our redemption right, such remaining convertible notes will otherwise be retired pursuant to the terms of the convertible notes indenture.

See The Restructuring and The Exchange Offer.

Q: What is the prepackaged plan?

A: The prepackaged plan is an alternative to the recapitalization plan for accomplishing the restructuring. In the event that the conditions to the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or, with the prior consent of the CD&R Fund, waived (including, for example, the minimum tender condition) but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired class of claims, as an alternative to the recapitalization plan, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 proceeding. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization Case in Connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant.

Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes (as well as the holders of all other claims and interests other than the lenders under our existing credit agreement) would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan, the CD&R Fund would receive the same 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated by the CD&R investment and the Company would enter into the ABL agreement. Existing holders of our common stock would continue to hold such common stock. Under the prepackaged plan, lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan except that the maturity of the term loans that would remain outstanding after giving effect to the term loan refinancing would mature on the date that is five years from the closing of the restructuring, as compared to four years and six months from the closing under the recapitalization plan (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing).

See The Prepackaged Plan.

Q: In what circumstances will we file the prepackaged plan instead of close the exchange offer?

A: We will file the prepackaged plan instead of close the exchange offer if: (1) we are unable to complete the recapitalization plan because the minimum tender condition is not satisfied or waived (which minimum tender condition requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn), or because less than all of the lenders under our existing credit facility consent to entering into the amended credit agreement, but (2) holders of convertible notes or obligations under our credit agreement holding, in either case, at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in the applicable class who actually cast ballots vote to accept the prepackaged plan. In such circumstances, we will seek to accomplish the restructuring, on the same economic terms as the recapitalization plan, by way of the prepackaged plan. See [Questions and Answers About the Restructuring](#) [What is the Prepackaged Plan?](#) and [Summary](#) [The Prepackaged Plan](#).

Table of Contents

For the prepackaged plan to be confirmed by the bankruptcy court without invoking the cram-down provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, each class of claims or interests that is impaired must vote to accept the prepackaged plan. An impaired class of claims is deemed to accept a plan of reorganization if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in such class who actually cast ballots vote to accept the prepackaged plan.

Pursuant to the lock-up agreements, each holder of convertible notes and obligations under our credit agreement that executed a lock-up agreement has irrevocably agreed, in accordance with the terms of the applicable lock-up agreement, to vote all of its convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit facility in favor of the prepackaged plan. Such holders who are parties to the lock-up agreements represent more than 79% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes. We have entered into lock-up agreements with the holders of convertible notes and holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, pursuant to which such holders have agreed, in accordance with the terms of the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to the extent that they hold convertible notes, to tender their convertible notes in this exchange offer; (2) to the extent that they hold obligations under our existing credit agreement, to support the term loan refinancing by accepting their portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement substantially in the form attached as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth in Annex L; and (3) to vote all of their convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit facility in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. Including the holders that are subject to a lock-up agreement, we have commitments from holders of convertible notes holding more than 79% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes, and commitments or confirmation of intent from lenders under our existing credit agreement holding more than two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding principal amount of the obligations under existing credit agreement, to support the restructuring and vote their convertible notes and/or obligations in favor of the prepackaged plan. See [The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements](#). If such holders also represent more than one-half (1/2) of the number of the claims in the applicable class who actually cast ballots (which cannot be determined until all ballots have been cast), then we will have received sufficient votes from the convertible noteholders to approve the prepackaged plan with respect to the impaired class of convertible notes claims.

The confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions that may not be satisfied and are different from those under the recapitalization plan (including the exchange offer). We cannot assure you that all requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan will be satisfied or that the bankruptcy court will conclude that the requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan have been satisfied. See [The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan](#) and [The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan](#).

The effective date of the prepackaged plan will not occur until the conditions set forth below have been satisfied or waived: (1) the confirmation order has been entered and no stay of such order is in effect; (2) the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment; (3) the consummation of the term loan refinancing; and (4) the consummation of the ABL financing. See [The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan](#).

Q: What are the expected results of the restructuring, either accomplished through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan?

A: The restructuring, if successful, will increase the Company's capital and liquidity levels and reduce the amount of our outstanding debt. Specifically, upon the completion of the restructuring, we expect our indebtedness to be reduced from approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 to approximately \$150.4 million at the closing of the restructuring, consisting of \$150.0 million in principal amount of term loans under the amended credit

agreement and \$0.4 million of our industrial revenue bond. See Capitalization and Source and Use of Proceeds.

The ABL financing contemplated by the restructuring will provide us with up to \$125.0 million in liquidity, subject to availability under a borrowing base, for working capital purposes and future expansion. Based on its discussions with prospective lenders under the ABL agreement, the Company expects that because of borrowing base constraints, initial availability under the ABL agreement will be substantially less than the

Table of Contents

\$125.0 million commitment, and may be as low as \$45.0 million. We have been in discussions with prospective lenders regarding the terms of the ABL agreement to give effect to the ABL financing and the Company has finalized with such prospective lenders the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R and confirmed participation from such prospective lenders for the full availability under such facility. While the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders, and the Company has been informed that the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter into the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Assuming we are able to complete the restructuring, we expect that, for the foreseeable future, cash generated from operations, together with the proceeds of the ABL financing, will be sufficient to allow us to fund our operations, to increase working capital as necessary to support our strategy and to fund planned capital expenditures and expansions (including approximately \$5 million expected for the remainder of fiscal 2009).

Q: What are the lock-up agreements?

A: We have entered into lock-up agreements with the holders of convertible notes and holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, pursuant to which such holders have agreed, in accordance with the terms of the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to the extent that they hold convertible notes, to tender their convertible notes in this exchange offer; (2) to the extent that they hold obligations under our existing credit agreement, to support the term loan refinancing by accepting their portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement substantially in the form attached as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth in Annex L; and (3) to vote all of their convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit facility in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. Including the holders that are subject to a lock-up agreement, we have commitments from holders of convertible notes holding more than 79% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes, and commitments or confirmation of intent from lenders under our existing credit agreement holding more than two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding principal amount of the obligations under existing credit agreement, to support the restructuring and vote their convertible notes and/or obligations in favor of the prepackaged plan. See The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements.

Q: Why is it important that I tender my convertible notes and vote to accept the prepackaged plan?

A: If we do not complete the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, because the conditions to the recapitalization plan and the prepackaged plan have not been satisfied or waived or otherwise, we will face an immediate liquidity crisis. If we do not complete the restructuring, we do not expect, and we cannot assure you, that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity (1) to meet our debt repayment/repurchase obligations, including any potential acceleration of our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to a default under, and acceleration of, our other indebtedness, including the convertible notes indentures) and (2) to meet our obligation to repurchase the convertible notes at the option of the holders thereof on November 15, 2009, the next scheduled repurchase date.

Due to our non-compliance as of August 2, 2009 with the required leverage, senior leverage and interest coverage ratios in our existing credit agreement, our outstanding indebtedness of approximately \$293.3 million thereunder may be declared immediately due and payable as early as November 6, 2009, the date the current waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement expires. In the event that we do not repay such borrowings upon acceleration, the lenders under our existing credit agreement could exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing such borrowings. A failure to pay or refinance such borrowings will also result in a default under the convertible notes indenture, which convertible notes could also then be declared immediately due and payable, and under our swap agreement, which could then be terminated by the

counterparty thereto. If all such indebtedness, which totaled approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 and such amounts payable pursuant to the termination of the swap agreement were to become due and payable on November 6, 2009, it would result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition, operations and debt service capabilities. As of August 2, 2009, excluding restricted cash, we had a

Table of Contents

current cash balance of approximately \$105.4 million to address our liquidity needs. For a description of our non-compliance with the financial ratio covenants under our existing credit agreement, see our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 2, 2009, our current reports on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009, July 15, 2009 and August 27, 2009 and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

In the event that we experience a liquidity crisis as described above, it could likely result in our filing for bankruptcy protection pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. If we commence such a bankruptcy filing, holders of convertible notes may receive consideration that is substantially less than what is being offered under the restructuring. See Risk Factors Risk Relating to NOT Accepting the Exchange Offer or Rejecting the Prepackaged Plan for more information on the possible consequences if the restructuring is not successfully completed.

Both this exchange offer and the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions. In particular, this exchange offer is subject to the satisfaction of the minimum tender condition that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes must have been validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer, and confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan requires the receipt of acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes.

Accordingly, it is important that you tender your convertible notes for exchange in this exchange offer and vote to accept the prepackaged plan to avoid the adverse consequences described above.

This Exchange Offer

Q: Who is making this exchange offer?

A: NCI Building Systems, Inc. (the issuer of the convertible notes) is making this exchange offer.

Q: What amount of convertible notes are you seeking in this exchange offer?

A: We are seeking to acquire any and all outstanding convertible notes.

Q: What will I receive in this exchange offer if I tender my convertible notes and they are accepted?

A: For each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes that you tender and not withdraw in this exchange offer and that we accept, you will, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and the letter of transmittal, receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock. The cash payment and the shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be in full satisfaction of the principal amount of, and any accrued but unpaid interest through the consummation of this exchange offer on, the convertible notes so tendered and accepted.

Assuming that all Series B convertible preferred stock were converted to common stock and an equity value based on the midpoint enterprise valuation of the Company of \$450 million, the cash and stock consideration offered in this exchange offer represents value of approximately \$987.50 per \$1,000 in principal amount of convertible notes.

Q: Who may participate in this exchange offer?

A: All holders of convertible notes may participate in this exchange offer.

Q: Does the success of this exchange offer depend on the participation of any minimum number of holders of convertible notes?

A: Yes. This exchange offer is subject to the satisfaction of the minimum tender condition, which means that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes must have been validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer. The satisfaction of the minimum tender condition is a condition to the closing of the CD&R investment and the term loan refinancing under the recapitalization plan. If this condition is not met, subject to applicable laws and our obligation under the investment agreement, we

Table of Contents

may amend this exchange offer. Under the investment agreement, however, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to this exchange offer or making any changes to the terms and conditions to this exchange offer without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund. In addition, any change to the minimum tender condition could result in a termination of the lock-up agreements.

We may extend this exchange offer beyond the initial expiration date without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund for a period of not more than 10 business days if, at such date, any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived, and, subject to the termination of the investment agreement, we are required to extend this exchange offer if it expires before the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part is declared effective.

Q: How do I tender my convertible notes in this exchange offer?

A: Please follow the procedures for tendering your convertible notes in this exchange offer described in *The Exchange Offer Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes*. For further information contact the information agent or the dealer-manager at the addresses or telephone numbers on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement or consult your broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee for assistance.

Q: How long will this exchange offer remain open?

A: This exchange offer and the withdrawal rights will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on October 19, 2009, or any subsequent time or date to which this exchange offer is extended.

As more fully described below, we may extend the expiration date or amend any of the terms or conditions of this exchange offer for any reason, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan*). The last date on which tenders will be accepted, whether on October 19, 2009, or any later date to which this exchange offer may be extended, is referred to as the expiration date.

Subject to our obligations under the investment agreement and applicable laws, we have the right to:

extend the expiration date and retain all tendered convertible notes, subject to your right to withdraw your tendered convertible notes; and

waive any condition in our sole discretion or otherwise amend any of the terms or conditions of this exchange offer in any respect.

Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to this exchange offer or making any changes to the terms and conditions to this exchange offer without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund. We may extend this exchange offer beyond the initial expiration date without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund for a period of not more than 10 business days, if, at such date, any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived, and, subject to the termination of the investment agreement, we are required to extend this exchange offer if it expires before the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part is declared effective. See *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan*. Any change to the minimum tender condition could result in the termination of the lock-up agreements.

If we extend the expiration date, we will issue a press release or other public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the scheduled expiration date. If we extend the expiration date, you must tender your convertible notes on or prior to the date identified in such press release or public announcement if you wish to participate in this exchange offer. If we amend any of the terms or conditions of this exchange offer, we will issue a press release or other public announcement. See The Exchange Offer Extensions; Amendments.

We expressly reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to terminate this exchange offer and not accept for exchange any convertible notes (1) if any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or

Table of Contents

validly waived by us, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement or (2) in order to comply in whole or in part with any applicable law. See The Exchange Offer Extensions; Amendments.

Q: When will I receive cash and shares of common stock if I tender my convertible notes in the exchange offer?

A: Upon satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions to this exchange offer, all convertible notes validly tendered to the exchange agent by 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date will be accepted for exchange. The cash and shares of common stock will be delivered promptly after the expiration date. See The Exchange Offer Acceptance of Convertible Notes for Exchange; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Common Stock.

Q: Can I withdraw my tender of convertible notes?

A: Unless you are a party to a lock-up agreement and are otherwise restricted by such lock-up agreement, you may withdraw tendered convertible notes at any time prior to 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. You must send a written withdrawal notice to the exchange agent, or comply with the appropriate procedures of DTC's Automated Tender Offer Program, which we refer to as ATOP. If you change your mind, you may re-tender your convertible notes by again following the tender procedures at any time prior to 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. See The Exchange Offer Withdrawal Rights.

Q: What risks should I consider in deciding whether or not to tender my convertible notes?

A: In deciding whether to participate in this exchange offer, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties affecting the Company, this exchange offer, the prepackaged plan and the common stock described in the section titled Risk Factors and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Q: If this exchange offer is consummated, but I do not tender my convertible notes, how will my rights be affected?

A: If this exchange offer is consummated and you do not exchange your convertible notes in this exchange offer, or if your convertible notes are not accepted for exchange, unless the restructuring is being accomplished through the prepackaged plan, you will continue to hold your convertible notes and will be entitled to all the rights and subject to all the limitations applicable to the convertible notes. If you continue to hold your convertible notes, you have the right to require that we repurchase the convertible notes (1) upon the closing of the exchange offer because such closing would result in a designated event under the convertible notes indenture, at a repurchase price equal to 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, including additional amounts, if any, plus under certain circumstances, if the restructuring occurs on or prior to November 15, 2009, a make-whole premium payable solely in shares of our common stock (other than cash paid in lieu of fractional shares) and (2) after five, 10 and 15 years from the date of the issuance of the convertible notes, at 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, beginning November 15, 2009, and we will be required to repurchase any outstanding convertible notes for which you deliver a written repurchase notice to the paying agent, subject to certain conditions in the indenture under which the convertible notes are issued.

Unless we consummate the restructuring, however, we do not expect, and we cannot assure you, that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity to meet our debt obligations, including any potential acceleration of our indebtedness and our obligation to repurchase the convertible notes at the option of the holders thereof on November 15, 2009, the next scheduled repurchase date. Furthermore, due to our non-compliance as of August 2, 2009 with the required leverage, senior leverage and interest coverage ratios in our existing credit agreement, our

outstanding indebtedness of approximately \$293.3 million thereunder, which is senior to the convertible notes, may be declared immediately due and payable as early as November 6, 2009, the date of expiration of the current waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement. In the event that we do not repay such borrowings upon acceleration, lenders under our existing credit agreement could exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing such borrowings. A failure to pay or

Table of Contents

refinance such borrowings will also result in a default under the convertible notes indenture, which could also then be declared immediately due and payable, and under our swap agreement, which could then be terminated by the counterparty thereto. If all such indebtedness, which totaled approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009, and such amounts payable pursuant to the termination of the swap agreement, were to become due and payable on November 6, 2009, it would result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition, operations and debt service capabilities. As of August 2, 2009, excluding restricted cash, we had a current cash balance of approximately \$105.4 million to address our liquidity needs. For a description of our non-compliance with the financial ratio covenants under our existing credit agreement, see our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 2, 2009, our current reports on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009, July 15, 2009 and August 27, 2009 and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

See Risk Factors Risks Relating to NOT Accepting the Exchange Offer or Rejecting the Prepackaged Plan.

Q: What happens if my convertible notes are not accepted in this exchange offer?

A: If we do not accept your convertible notes for exchange for any reason, the unaccepted convertible notes will be returned to you without expense and the convertible notes tendered by book-entry transfer into the account of the exchange agent at DTC will be credited to your account at DTC. See The Exchange Offer Return of Convertible Notes Not Accepted for Exchange.

Q: What is the source for the financial resources to make payment?

A: Assuming 100% of the convertible notes are tendered and accepted in this exchange offer, approximately \$90.0 million is required to pay the cash consideration for all of the convertible notes.

We expect to use a portion of the proceeds from the CD&R investment to fund the aggregate cash payment in this exchange offer. If we are unable to consummate the CD&R investment, we will not be able to accomplish the restructuring.

Q: If I decide to tender my convertible notes, will I have to pay any fees or commissions in connection with this exchange offer?

A: If you are the record owner of your convertible notes and you tender your convertible notes directly to the exchange agent, you will not have to pay any fees or commissions. If you hold your convertible notes through a custodian or nominee, and your custodian or nominee tenders the convertible notes on your behalf, your custodian or nominee may charge you a fee for doing so. You should consult with your custodian or nominee to determine whether any charges will apply. Additionally, we will pay all other expenses related to this exchange offer and the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan, except any commissions or concessions of any broker or dealer other than the dealer-manager. The Company will also pay any transfer taxes applicable to the exchange of the convertible notes pursuant to the exchange offer, except in circumstances described in the letter of transmittal.

Q: Are there dissenters' rights in connection with this exchange offer?

A: Holders of convertible notes do not have dissenters' rights of appraisal in connection with this exchange offer.

Q: Whom do I call if I have any questions about how to tender my convertible notes or any other questions relating to this exchange offer?

A: Questions and requests for assistance with respect to the procedures for tendering convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer may be directed to Morrow & Co., LLC, as the information agent, at its address and telephone number set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

You may also contact Greenhill & Co., LLC, as the dealer-manager, at its address and telephone number set forth on the back over of this prospectus/disclosure statement with any questions you may have regarding this exchange offer.

Table of Contents

The Prepackaged Plan

Q: Who is soliciting votes on the prepackaged plan?

A: NCI Building Systems, Inc. is soliciting votes on the prepackaged plan.

Q: Why is NCI soliciting votes on the prepackaged plan if the restructuring can be accomplished through the recapitalization plan?

A: We have prepared the prepackaged plan as an alternative to the recapitalization plan for accomplishing the restructuring, if the conditions to completion of the recapitalization plan, including, for example, the minimum tender condition, are not met or waived, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes. The prepackaged plan consists of a plan of reorganization under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code that would effect the same transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan, including the issuance of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock in connection with the CD&R investment, the payment of cash and the issuance of shares of common stock in exchange for convertible notes, the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing. Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes (as well as the holders of all other claims and interests other than the lenders under our existing credit agreement) would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan, the CD&R Fund would receive the same 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated by the CD&R investment and the Company would enter into the ABL agreement. Existing holders of our common stock would continue to hold such common stock. Under the prepackaged plan, lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan except that the maturity of the term loans that would remain outstanding after giving effect to the term loan refinancing would mature on the date that is five years from the closing of the restructuring, as compared to four years and six months from the closing under the recapitalization plan (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing). See The Prepackaged Plan.

For the prepackaged plan to be confirmed by the bankruptcy court without invoking the cram-down provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, each class of claims or interests that is impaired must vote to accept the prepackaged plan. An impaired class of claims (such as holders of convertible notes) is deemed to accept a plan of reorganization if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in such class who actually cast ballots vote to accept the prepackaged plan. If the prepackaged plan is confirmed by the bankruptcy court, it will bind all holders of claims and equity interests in the Company regardless of whether they voted for, against, or did not vote at all on, the prepackaged plan.

Therefore, assuming the prepackaged plan satisfies the other requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, a significantly smaller number of claim holders can bind other claim holders to the terms of the prepackaged plan to accomplish the restructuring than are required to effect this exchange offer and the other transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan.

The confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions that may not be satisfied and are different from those under the recapitalization plan. We cannot assure you that all requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan will be satisfied or that the bankruptcy court will conclude that the requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan have been satisfied.

See The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan and The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan.

Q: Who is eligible to vote for the prepackaged plan?

A: Generally, holders of claims or interests in classes that are impaired (other than classes that receive nothing under the prepackaged plan and are, therefore, deemed to reject it) are eligible to vote on the prepackaged plan. As more fully explained in this prospectus/disclosure statement, a claim or equity interest is impaired,

Table of Contents

generally speaking, if its treatment under a plan of reorganization alters the terms of, or rights associated with, that claim or interest. The rights in respect of the convertible notes would be altered by the prepackaged plan and consequently holders of convertible notes may vote on the prepackaged plan.

For the purposes of the prepackaged plan, we have organized the various claims and interests against the Company into different classes. Holders of claims impaired by the prepackaged plan that are entitled to vote on the prepackaged plan will vote on the prepackaged plan by class. Under the prepackaged plan, members of the same class are treated the same. The claims of the lenders under our existing credit agreement are classified under the prepackaged plan as Class 3 claims, and the claims of holders of convertible notes are separately classified under the prepackaged plan as Class 5 claims. The holders of Class 3 claims and Class 5 claims are impaired and are eligible to vote on the prepackaged plan. The holders of all other claims (other than holders of certain claims relating to section 510(b) of the Bankruptcy Code who are deemed to reject the prepackaged plan and are not entitled to vote) are unimpaired and are not eligible to vote on the prepackaged plan. However, any party in interest may object to the prepackaged plan, regardless of whether such party is impaired and entitled to vote or unimpaired and not entitled to vote. Indeed, pursuant to section 1109(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, a party in interest may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a chapter 11 case. See *The Prepackaged Plan of Reorganization Summary of Classification and Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests under the Prepackaged Plan* and *The Prepackaged Plan Summary of Distributions under the Prepackaged Plan*, for a description of the various classes of claims and equity interests under the prepackaged plan and their treatment.

Q: What will I receive under the prepackaged plan if it is confirmed and consummated?

A: For each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes, you will, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and the prepackaged plan, receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock. The cash payment and shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan will be in full satisfaction of the claims with respect to the convertible notes, including principal and accrued interest.

Q: What vote is needed to confirm the prepackaged plan?

A: The Bankruptcy Code provides that only holders of claims entitled to vote and who actually cast a ballot will be counted for purposes of determining whether acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims have been received to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes. Failure by a holder to deliver an original, duly completed and signed ballot will not be counted as a vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan. See *The Prepackaged Plan Vote Required for Class Acceptance of the Prepackaged Plan*.

For the prepackaged plan to be confirmed by the bankruptcy court without invoking the cram-down provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, each class of claims or interests that is impaired must vote to accept the prepackaged plan. An impaired class of claims (such as holders of convertible notes) is deemed to accept a plan of reorganization if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in such class who actually cast ballots vote to accept the prepackaged plan. Under the prepackaged plan, the claims held by the lenders under our existing credit agreement and the claims held by holders of convertible notes constitute separate impaired classes of claims. Under the prepackaged plan, other classes of claims against and interests in the Company (other than holders of certain claims relating to section 510(b) of the Bankruptcy Code who are deemed to reject the prepackaged plan and are not entitled to vote) are unimpaired and, therefore, conclusively presumed to accept the prepackaged plan. These other classes deemed to be unimpaired include existing holders of our common stock, notwithstanding that the prepackaged plan contemplates that such holders' interest in the Company will be diluted. Shares of our common stock are governed by our existing certificate of incorporation

and bylaws and Delaware law, and, irrespective of the prepackaged plan or any bankruptcy case, are subject to dilution on account of the issuance by the Company of preferred stock and additional common stock. Under our existing certificates of incorporation and by-laws (the terms of which will remain the same after the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan) and Delaware law, our board of directors has been and will be vested with the authority to fix and determine the relative rights and preferences of any series of preferred stock, including voting rights of such series, and to issue shares of common stock, in each case, within the limitations set forth in our restated

Table of Contents

certificate of incorporation. As further described under Description of Capital Stock, our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The issuance of the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to the CD&R Fund and the issuance of the shares of common stock to holders of the convertible notes under the prepackaged plan are both within the authority of our board of directors and within the number of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock and common stock and other limitations set forth in our existing restated certificates of incorporation (which will remain in effect after the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan). Thus, the prepackaged plan leaves unaltered the legal, equitable and contractual rights to which such common stock entitles the holders of such common stock. See The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan Without Acceptance by All Classes of Impaired Claims. Assuming that we complete the restructuring and all outstanding convertible notes are retired, based on the number of shares of common stock authorized, issued and outstanding as of September 4, 2009, at the closing of, and after giving effect to, the restructuring, existing holders of our common stock would hold approximately 7.0% of our voting power.

The bankruptcy court may disagree with our classification of claims and interests and any party in interest may challenge our classification of claims and interests. If the bankruptcy court concludes that the classification of claims and interests under the prepackaged plan does not comply with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, the prepackaged plan may not be confirmed. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Prepackaged Plan The bankruptcy court may disagree with our classification of claims and interests.

If the prepackaged plan is confirmed by the bankruptcy court, it would bind all holders of claims and equity interests in the Company regardless of whether they voted for, against, or did not vote at all on, the prepackaged plan. Therefore, assuming the prepackaged plan satisfies the other requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, a significantly smaller number of claim holders can bind other claim holders to the terms of the prepackaged plan than are required to effect this exchange offer and the other transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan. Additionally, since claims and equity interests are grouped in classes for the purpose of voting on the prepackaged plan, holders of claims and interests may be bound by the decisions of other claim or interest holders in a way that they otherwise would not outside of bankruptcy.

If we do not receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, the prepackaged plan will not be confirmed or become effective.

Q: What are the effects of the prepackaged plan?

Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes (as well as the holders of all other claims and interests other than the lenders under our existing credit agreement) would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan, the CD&R Fund would receive the same 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated by the CD&R investment and the Company would enter into the ABL agreement. Existing holders of our common stock would continue to hold such common stock. Under the prepackaged plan, lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan except that the maturity of the term loans that would remain outstanding after giving effect to the term loan refinancing would mature on the date that is five years from the closing of the restructuring, as compared to four years and six months from the closing under the recapitalization plan (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing). See Summary Liquidity and The Prepackaged Plan.

Q: When is the deadline for submitting ballots?

A: The ballots must be received by the voting agent by 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the voting deadline, or October 19, 2009. If the voting deadline is extended, then the ballots must be received by the voting agent by any such extended voting deadline. In the case of an extension, we will notify the voting agent and issue a press release or other public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the scheduled voting deadline. Ballots must be sent by mail, hand delivery or overnight courier to the

Table of Contents

voting agent, Financial Balloting Group LLC, by the voting deadline. Electronic and facsimile ballots will not be accepted.

See The Prepackaged Plan Holders of Claims Entitled to Vote; Voting Record Date and The Prepackaged Plan Solicitation and Voting Procedures Voting Deadline.

Q: How do I vote on the prepackaged plan?

A: Please follow the procedures for voting on the prepackaged plan described in the section titled The Prepackaged Plan Solicitation and Voting Procedures Voting Instructions.

For further information, contact the voting agent at its address and telephone number on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement or consult your broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee for assistance.

Only the beneficial owners of convertible notes and/or term loans and other obligations under our existing credit agreement (or their authorized signatories) as of the voting record date are eligible to vote on the prepackaged plan.

Q: Can I revoke my vote?

A: Unless you are a party to a lock-up agreement or are otherwise restricted by such lock-up agreement, any party who has previously submitted to the voting agent prior to the voting deadline a properly completed ballot may revoke such ballot and change its vote by submitting to the voting agent, prior to the voting deadline, a subsequent properly completed ballot for acceptance or rejection of the prepackaged plan.

Q: Whom do I call if I have any questions about how to submit ballots or any other questions relating to the prepackaged plan?

A: Questions and requests for assistance with respect to the procedures for voting on the prepackaged plan, as well as requests for additional copies of this prospectus/disclosure statement and the ballot, may be directed to Financial Balloting Group, LLC, as the voting agent, at its address and telephone number set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Q: What risks should I consider in deciding whether to accept or reject the prepackaged plan?

A: In deciding whether to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties affecting the Company, this exchange offer, the prepackaged plan and the common stock described in the section titled Risk Factors and the risk factors described in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus/disclosure statement to help you understand our business and the restructuring, including the recapitalization plan (which includes this exchange offer) and the prepackaged plan. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should carefully read this prospectus/disclosure statement, including the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement, to understand fully the terms of the restructuring, the recapitalization plan (which includes this exchange offer) and the prepackaged plan, as well as the other considerations that are important to you in making your investment decision. You should pay special attention to the Risk Factors beginning on page 28 and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 52.

Our Business

We are a leading North American integrated manufacturer and supplier of metal coil coating services, metal building components and engineered metal buildings systems. Of the \$236 billion nonresidential construction industry in 2008, we primarily serve the low-rise nonresidential construction market (five stories or less), which, according to FW Dodge/McGraw-Hill, represents approximately 88% of the total nonresidential construction industry. Our broad range of products is used in repair, retrofit and new construction activities, primarily in North America.

We provide metal coil coating services for commercial and construction applications, servicing both internal and external customers. We design, engineer, manufacture and market what we believe is one of the most comprehensive lines of metal components and engineered building systems in the industry, with a reputation for high quality and superior engineering and design. We go to market with well-recognized brands, which allows us to compete effectively within a broad range of end-user markets, including industrial, commercial, institutional and agricultural. Our service versatility allows us to support the varying needs of our diverse customer base, which includes general contractors and subcontractors, developers, manufacturers, distributors and a network of over 4,400 authorized builders across North America.

We are comprised of a family of companies operating manufacturing facilities across the United States and Mexico, with additional sales and distribution offices throughout the United States and Canada. Our broad geographic footprint, along with our hub-and-spoke distribution system, allows us to efficiently supply a broad range of customers with high quality customer service and reliable deliveries.

The Company was founded in 1984 and reincorporated in Delaware in 1991. In 1998, we acquired Metal Building Components, Inc. and doubled our revenue base. With the merger, we became the largest domestic manufacturer of nonresidential metal components. In 2006, we acquired Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, which operates the Ceco Building Systems, Star Building Systems and Robertson Building Systems divisions of our business and is a leader in the metal buildings industry. This transaction has created an organization with greater product and geographic diversification, a stronger customer base and a more extensive distribution network than either company had separately.

Our principal offices are located at 10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, Texas 77064, and our telephone number is (281) 897-7788. Our website address is www.ncilp.com. The information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Liquidity

We believe that the completion of the restructuring through the recapitalization plan, or, in the alternative, through the prepackaged plan, is critical to our continuing viability. The restructuring, if successful, will increase the Company's capital and liquidity levels and reduce the amount of its outstanding debt. Specifically, upon the completion of the restructuring, we expect our indebtedness to be reduced from approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 to approximately \$150.4 million at the closing of the restructuring, consisting of \$150.0 million in principal amount of term loans under the amended credit agreement and \$0.4 million of our industrial revenue bond. See Capitalization and Source and Use of Proceeds.

Table of Contents

The ABL financing contemplated by the restructuring would provide us with up to \$125.0 million in liquidity, subject to availability under a borrowing base, for working capital purposes and future expansion. Based on discussions with prospective lenders under the ABL agreement, however, we expect that, because of borrowing base constraints, initial availability under the ABL agreement would be substantially less than the \$125.0 million commitment, and may be as low as \$45.0 million. We have been in discussions with prospective lenders regarding the terms of the ABL agreement to give effect to the ABL financing and the Company has finalized with such prospective lenders the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R and confirmed participation for the full availability under such ABL financing. While the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders, and the Company has been informed that the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter into the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Assuming we are able to complete the restructuring, we expect that, for the foreseeable future, cash generated from operations, together with the proceeds of the ABL financing, will be sufficient to allow us to fund our operations, to increase working capital as necessary to support our strategy and to fund planned capital expenditures and expansions, including approximately \$5.0 million expected, for the remainder of fiscal 2009.

The Restructuring

The Restructuring

This exchange offer and solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan are part of, and are being conducted pursuant to, the restructuring, which may be accomplished through an out-of-court recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, if the conditions to the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or waived, through an in-court prepackaged plan. The restructuring consists of four related transactions:

the CD&R investment, which involves the sale and issuance to the CD&R Fund of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock for \$250.0 million;

the retirement of all convertible notes;

the term loan refinancing, which involves the refinancing of our existing credit facility under which we will repay approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement providing for a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance; and

the ABL financing, which involves our entry into a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility.

Each of the transactions comprising the restructuring may be accomplished through either the out-of-court recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, the in-court prepackaged plan. If the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, the retirement of the convertible notes tendered in the exchange offer would be accomplished through this exchange offer and the refinancing of our existing credit

facility would be accomplished through an amendment to our existing credit agreement. In the alternative, if the restructuring is accomplished through the prepackaged plan, the retirement of the convertible notes as well as the refinancing of our existing credit facility would be accomplished through the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan. See The Restructuring.

Table of Contents

The closing of the exchange offer is conditioned on the satisfaction or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waiver of the minimum tender condition, which requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer. If the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, we intend, but are not required, to retire any remaining convertible notes outstanding after the consummation of this exchange offer by exercising our redemption right under the convertible notes indenture on or after November 20, 2009; if we do not so exercise our redemption right, such remaining convertible notes will otherwise be retired pursuant to the terms of the convertible notes indenture.

For a more detailed description of this exchange offer, see [The Exchange Offer](#).

See [Liquidity](#) above and [The Restructuring](#) for a discussion of the anticipated effects of the restructuring.

Pro Forma Capitalization

Assuming that we complete the restructuring and all outstanding convertible notes are retired through the exchange offer or the prepackaged plan, based on the number of shares of common stock authorized, issued and outstanding as of September 4, 2009, at the closing of, and after giving effect to, the restructuring:

holders of convertible notes would receive 70,200,000 shares of our common stock in the aggregate (or approximately 24.5% of our voting power);

the CD&R Fund would receive 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock convertible into 196,109,194 shares of common stock based on the initial conversion price (assuming that we have sufficient authorized but unissued shares to permit such conversion, which, after giving effect to the restructuring, we do not expect to have (see [Summary The Restructuring CD&R Investment](#))) (or approximately 68.5% of our voting power); and

our current stockholders would continue to hold approximately 19,981,585 shares of our common stock in the aggregate (or approximately 7.0% of our voting power).

See [Capitalization](#).

Lock-Up Agreements

We have entered into lock-up agreements with the holders of convertible notes and holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, pursuant to which such holders have agreed, in accordance with the terms of the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to the extent that they hold convertible notes, to tender their convertible notes in this exchange offer;

(2) to the extent that they hold obligations under our existing credit agreement, to support the term loan refinancing by accepting their portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement substantially in the form attached as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth in Annex L; and (3) to vote all of their convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit facility in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. Including the holders that are subject to a lock-up agreement, we have commitments from holders of convertible notes holding more than 79% of the aggregate principal

Table of Contents

amount of the outstanding convertible notes, and commitments or confirmation of intent from lenders under our existing credit agreement holding more than two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding principal amount of the obligations under existing credit agreement, to support the restructuring and vote their convertible notes and/or obligations in favor of the prepackaged plan. See The Restructuring-The Lock-Up Agreements.

CD&R Investment

Pursuant to the investment agreement, the CD&R Fund has agreed to purchase from the Company an aggregate of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, which represents approximately 68.5% of our voting power after giving effect to the restructuring (based on the number of shares of common stock authorized, issued and outstanding as of September 4, 2009), for a total purchase price of \$250.0 million in cash. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment.

The obligation of the CD&R Fund to purchase the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock is subject to certain conditions, including the satisfaction or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waiver, of the conditions to this exchange offer or the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan, the consummation of the term loan refinancing (see Term Loan Refinancing below) and the ABL financing (see ABL Financing below) and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the Austrian Act. The investment agreement may be terminated by the CD&R Fund or the Company under specified circumstances. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Conditions to the CD&R Investment and The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement.

Holders of Series B convertible preferred stock will participate equally and ratably with the holders of common stock in all cash dividends paid on the shares of the common stock on an as-converted basis. In addition to such dividends, the Series B convertible preferred stock will accrue dividends at a rate *per annum* of 12.00% if paid in kind or at a rate *per annum* of 8.00% if paid in cash, which would be reduced to a rate *per annum* of 0.00% if, at any time after the 30-month anniversary of the closing of the restructuring, the trading price per share of common stock equals or exceeds two times a specified target price (which is equal to \$1.2748 at the closing of the restructuring, but is subject to adjustments thereafter) for each trading day during any period of 20 consecutive trading days. Upon the occurrence of a default under the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock, the applicable dividend rate will increase by:

6.00% *per annum*, if the default is the result of a failure by us after June 30, 2011 to reserve and keep available for issuance a number of shares of common stock equal to 110% of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of all outstanding shares of

Series B convertible preferred stock; or

3.00% *per annum* for any other default.

See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms
of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends and

Table of Contents

The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Defaults.

The Series B convertible preferred stock is convertible into common stock at an initial conversion price of \$1.2748, which conversion price is subject to anti-dilution adjustments, including adjustments if the Company issues common stock or other securities below the then-current market price or, during the first three years after the closing of the restructuring, below the then-current conversion price. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments.

On and after the 10th anniversary of the closing of the restructuring:

each holder of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock will have the right to require that the Company redeem all of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock; and

the Company will have the right to redeem all, but not less than all, of the then issued and outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock.

In either case, the redemption price for each share of Series B convertible preferred stock redeemed will be an amount equal to the sum of (1) the liquidation preference of such share of Series B convertible preferred stock to be redeemed and (2) the accrued dividends of such share as of the date on which the redemption of such share occurs. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Milestone Redemption.

After giving effect to the restructuring, we do not expect to have sufficient authorized but unissued shares of common stock to enable the conversion of all 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued to the CD&R Fund pursuant to the CD&R investment. Pursuant to the stockholders agreement to be entered into between the Company and the CD&R Fund in connection with the CD&R investment (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement), from and after the closing of the restructuring, we will use our best efforts and take all corporate actions necessary to obtain approval from holders of our common stock of an amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock. In the event that we do not obtain such approval prior to June 30, 2010, the dividend rate with respect to the Series B convertible preferred stock will increase by 3.00% *per annum* (and by an additional 3.00% *per annum* if such approval is not obtained prior to June 30, 2011, for an aggregate increase of 6.00% *per annum*) as further described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends Default Dividend Rate. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek

Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

Retirement of Convertible Notes

As part of the restructuring, we are seeking to retire all of the convertible notes. See [This Exchange Offer](#) below with respect

Table of Contents

to the retirement of convertible notes under the recapitalization plan and The Prepackaged Plan below with respect to the retirement of convertible notes under the prepackaged plan.

Term Loan Refinancing

As part of the restructuring, we expect to enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement, providing for, among other things, the repayment of approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding as of August 2, 2009 under our existing credit facility and a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance. See The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing.

The closing of the term loan refinancing through the recapitalization plan requires 100% of the lenders under our existing credit agreement to enter into the amended credit agreement. Confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan requires lenders under our existing credit facility holding at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in respect of the obligations under our existing credit agreement who actually cast ballots to vote to accept the prepackaged plan. See Summary of Terms of the Restructuring The Prepackaged Plan.

ABL Financing

As part of the restructuring, we expect to enter into an ABL agreement providing for a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility. See The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing.

Whether the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, the closing of the ABL financing requires the approval and execution of the ABL agreement by all lenders providing revolving credit commitments thereunder.

Importance of Tendering in this Exchange Offer and Voting to Accept the Prepackaged Plan

Both the recapitalization plan and the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions. In particular, the consummation of the recapitalization plan requires that the conditions to this exchange offer are met, including the minimum tender condition. The confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan requires the receipt of acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes.

See also Questions and Answers About the Restructuring General Why is it important that I tender my convertible notes and vote to accept the prepackaged plan?

Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the matters described in this prospectus/disclosure statement under Risk Factors, and the risk factors described in the documents incorporated by reference into this

Table of Contents

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations	For a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations for holders of convertible notes, see Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.
Accounting Treatment	For a description of the accounting treatment of the restructuring, see Accounting Treatment.
Fees and Expenses	We will pay all fees and expenses associated with this exchange offer and the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan, other than any commissions or concessions of any broker or dealer. Excluding fees and expenses related to the CD&R Investment and the other transactions contemplated by the investment agreement separate from the exchange offer and this consent solicitation, we expect that we will incur fees and expenses of approximately \$7.3 million, based on estimated legal, accounting, exchange agent, voting agent, dealer-manager, trustee, printing and other expenses associated with this exchange offer and the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan. See The Exchange Offer Fees and Expenses.
Listing	The shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer, or in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, have been authorized to be listed on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance.
Transferability	The shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be freely transferable and not subject to any transfer restrictions unless held by our affiliates as that term is defined under Rule 144 under the Securities Act. If the restructuring is accomplished through the prepackaged plan, we expect that the confirmation order of the bankruptcy court will provide that the issuance of the shares of common stock distributed under the prepackaged plan shall be exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act in accordance with section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code and therefore will be freely transferable by most recipients thereof, and all resales and subsequent transactions in the new securities will be exempt from registration under federal and state securities laws, unless the holder is an underwriter with respect to such securities.
This Exchange Offer	
Securities Subject to this Exchange Offer	Any and all of our \$180.0 million aggregate principal amount of 2.125% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024, which we refer to as the convertible notes.
Exchange Offer	We are offering to acquire any and all of the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock, in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the letter of transmittal. You may tender your convertible notes for exchange by following the procedures described in the section titled The Exchange

Offer Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes.

For each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes that you tender and that we accept in this exchange offer, you will, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure

Table of Contents

statement and the letter of transmittal, receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock. The cash payment and the shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be in full satisfaction of the principal amount of, and any accrued but unpaid interest through the consummation of this exchange offer on, the convertible notes so tendered and accepted. See The Exchange Offer Terms of the Exchange Offer.

Minimum Tender Condition; Other Conditions to this Exchange Offer

This exchange offer is subject to certain conditions, including, among others, (1) the satisfaction of the minimum tender condition, which requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer, (2) the receipt of proceeds from the purchase by the CD&R Fund of the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement, which purchase itself is subject to several conditions, including the satisfaction of the conditions to this exchange offer, the consummation of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the Austrian Act, and (3) the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part. See The Exchange Offer Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer.

Information Agent

Morrow & Co., LLC.

Exchange Agent

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Dealer-Manager

Greenhill & Co., LLC.

Use of Proceeds

We will not receive any cash proceeds from this exchange offer. Convertible notes that are validly tendered and exchanged pursuant to this exchange offer will be retired and canceled. See Source and Use of Proceeds.

The Prepackaged Plan

Prepackaged Plan

We have prepared the prepackaged plan as an alternative to the recapitalization plan for accomplishing the restructuring if the conditions to completion of the recapitalization plan, including, for example, the minimum tender condition, are not satisfied or waived, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes.

The prepackaged plan consists of a plan of reorganization under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code that would effect the same transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan, including the issuance of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock in connection with the CD&R

investment, the issuance of shares of common stock in exchange for convertible notes, the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing. If confirmed, the prepackaged plan would be binding on all

Table of Contents

of our creditors regardless of whether such creditors voted to accept or reject the prepackaged plan. See The Prepackaged Plan.

Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes (as well as the holders of all other claims and interests other than the lenders under our existing credit agreement) would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan, the CD&R Fund would receive the same 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated by the CD&R investment and the Company would enter into the ABL agreement. Existing holders of our common stock would continue to hold such common stock. Under the prepackaged plan, lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan except that the maturity of the term loans that would remain outstanding after giving effect to the term loan refinancing would mature on the date that is five years from the closing of the restructuring, as compared to four years and six months from the closing under the recapitalization plan (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing). The Prepackaged Plan.

If we do not receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, the prepackaged plan will not be confirmed or become effective.

Voting Record Date

The voting record date for determining the holders of claims entitled to vote on the prepackaged plan is August 28, 2009. See The Prepackaged Plan Holders of Claims Entitled to Vote; Voting Record Date.

Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan

The effective date of the prepackaged plan will not occur until the conditions set forth below have been satisfied or waived:

the confirmation order has been entered and no stay of such order is in effect;

the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment;

the consummation of the term loan refinancing; and

the consummation of the ABL financing.

We retain the right to waive any condition in our sole and absolute discretion, subject to our obligations under the investment agreement. See The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan and The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization Case in

Connection With the Prepackaged Plan Covenant.

Voting Agent

Financial Balloting Group LLC.

Table of Contents**Capitalization**

The following table sets forth our capitalization (1) as of August 2, 2009 on a preliminary, unaudited basis and (2) on an as adjusted basis, giving effect to the pro forma impact of the transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan, which include (1) the retirement of the convertible notes (assuming 100% of the convertible notes are retired), (2) the CD&R Investment, (3) the term loan refinancing and (4) the ABL financing. The pro forma capitalization presented in this section does not give effect to the pro forma impact of the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan. The filing of a prepackaged plan would result in the application of restart accounting which could significantly change to recorded value of asset, liabilities and stockholders' equity.

We use the assumptions above for illustrative purposes only. This table should be read in conjunction with the Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data and Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information elsewhere in this prospectus/disclosure statement, the financial statements and schedules and related notes for the fiscal year ended 2008 that are included in the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009 and the consolidated financial statements and related notes for the quarters ended February 1, 2009, May 3, 2009 and August 2, 2009 contained in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement.

	As of August 2, 2009	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except for share data)	
Cash and cash equivalents(1)(4)	\$ 105,376	\$ 60,264
Restricted Cash(2)	13,224	13,224
Note Payable	962	962
Debt		
\$125 Million Senior Secured Revolving Credit Facility		
\$400 Million Term Loan, due 2010 (\$150 Million Term Loan, due 2014, amended and restated)	293,290	150,000
2.125% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes, Due 2024	180,000	
Industrial Revenue Bond	420	420
Total Debt	473,710	150,420
Series B Convertible Preferred Stock: \$1.00 par value per share, 250,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding, as adjusted		212,579
Stockholders' equity (deficit):		
Series A Preferred Stock: \$1.00 par value per share, 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding		
Common Stock: \$0.01 par value per share, 100,000,000 shares authorized; 22,683,165 issued; and 19,982,173 outstanding, actual; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 93,217,165 issued; and 90,516,173 outstanding as adjusted(3)(4)	227	929

Edgar Filing: NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS INC - Form 424B3

Additional paid-in capital(4)	203,401	380,911
Retained earnings (deficit)(4)	(103,882)	(215,324)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)(4)	(917)	975
Treasury stock, at cost	(117,050)	(117,050)
Total stockholders equity (deficit)	(18,221)	50,441
Total capitalization	\$ 456,451	\$ 414,402
Book Value per share		
Basic	(0.91)	0.60
Diluted	(0.91)	0.60

Table of Contents

- (1) Cash equivalents are stated at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value. Cash equivalents are highly liquid debt instruments with an original maturity of three months or less and may consist of time deposits with a number of commercial banks with high credit ratings, Eurodollar time deposits, certificates of deposit and commercial paper.
- (2) Restricted cash is stated at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value. Restricted cash is held as deposited collateral for letters of credit.
- (3) Share amounts as presented reflect the 70,200,000 shares of common stock to be issued to repay a portion of the convertible notes and the 334,000 shares of common stock to be issued related to the accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan. If fully converted, the Series B convertible preferred stock would result in an additional 196,109,194 shares of common stock outstanding.
- (4) See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet and Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Balance Sheet for explanations of significant adjustments to cash and cash equivalents, additional paid-in capital, accumulated other comprehensive loss, and retained deficit.

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data**

The following table sets forth selected consolidated financial and other data for each of the fiscal years ended in 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 and for the nine months ended August 2, 2009 and July 27, 2008. Operating results for the fiscal nine months period ended August 2, 2009 and July 27, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full fiscal year. The selected consolidated financial and other data below is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements contained in Part III, Item 15, (a)(1) and (a)(2) of our annual reports on Form 10-K (except with respect to the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009) and in Part I, Item 1 of our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and with the current reports filed by us with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference herein. See Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference. The historical financial information presented may not be indicative of our future performance.

	Nine Months Ended		Fiscal Year				
	August 2, 2009	July 27, 2008	2008(1)	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(In thousands, except per share data)						
Statement of Operations Data:							
Sales	\$ 723,522	\$ 1,255,228	\$ 1,764,159	\$ 1,625,068	\$ 1,571,183	\$ 1,130,066	\$ 1,084,863
Cost of sales	568,773	940,095	1,325,624	1,221,463	1,187,151	850,699	822,722
Lower of cost or market adjustment	39,986						
Asset impairment	5,944						
Gross Profit	108,819	315,133	438,535	403,605	384,032	279,367	262,141
Selling, general and administrative expenses	158,564	210,501	283,825	271,871	246,044	174,897	165,165
Goodwill and other intangible asset impairments	622,564						
Restructuring charge	7,488	909					
Income (loss) from operations	(679,797)	103,723	154,710	131,734	137,988	104,470	96,976
Interest income	360	917	1,085	725	5,432	5,019	68
Interest expense	(13,029)	(17,859)	(23,535)	(28,829)	(24,915)	(14,459)	(15,126)
Loss on debt refinancing							(9,879)
Other (expense) income, net	757	1,022	(1,880)	1,195	527	1,181	2,618

Edgar Filing: NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS INC - Form 424B3

Income (loss) before income taxes	(691,709)	87,803	130,380	104,825	119,032	96,211	74,657
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(46,863)	33,536	51,499	41,096	45,236	40,260	29,767
Net income (loss)	(644,846)	54,267	78,881	63,729	73,796	55,951	44,890
Earnings (loss) per share:							
Basic	\$ (33.12)	\$ 2.81	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.70	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.28
Diluted	\$ (33.12)	\$ 2.79	\$ 4.05	\$ 3.06	\$ 3.45	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.24
Weighted average shares outstanding:							
Basic	19,468	19,308	19,332	19,582	19,959	20,501	19,709
Diluted	19,468	19,455	19,486	20,793	21,395	20,857	19,996
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(2)	(3)	5.40	5.95	4.27	5.30	6.93	5.48

(1) Fiscal 2008 includes 53 weeks of operating activity.

Table of Contents

- (2) For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges: (a) earnings are defined as earnings (loss) from continuing operations before provision for income taxes and fixed charges; and (b) fixed charges consist of net interest expense on all indebtedness, deferred financing charges and an estimate of the interest within rental expense.
- (3) The pre-tax loss from continuing operations for the fiscal nine months ended August 2, 2009 were not sufficient to cover fixed charges by a total of \$676,787. As a result, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges has not been computed for this period.

	Nine Months Ended		Fiscal Year				
	August 2, 2009	July 27, 2008	2008(1)	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(In thousands, except per share data)						
Statement of Cash Flows and Balance Sheet Data:							
Cash flow from operating activities	\$ 75,340	\$ 3,224	\$ 40,194	\$ 137,625	\$ 121,514	\$ 118,267	\$ 23,730
Total assets	627,635	1,396,696	1,380,701	1,343,058	1,299,701	990,219	786,426
Total debt	473,710	474,630	474,400	497,037	497,984	373,000	216,700
Stockholders equity (deficit)	(18,221)	598,650	623,829	539,696	498,409	444,144	401,177
Cash dividends per share(2)							

(1) Fiscal 2008 includes 53 weeks of operating activity.

(2) We did not pay dividends on our common stock for any of the periods referred to above.

Table of Contents

Selected Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Data

The following selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data for the year ended November 2, 2008, and as of and for the nine months ended August 2, 2009 has been derived by the application of pro forma adjustments to our historical consolidated financial statements. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the financial position or results of operations that would have actually been reported had the recapitalization plan occurred at the beginning of the periods presented, nor is it indicative of our future financial position or results of operations.

The unaudited pro forma financial information presented in this prospectus/disclosure statement does not give effect to the pro forma impact of the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan. The filing of a prepackaged plan would result in the application of restart accounting which could significantly change to recorded value of asset, liabilities and stockholders' equity.

The unaudited pro forma adjustments were prepared based on the assumptions we believe are reasonable. The unaudited pro forma summary selected consolidated balance sheet as of August 2, 2009, gives effect to the recapitalization plan as if it had occurred on August 2, 2009. The unaudited pro forma summary selected condensed consolidated statements of operations for the year ended November 2, 2008, and the nine months ended August 2, 2009, give effect to the recapitalization plan as if it had occurred on October 29, 2007.

Due to the fact that the transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan have not yet been completed, except as indicated, the unaudited pro forma summary selected financial information assumes that:

100% of the convertible notes are exchanged for a combination of \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of the convertible notes and accrued and unpaid interest thereon;

the conversion price of the Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued in the CD&R investment is \$1.2748 per share of common stock;

the restructuring is effected through the consummation of the recapitalization plan as opposed to the prepackaged plan;

the market price for common stock for all computations is \$2.61 per share, which was the closing market price on September 4, 2009; and

the fair market value of the derivative liability related to default dividend rates is expected to be \$7.5 million (\$4.6 million net of tax) in all periods.

If (1) the consideration offered in this exchange offer changes, (2) the conversion price of the Series B convertible preferred stock changes (see "The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti Dilution Adjustments") and/or (3) we are required to file the prepackaged plan (see "The Prepackaged Plan"), the unaudited pro forma adjustments could be materially different. These adjustments could result in significant differences in the estimates for the embedded derivative liability of the Series B convertible preferred stock, the estimated beneficial conversion feature of the Series B convertible preferred stock, and the estimated debt extinguishment cost of the convertible notes.

The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial information has been derived from our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009 and our consolidated financial statements for the quarterly period ended August 2, 2009, which are included in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q, each of which is incorporated herein by reference and should be read in conjunction with Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data and Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information and the consolidated financial statements and related notes included in this prospectus/disclosure statement. Our financial statements and schedules included in this prospectus/disclosure statement have been prepared on the assumption that we have the ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include any adjustments related to the recoverability and classification of asset carrying amounts or the amount and classification of liabilities that might result should we be unable to continue as a going concern.

Table of Contents

	Pro Forma (unaudited)	
	Nine	Year Ended
	Months	Year Ended
	Ended	November 2,
	August 2,	2008
	2009	2008
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Statement of Operations Data:		
Sales	\$ 723,522	\$ 1,764,159
Net income (loss)	(642,851)	88,400
Dividends and accretion on Series B convertible preferred stock	28,898	35,119
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders	\$ (671,749)	53,281
Earnings (loss) per share:		
Basic	\$ (2.15)	\$ 0.18
Diluted	\$ (2.15)	\$ 0.18
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	90,002	89,866
Diluted	90,002	89,866

Pro Forma (unaudited)
As of August 2, 2009
(In thousands, except per share data)

Balance Sheet Data:		
Total assets	\$	587,091
Total debt		150,420
Series B convertible preferred stock		212,579
Stockholders' equity		50,441

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before you participate in this exchange offer or vote on the prepackaged plan, you should carefully consider the risks described below. You should also consider the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus/disclosure statement before deciding whether to participate in this exchange offer or how to vote on the prepackaged plan.

Risks Relating to NOT Accepting the Exchange Offer or Rejecting the Prepackaged Plan

The following risks specifically apply to the extent a holder of convertible notes elects not to participate in this exchange offer or to vote against the prepackaged plan. There are additional risks attendant to being an investor in our securities that you should review, whether or not you elect to tender your convertible notes. These risks are described in Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 2, 2008 and Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended February 1, 2009, May 3, 2009 and August 2, 2009, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

If the minimum tender condition is not met for this exchange offer and we cannot implement the recapitalization plan, there nonetheless may be sufficient votes to accept the prepackaged plan to accomplish the restructuring.

The consummation of this exchange offer is conditioned upon, among other things, satisfaction of the minimum tender condition. If we are not able to complete the recapitalization plan because the minimum tender condition is not met or waived or for any other reason, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, as an alternative to the recapitalization plan, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 proceeding.

To obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan without invoking the cram-down provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, each class of claims or interests that is impaired must vote to accept the prepackaged plan. An impaired class of claims (such as holders of convertible notes) is deemed to accept a plan of reorganization if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of the claims in such class who actually cast ballots vote to accept the prepackaged plan. If the prepackaged plan is confirmed by the bankruptcy court, it will bind all holders of claims against, and equity interests in, the Company regardless of whether they voted for, against or did not vote at all on the prepackaged plan.

Therefore, assuming the prepackaged plan satisfies the other requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, a significantly smaller number of claim holders can bind other claim holders to the terms of the prepackaged plan than are required to effect this exchange offer and the other transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan. Additionally, since claims and equity interests are grouped in classes for the purpose of voting on the prepackaged plan, holders of claims and interests may be bound by the decisions of other claim or interest holders in a way that they otherwise would not outside of bankruptcy.

The confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions that may not be satisfied and are different from those under the recapitalization plan. We cannot assure you that all requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan will be satisfied or that the bankruptcy court will conclude that

the requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan have been satisfied. See The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan and The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan.

Table of Contents

If we are not able to consummate the exchange offer, the prepackaged plan or the CD&R investment, we do not expect that we will be able to meet our obligations to repurchase the convertible notes pursuant to the rights of the holders thereof to such repurchase on November 15, 2009, and we will likely be in default under our existing credit agreement, the convertible notes indenture, and our swap agreement on November 6, 2009 and our obligations under such agreements may become immediately due and payable.

The consummation of the exchange offer or, in the alternative, confirmation of the prepackaged plan, is a condition to the CD&R investment and the term loan refinancing to accomplish the restructuring. If we are unable to consummate the restructuring, we do not expect that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity to meet our debt obligations. As a result, we will have an immediate need to pursue other alternatives to manage our liquidity needs, including potentially filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. See Risk Factors If we do not consummate the restructuring by November 6, 2009, adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly and adversely affect our ability to otherwise refinance our existing debt.

Unless we consummate the restructuring, we do not expect that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity to meet our debt repayment/repurchase obligations, including any potential acceleration of our existing term loan indebtedness and our obligation to repurchase the convertible notes at the option of the holders thereof on November 15, 2009, the next scheduled repurchase date. Due to our non-compliance as of August 2, 2009 with the required leverage, senior leverage and interest coverage ratios in our existing credit agreement, our outstanding indebtedness of approximately \$293.3 million thereunder may be declared immediately due and payable as early as November 6, 2009, the date the current waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement expires. In the event that we do not repay such borrowings upon acceleration, the lenders under our existing credit agreement could exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing such borrowings. A failure to pay or refinance such borrowings will also result in a default under the convertible notes indenture, which could also then be declared immediately due and payable, and under our swap agreement, which could then be terminated by the counterparty thereto. If all such indebtedness, which totaled approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 and such amounts payable pursuant to the termination of the swap agreement, were to become due and payable on November 6, 2009, it would result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition, operations and debt service capabilities. As of August 2, 2009, excluding restricted cash, we had a current cash balance of approximately \$105.4 million to address our liquidity needs. For a description of our non-compliance with the financial ratio covenants under our existing credit agreement, see our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 2, 2009, our current reports on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009, July 15, 2009 and August 27, 2009 and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

In such event, we will have an immediate need to pursue other alternatives to manage our liquidity needs, including potentially filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. We do not expect, and there can be no assurance, that any alternative to such bankruptcy filing would be found. There can be no assurance as to the value, if any, that would be available to holders of convertible notes in the case of any such bankruptcy filing. The convertible notes are unsecured obligations of the Company and rank junior to the secured obligations under our existing credit facility. Accordingly, upon any distribution to our creditors in any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding relating to us or our property, the holders of our term loans under our existing credit facility will be entitled to be paid in full before any payment may be made with respect to the convertible notes.

Table of Contents

If we are unable to consummate this exchange offer, the prepackaged plan or the CD&R investment, the Company will face an immediate liquidity crisis that could likely result in the Company filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan, which could materially adversely affect the relationships between us and our existing and potential customers, employees, partners and other stakeholders.

We believe that seeking relief under the Bankruptcy Code by filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan could materially adversely affect the relationships between us and our existing and potential customers, employees, partners and other stakeholders. For example:

such a bankruptcy filing could erode our customers' confidence in our ability to provide our products and services and, as a result, there could be a significant and precipitous decline in our revenues, profitability and cash flow;

employees could be distracted from performance of their duties, or more easily attracted to other career opportunities;

it may be more difficult to attract or replace key employees;

lenders and other partners could seek to terminate their relationship with us, require financial assurances or enhanced performance, or refuse to provide credit on the same terms as prior to the reorganization case;

we could be forced to operate in bankruptcy for an extended period of time while we tried to develop a reorganization plan that could be confirmed, which we believe may impair our business and prospects;

our suppliers, vendors, and service providers could terminate their relationship with us or require financial assurances or enhanced performance;

we may not be able to obtain debtor-in-possession financing to sustain us during the bankruptcy case under the Bankruptcy Code; or

if we are not able to confirm and implement a plan of reorganization or if sufficient debtor-in-possession financing is not available, we may be forced to liquidate under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

In addition, any distributions that you may receive in respect of your convertible notes under a liquidation or under a protracted reorganization case or cases under the Bankruptcy Code other than in connection with the prepackaged plan would likely be substantially delayed and the value of any potential recovery likely would be adversely impacted by such delay.

Furthermore, in the event of any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding other than in connection with the prepackaged plan, there can be no assurance as to the value, if any, that would be available to holders of convertible notes. The convertible notes are unsecured obligations of the Company and rank junior to the secured obligations under our existing credit facility. Accordingly, upon any distribution to our creditors in any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding relating to us or our property other than in connection with the prepackaged plan, the holders of our indebtedness under our existing credit facility will be entitled to be paid in full before any payment may be made with respect to the convertible notes. If you do not tender your convertible notes or vote to accept the prepackaged plan, you may receive less value for the convertible notes in the event of any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding other than the prepackaged plan than you

would under the restructuring.

Risks Relating to Accepting the Exchange Offer or to the Effectiveness of the Prepackaged Plan and Becoming Holders of Common Stock

The following risks specifically apply only to holders of common stock issued pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan, and should be considered, along with the other risk factors, by holders of convertible notes. There are additional risks attendant to being an investor in our securities that you should review, whether or not you elect to tender your convertible notes. These risks are described in Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 2, 2008, and Part II, Item 1A

Table of Contents

of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended February 1, 2009, May 3, 2009 and August 2, 2009, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

The exchange ratio for this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan does not reflect any independent valuation of the convertible notes or shares of common stock.

We have not obtained or requested, and do not intend to obtain or request, a fairness opinion from any banking or other firm as to the fairness of the exchange ratios or the relative values of convertible notes and shares of common stock. If you tender your convertible notes or vote to accept the prepackaged plan and the exchange offer is consummated or the prepackaged plan is confirmed and becomes effective, you may or may not receive more than or as much value as you would if you choose to keep your convertible notes (whether this exchange offer was or was not consummated) or if the prepackaged plan did not become effective and in the event of any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding other than in connection with the prepackaged plan, you may have a smaller claim than if you had retained your convertible notes and you may recover less than you would have had you retained your convertible notes.

The consummation of each of this exchange offer and the prepackaged plan is subject to satisfaction of certain conditions, including the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment.

The consummation of this exchange offer is subject to the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment (which is itself subject to several conditions, including the consummation of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the Austrian Act (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Conditions to the CD&R Investment)), the minimum tender condition and effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part. See The Exchange Offer Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer.

The effective date of the prepackaged plan is subject to the entry of the confirmation order and the absence of a stay of such order, the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment, the consummation of the term loan refinancing, the consummation of the ABL financing and such other conditions as to which the Company and the CD&R Fund may reasonably agree. See The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan.

There can be no assurance that any of such conditions will be met.

Holders of the convertible notes who participate in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, receive common stock pursuant to the prepackaged plan will lose their rights under the convertible notes indenture.

Holders whose convertible notes are accepted for exchange and receive shares of common stock, or holders who receive shares of common stock pursuant to the prepackaged plan, will lose all rights associated with the convertible notes. Please see The Exchange Offer Material Differences in the Rights of Holders of Convertible Notes and Common Stock for a more detailed description of the material differences in your rights as a result of the restructuring.

There are risks associated with the common stock.

The value of the common stock may be adversely affected by a number of factors, including many of the risks described in this prospectus/disclosure statement. If, for example, our stockholders decide to sell a substantial number of their shares of common stock, the value of the common stock could decline. Similarly, if we fail to comply with the covenants in our existing credit agreement (which are also incorporated into our existing swap agreement), the

amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the convertible notes indenture, as applicable, resulting in an event of default thereunder, certain of our outstanding indebtedness could be accelerated, which could have a material adverse effect on the value of the common stock.

Table of Contents

If our common stock is deemed a penny stock, its liquidity will be adversely affected.

As of October 16, 2009, the closing stock price for our common stock was \$3.12 per share. If the market price for our common stock falls below \$1.00 per share, our common stock may be deemed to be a penny stock. If our common stock is considered a penny stock, it would be subject to rules that impose additional sales practices on broker-dealers who sell our securities. For example, broker-dealers must make a special suitability determination for the purchaser and have received the purchaser's written consent to the transaction prior to sale. Also, a disclosure schedule must be delivered to each purchaser of a penny stock, disclosing sales commissions and current quotations for the securities. Monthly statements are also required to be sent disclosing recent price information for the penny stock held in the account and information on the limited market in penny stocks. Because of these additional conditions, some brokers may choose not to effect transactions in penny stocks. This could have an adverse effect on the liquidity of our common stock.

The common stock is junior to all of our other securities, including our existing and future indebtedness and the Series B convertible preferred stock.

The common stock is the most junior of all of our securities. As a result, our existing and future indebtedness and other non-equity claims, as well as our preferred stock, including the Series B convertible preferred stock, will rank senior to the common stock as to rights upon any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding relating to the Company. In the event of any distribution or payment of our assets in any foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, or other bankruptcy proceeding, our creditors and holders of our preferred stock will have a superior claim and interest, as applicable, to the interests of holders of our common stock. If any of the foregoing events occur, we cannot assure you that there will be sufficient assets for distribution in respect of the common stock. In addition, in the event of a change of control, holders of the Series B convertible preferred stock may be entitled to superior rights relative to the holders of common stock, including a right to require redemption by the Company of such Series B convertible preferred stock. See "The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Change of Control Redemption Right."

The issuance of shares of common stock in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan and the issuance of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock upon consummation of the CD&R investment will dilute the ownership interest of our existing stockholders and may not be fully reflected in the current market price of our common stock and we cannot predict the price at which our common stock will trade following the restructuring.

As of September 4, 2009, we had approximately 19,981,585 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, excluding shares held by us as treasury stock. Assuming that we complete the restructuring and all outstanding convertible notes are tendered and accepted in this exchange offer or retired pursuant to the prepackaged plan, based on the number of shares of common stock authorized, issued and outstanding as of September 4, 2009, at the closing of, and after giving effect to, the restructuring:

holders of convertible notes would receive 70,200,000 shares of common stock, or approximately 24.5% of our voting power;

the CD&R Fund would receive 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock convertible into 196,109,194 shares of common stock based on the initial conversion price (assuming that we have sufficient authorized but unissued shares to permit such conversion, which, after giving effect to the restructuring, we do not expect to have (see "Summary The Restructuring CD&R Investment ")), or approximately 68.5% of our voting power;

our current stockholders would continue to hold approximately 19,981,585 shares of common stock, or approximately 7.0% of our voting power.

The average daily trading volume of our common stock on the NYSE during the three months ending August 2, 2009, was approximately 1.21 million shares. Given these low trading volumes relative to the number of shares of common stock outstanding, any sales in the public market of the shares of common stock issuable in this exchange

Table of Contents

offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, are likely to adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock.

This issuance of the common stock in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan and the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock in the CD&R investment could materially depress the price of our common stock if holders of a large number of shares of common stock attempt to sell all or a substantial portion of their holdings following the restructuring. Pursuant to the lock-up agreements, unless the shares of common stock issuable in respect of the convertible notes subject to the lock-up agreements are registered or are otherwise freely tradable pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, we agreed to enter into registration rights agreements that will provide registration rights to holders of convertible notes who are parties to the lock-up agreements in the event that this exchange offer is consummated. See *The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements*. In accordance with the terms of the lock-up agreements or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, such registration rights agreement would, among other things and subject to certain conditions, obligate us to file with the SEC a shelf registration statement covering resales of the common stock received by such noteholders on a delayed or continuous basis. Upon effectiveness of such shelf registration statement, holders of notes that executed a lock-up agreement, which hold more than 79% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding convertible notes, would be able to freely transfer their shares of common stock received pursuant to the exchange offer. We cannot predict what the demand for our common stock will be following the restructuring, how many shares of our common stock will be offered for sale or be sold following the restructuring, or the price at which our common stock will trade following the restructuring.

The Series B convertible preferred stock may be dilutive to our stockholders from and after the closing of the restructuring. The Series B convertible preferred stock will accrue dividends, which may be paid in cash or in kind. If dividends on the Series B convertible preferred stock are paid in kind, they will dilute the ownership interest of our stockholders. In addition, the dividend rate of the Series B convertible preferred stock will increase upon the occurrence of certain events which constitute defaults under the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock, which may cause further dilution. Furthermore, the Series B convertible preferred stock also provides for anti-dilution rights, which may dilute the ownership interest of stockholders in the future.

Upon issuance, the Series B convertible preferred stock will accrue dividends at a rate *per annum* of 12.00% if paid in kind or at a rate *per annum* of 8.00% if paid in cash, unless and until such dividends are reduced to 0.00%, which will occur if the trading price per share of common stock equals or exceeds two times a specified target price (which is equal to \$1.2748 at the closing of the restructuring, but is subject to adjustments thereafter) for each trading day during any period of 20 consecutive trading days occurring after the 30-month anniversary of the closing of the restructuring.

If dividends on the Series B convertible preferred stock are paid in kind, it will dilute the ownership interest of stockholders, including holders of convertible notes who become holders of common stock pursuant to this exchange offer or pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

Furthermore, upon the occurrence of a default, the applicable dividend rate is subject to increase by:

6.00% *per annum*, if the default is the result of a failure by us after June 30, 2011 to reserve and keep available for issuance a number of shares of common stock equal to 110% of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of all outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock; or

3.00% *per annum* for any other default.

See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends.

After giving effect to the restructuring, we do not expect to have sufficient authorized but unissued shares of common stock to enable the conversion of all 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued to the CD&R Fund pursuant to the CD&R investment. Pursuant to the stockholders agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement), from and after the closing of the restructuring, we will use our best efforts and take all corporate actions necessary to obtain approval from holders of

Table of Contents

our common stock of an amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock. However, there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain such approval. In the event that we do not obtain such approval prior to June 30, 2010, the dividend rate with respect to the Series B convertible preferred stock will increase by 3.00% *per annum*, and if we do not obtain such approval prior to June 30, 2011, the dividend rate will increase by an additional 3.00% *per annum* (resulting in an aggregate increase of 6.00% *per annum*) as described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends Default Dividend Rate. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation. In such event, stockholders' ownership interest in the Company will be further diluted to the extent that dividends paid in respect of such additional default dividend rate are dividends paid in kind.

As further described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti Dilution Adjustments, the conversion price of the Series B convertible preferred stock is subject to adjustment, including if the Company issues common stock or other securities below the then-current market price or, during the first three years after the closing of the restructuring, below the then-current conversion price. Adjustments to the conversion price will dilute the ownership interest of stockholders.

At the closing of the CD&R investment, we will enter into a stockholders agreement with the CD&R Fund pursuant to which the CD&R Fund will have substantial governance and other rights.

At the closing of the CD&R investment, we will enter into a stockholders agreement with the CD&R Fund setting forth certain terms and conditions regarding the CD&R investment and the ownership of the CD&R Fund's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock. Pursuant to the stockholders agreement with the CD&R Fund, subject to certain ownership and other requirements and conditions, the CD&R Fund will have the right to appoint a majority of directors to our board of directors, including the Lead Director or Chairman of the Executive Committee of our board of directors, and will have consent rights over a variety of significant corporate and financing matters, including, subject to certain customary exceptions and specified baskets, sales and acquisitions of assets, issuances and redemptions of equity, incurrence of debt, the declaration or payment of extraordinary distributions or dividends and changes to the Company's line of business. In addition, the CD&R Fund will be granted subscription rights under the terms and conditions of the stockholders agreement. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement.

Further, effective as of the closing, the Company will be required to have taken all corporate action and filed all election notices or other documentation with the NYSE necessary to elect to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual and, for so long as we qualify as a controlled company within the meaning set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual or any similar provision in the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to take advantage of the exemptions therein. Such exemptions would exempt us from compliance with the NYSE's requirements for companies listed on the NYSE to have (1) a majority of independent directors, (2) a nominating/corporate governance committee and a compensation committee, in each case, composed entirely of independent directors, and (3) charters for the nominating/corporate governance committee and the compensation committee, in each case, addressing certain specified matters. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement with Respect to Controlled Company Status.

The Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued in connection with the CD&R investment has substantial rights and will rank senior to the common stock.

Assuming consummation of the CD&R investment, if your convertible notes are accepted for exchange for cash and shares of common stock in this exchange offer or if you receive cash and common stock under the prepackaged plan, your shares of common stock will rank junior as to dividend rights, redemption payments and rights (including as to distribution of assets) in any liquidation, dissolution, or winding-up of the affairs of the Company and otherwise to the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued to the CD&R Fund in connection with the CD&R investment. The terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock will entitle the holders

Table of Contents

thereof to vote on an as-converted basis (without taking into account any limitations on convertibility that may then be applicable) with the holders of common stock. At the closing of the restructuring, we expect that the CD&R Fund will have a majority voting position and holders of common stock will be in the minority. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Voting Rights](#). In addition, certain actions by the Company, including, upon the occurrence of certain specified defaults, the adoption of an annual budget, the hiring and firing, or the changing of the compensation, of executive officers and the commitment, resolution or agreement to effect any business combination, among others, require the prior affirmative vote or written consent of the holders representing at least a majority of the then-outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, voting together as a separate class. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Voting Rights Class Voting Rights](#) and [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Voting Rights Special Contingent Voting Rights](#). This level of control, together with the CD&R Fund's rights under the stockholders agreement, could discourage others from initiating any potential merger, takeover or other change of control transaction that may otherwise be beneficial to our business or our stockholders. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement](#).

Furthermore, the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock also provide for anti-dilution rights, which may dilute the ownership interest of stockholders in the future, and change of control redemption rights, which may entitle the holders of Series B convertible preferred stock to receive higher value for their shares of Series B convertible preferred stock than the shares of common stock would receive in the event of a change of control (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B convertible preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments](#) and see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Change of Control Redemption Right](#)). In addition, the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock also provide that the CD&R Fund will participate in common stock dividends, receive preferred dividends and have preferential rights in liquidation, including make whole rights (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends](#)).

The trading price of our common stock has been and may continue to be volatile.

The trading price of our common stock has fluctuated in the past and is subject to significant fluctuations in response to the following factors, some of which are beyond our control:

- variations in quarterly operating results;
- deviations in our earnings from publicly disclosed forward-looking guidance;
- changes in earnings estimates by analysts;
- our announcements of significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships or joint ventures;
- general conditions in the metal components and engineered building systems industries;
- uncertainty about current global economic conditions;
- fluctuations in stock market price and volume; and
- other general economic conditions.

During fiscal 2008, the sale prices of our common stock on the NYSE ranged from a high of approximately \$40.95 per share to a low of approximately \$14.25 per share. Since the beginning of fiscal 2009, the sale prices of our common stock on the NYSE ranged from a high of approximately \$19.35 per share to a low of approximately \$1.76 per share. In recent years, the stock market in general has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price for many companies in industries similar to ours. Some of these fluctuations have been unrelated to the operating performance of the affected companies. These market fluctuations may decrease the market price of the common stock in the future.

Table of Contents

If we cannot meet the NYSE's continued listing requirements, the NYSE may delist our common stock, and such a delisting could have an adverse impact on the liquidity and market price of the common stock.

Our common stock is currently listed on the NYSE. In the future, we may not be able to meet the NYSE's continued listing requirements, which include, among other things: (1) that the average closing price of our common stock be above \$1.00 over 30 consecutive trading days; (2) that our average global market capitalization over a consecutive 30 trading-day period is at or above \$50.0 million or, if our average global market capitalization over a consecutive 30 trading-day period is less than \$50.0 million, that our total stockholders' equity is at or above \$50.0 million; and (3) that the average market capitalization be at least \$15.0 million over 30 consecutive trading days. The closing price of our common stock on October 16, 2009 was \$3.12 per share, and our market capitalization was approximately \$53.9 million as of such date.

A delisting of our common stock could negatively affect holders of common stock and negatively affect us by, among other things, reducing the liquidity and market price of our common stock; reducing the number of investors willing to hold or acquire our common stock, which could negatively affect our ability to raise equity financing; decreasing the amount of news and analyst coverage for our company; and limiting our ability to issue additional securities or obtain additional financing in the future.

We are not currently paying dividends on our common stock and have no current plans to do so in the future.

Historically, we have not paid dividends on our common stock and have no current plans to do so in the future. Furthermore, the terms of our existing credit agreement restrict our ability to do so, and we expect that, if the term loan refinancing or the ABL financing is consummated, the amended credit agreement or the ABL agreement, respectively, will have similar restrictions. In addition, under the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock, the holders of such shares would participate in any declared common stock dividends and also receive preferred dividends, reducing the cash available to holders of common stock. See *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock*. Our other future indebtedness, if any, may also restrict payment of dividends on our common stock. Also, assuming the consummation of the CD&R investment, we may not declare or pay any extraordinary dividend or distribution without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund pursuant to the stockholders agreement. See *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Consent Rights*.

In addition, the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock will limit the circumstances under which the Company will be able to pay dividends or make distributions on junior securities, including common stock. Specifically, at all times during which shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are issued and outstanding, we may not (1) declare, pay or set aside for payment any dividends or distributions upon any junior securities, except for certain limited exceptions or (2) repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any junior securities for any consideration or pay any moneys or make available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares of such junior securities, except for certain limited exceptions, unless, in each case, the Company has access to sufficient lawful funds to redeem in full all shares of the Series B convertible preferred stock then issued and outstanding. In addition, subject to certain limited exceptions, at any time during which a default under the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock is occurring, we may not declare or pay or set apart for payment any dividend or other distribution with respect to any junior securities, or redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for any consideration any junior securities. See *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends Restrictions with Respect to Junior Securities Dividends*.

We may issue securities senior to the common stock without your approval.

We may authorize, create or increase the authorized amount of any class or series of stock that ranks senior to the common stock with respect to the payment of dividends or amounts payable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up without the consent of the holders of the outstanding common stock, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the stockholders agreement.

Table of Contents

Change-of-control, consent or notice provisions in agreements may be triggered upon the completion of this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan.

We may be a party to agreements that contain change-of-control, consent or notice provisions that may be triggered following the issuance of the shares of common stock in this exchange offer, or in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan and/or the consummation of the CD&R investment. These change-of-control, consent or notice provisions, if triggered and not waived by any beneficiaries of those provisions, could result in termination of an agreement or in unanticipated expenses following the restructuring and could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

If we file for bankruptcy protection after the consummation of this exchange offer, there is a risk that any cash consideration received in this exchange offer may be determined to be a preferential transfer and the court may require that such consideration be returned to the Company.

If a holder of convertible notes chooses to exchange its convertible notes in this exchange offer and receives cash consideration and if a bankruptcy involving the Company is commenced within 90 days after the consummation of this exchange offer (or one year after the consummation of this exchange offer if the holder of convertible notes is an insider of the Company), the bankruptcy court may determine that the holder of convertible notes received preferential treatment to the detriment of other unsecured creditors. In that event, any value received by such holder may be required to be returned. The holder of convertible notes would then have a claim against the bankruptcy estate equal to the value of the avoided transfer.

We may incur tax liability or lose tax attributes, and our ability to use certain of our tax attributes may be limited, as a result of the consummation of the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan.

We may incur cancellation-of-indebtedness income, which we refer to as COD income, for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the consummation of the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan.

To the extent that we were considered insolvent from a tax perspective immediately prior to the consummation of the recapitalization plan, any such COD income generally would be excluded from our taxable income. Alternatively, if the discharge of our liability were to occur in a chapter 11 bankruptcy case pursuant to the prepackaged plan, any COD income from such discharge generally would be excluded from our taxable income.

If and to the extent any COD income is excluded from taxable income pursuant to the insolvency exception or the bankruptcy exception described above, we generally will be required to reduce certain of our tax attributes, including, but not limited to, our net operating losses, loss carryforwards, credit carryforwards and tax basis in certain assets. This may result in a significant reduction in, and possible elimination of, certain of our tax attributes.

If any COD income is not excluded from our taxable income and we do not have sufficient losses to offset fully such COD income, we may incur tax liability from such COD income. We may make an election under recently enacted section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Internal Revenue Code, to defer the inclusion of all or a portion of any COD income resulting from the consummation of the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, with the amount of deferred COD income becoming includible in taxable income ratably over a five-taxable-year period beginning in, if such consummation occurs in 2009, the fifth taxable year after such consummation.

Notwithstanding our ability to utilize our available losses to offset any such COD income for regular U.S. federal income tax purposes, we may nonetheless be subject to tax under the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Furthermore, if we make the election under section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code to

defer our COD income, we may incur current state income tax liability with respect to such deferred COD income in states that do not recognize the election.

Because we are expected to undergo an ownership change under section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code as a result of the restructuring, our ability to use our loss carryforwards, if any, and certain other tax attributes may be subject to limitation under section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Table of Contents

Risks Relating to the Prepackaged Plan

The prepackaged plan may have a material adverse effect on our operations.

The prepackaged plan solicitation or any subsequent commencement of a prepackaged chapter 11 case could adversely affect the relationships between us and our customers, employees, partners and others. There is a risk, due to uncertainty about our future, that:

customers could seek alternative suppliers;

such a bankruptcy filing could erode our customers' confidence in our ability to provide our products and services and, as a result, there could be a significant and precipitous decline in our revenues, profitability and cash flow;

it may be more difficult to attract or replace key employees;

employees could be distracted from performance of their duties or more easily attracted to other career opportunities; and

our suppliers, vendors, and service providers could terminate their relationship with us or require financial assurances or enhanced performance.

These factors could adversely affect our ability to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan.

Our business may be negatively affected if we are unable to assume our executory contracts.

The prepackaged plan provides for the assumption of all executory contracts and unexpired leases other than those leases and contracts that we specifically reject. Our intention is to preserve as much of the benefit of our existing contracts and leases as possible. However, some limited classes of executory contracts may not be assumed in this way. In these cases, we would need to obtain the consent of the counterparty to maintain the benefit of the contract. There is no guaranty that such consent would either be forthcoming or that conditions would not be attached to any such consent that make assuming the contracts unattractive. We would then be required to either forego the benefits offered by such contracts or to find alternative arrangements to replace them. We intend to attempt to pass through to the reorganized company all licenses in respect of patents, trademarks, copyright or other intellectual property that cannot otherwise be assumed pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code. The counterparty to any contract that we seek to pass through may object to our attempt to pass through the contract and require us to seek to assume or reject the contract or seek approval of the bankruptcy court to terminate the contract. In such an event, we could lose the benefit of the contract, which could harm our business.

We may not be successful in obtaining first day orders to permit us to pay our key suppliers in the ordinary course of business.

We have tried to address potential concerns of our key customers, vendors, employees, licensors/licensees and other key parties in interest that might arise from the filing of the prepackaged plan through a variety of provisions incorporated into or contemplated by the prepackaged plan, including our intention to seek appropriate court orders to permit us to pay our accounts payable to key parties in interest in the ordinary course, assume contracts with such parties in interest and in the case of those key vendors who have agreed to continue to extend business terms to us

during and after our bankruptcy proceeding, to provide for the payments of prepetition accounts payable. However, there can be no guaranty that we will be successful in obtaining the necessary approvals of the bankruptcy court for such arrangements or for every party in interest we may seek to treat in this manner, and as a result, our business might suffer.

The bankruptcy court may not confirm the prepackaged plan.

In the event that the conditions to the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waived, including, for example, the minimum tender condition, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of

Table of Contents

section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, as an alternative to the recapitalization plan, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization Case in Connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant.

We cannot assure you that the prepackaged plan, if filed, will be confirmed by the bankruptcy court. Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code, which sets forth the requirements for confirmation of a plan of reorganization, requires, among other things, a finding by the bankruptcy court that the plan is feasible, that all claims and interests have been classified in compliance with the provisions of section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code, and that, under the plan, each holder of a claim or interest within each impaired class either accepts the plan or receives or retains cash or property of a value, as of the date the plan becomes effective, that is not less than the value such holder would receive or retain if the debtor were liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. See The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan.

There can be no assurance that a bankruptcy court will conclude that the feasibility test and other requirements of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code have been met with respect to the prepackaged plan.

If the prepackaged plan is filed, there can be no assurance that modifications to such plan would not be required for confirmation, or that such modifications would not require a resolicitation of votes on the prepackaged plan. We believe that, if the prepackaged plan is confirmed, it would not be followed by a liquidation or an immediate need for further financial reorganization and that holders of claims and interests would receive or retain value that is not less than the value such holders would receive or retain if we were liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Moreover, the bankruptcy court could determine that our disclosures made in this document are inadequate and that the votes in favor of the prepackaged plan do not count. We would then have to commence the solicitation process again, which would include re-filing a plan of reorganization and disclosure statement. Typically, this process involves a 90-day or longer period and includes a court hearing for the required approval of a disclosure statement, followed (after bankruptcy court approval) by another solicitation of claim and interest holder votes for the plan of reorganization, followed by a confirmation hearing for the bankruptcy court to determine whether the requirements for confirmation have been satisfied, including the requisite claim and (if applicable) interest holder acceptances.

If the prepackaged plan is not confirmed, our reorganization case may be converted to a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, pursuant to which a trustee would be appointed or elected to liquidate our assets for distribution in accordance with the priorities established by the Bankruptcy Code. A discussion of the effects that a chapter 7 liquidation would have on the recoveries of holders of claims and interests and our liquidation analysis are set forth under The Prepackaged Plan Liquidation Analysis. We believe that liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code would result in (1) smaller distributions being made to creditors than those provided for in the prepackaged plan because of (a) the likelihood that our assets would have to be sold or otherwise disposed of in a less orderly fashion over a short period of time, (b) additional administrative expenses involved in the appointment of a trustee, and (c) additional expenses and claims, some of which would be entitled to priority, which would be generated during the liquidation and from the rejection of leases and other executory contracts in connection with a cessation of our operations, and (2) no distributions being made to holders of our common stock.

If (1) our reorganization case is dismissed or converted into a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, or we filed a motion or other pleading with the bankruptcy court seeking the dismissal or conversion of the prepackaged plan proceeding or (2) if the bankruptcy court (a) grants relief that is materially inconsistent with the investment agreement or the prepackaged plan in any respect or (b) enters an order confirming any plan of reorganization other than the prepackaged plan, the CD&R Fund would have the right to terminate the investment agreement. See The

Table of Contents

If we commence a chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding, other parties in interest might be permitted to propose alternative plans of reorganization that may be less favorable to certain of our constituencies than the prepackaged plan.

If our reorganization case is commenced, other parties in interest could seek authority from the bankruptcy court to propose an alternative plan of reorganization. Under the Bankruptcy Code, a debtor-in-possession initially has the exclusive right to propose and solicit acceptances of a plan of reorganization. However, such exclusivity period can be reduced or terminated upon order of the bankruptcy court. If such an order were to be entered, other parties in interest would then have the opportunity to propose alternative plans of reorganization.

If other parties in interest were to propose an alternative plan following expiration or termination of our exclusivity period, such a plan may be less favorable to existing equity interest holders and may seek to exclude these holders from retaining any shares of common stock under their plan. Alternative plans of reorganization also may treat less favorably the claims of a number of other constituencies, including our employees, our trading partners and customers. We consider maintaining relationships with our employees, customers and trading partners as critical to maintaining the value of our business as we restructure, and have sought to treat those constituencies accordingly. However, proponents of alternative plans of reorganization may not share our assessment and seek to impair the claims of such constituencies to a greater degree. If there were competing plans of reorganization, our reorganization case is likely to become longer and more complicated. If this were to occur, or if our employees or other constituencies important to our business reacted adversely to an alternative plan of reorganization, the adverse consequences discussed in the first risk factor in this section discussing risks related to the prepackaged plan could also occur.

If a bankruptcy proceeding is commenced by a third party against us or our subsidiaries (other than a bankruptcy contemplated by the prepackaged plan), the CD&R Fund may terminate the investment agreement if such proceeding has not been dismissed within 30 days of its commencement. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Termination of the Investment Agreement](#).

The bankruptcy court may disagree with our classification of claims and interests.

Section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan may place a claim or an interest in a particular class only if such claim or interest is substantially similar to the other claims or interests of such class. We believe that the classification of claims and interests under the prepackaged plan complies with the requirements set forth in the Bankruptcy Code; however, once a chapter 11 case has been commenced, a claim or interest holder could challenge the classification. In such event, the cost of the prepackaged plan and the time needed to confirm the prepackaged plan may increase and we cannot assure you that the bankruptcy court will agree with our classification of claims and interests. If the bankruptcy court concludes that the classification of claims and interests under the prepackaged plan does not comply with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, we may need to modify the prepackaged plan. Such modification could require a resolicitation of votes on the prepackaged plan. If the bankruptcy court determined that our classification of claims and interests was not appropriate, the prepackaged plan may not be confirmed.

The bankruptcy court may find the solicitation of acceptances inadequate.

Usually, a plan of reorganization is filed and votes to accept or reject the plan are solicited after the filing of a petition commencing a chapter 11 case. Nevertheless, a debtor may solicit votes prior to the commencement of a chapter 11 case in accordance with section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rule 3018(b). Section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rule 3018(b) require that:

the plan of reorganization be transmitted to substantially all creditors and other interest holders entitled to vote;

the time prescribed for voting is not unreasonably short; and

the solicitation of votes is in compliance with any applicable nonbankruptcy law, rule or regulation governing the adequacy of disclosure in such solicitation, including the Exchange Act and Rules 13e-4(d),

Table of Contents

13e-4(e)(3), 14e-1 and 14e-4 promulgated under the Exchange Act. If no such law, rule or regulation exists, votes be solicited only after the disclosure of adequate information.

Section 1125(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code describes adequate information as information of a kind and in sufficient detail as would enable a hypothetical reasonable investor typical of holders of claims and interests to make an informed judgment about the plan. With regard to solicitation of votes prior to the commencement of a bankruptcy case, if the bankruptcy court concludes that the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 3018(b) have not been met, then the bankruptcy court could deem such votes invalid, whereupon the prepackaged plan could not be confirmed without a resolicitation of votes to accept or reject the prepackaged plan. While we believe that the requirements of section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3018 will be met, there can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will reach the same conclusion.

Even if all classes of claims that are entitled to vote accept the prepackaged plan, we may fail to meet all conditions precedent to effectiveness of the prepackaged plan or the prepackaged plan may not become effective.

Although we believe that the effective date of the prepackaged plan will occur very shortly after confirmation of the prepackaged plan, there can be no assurance as to such timing.

The confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan are subject to certain conditions that may not be satisfied. We cannot assure you that all requirements for confirmation and effectiveness required under the prepackaged plan will be satisfied or that the bankruptcy court will conclude that the requirements for confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan have been satisfied. See [The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan](#) and [The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan](#).

If the conditions precedent to the effective date, including entry of the confirmation order, the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment, the consummation of the term loan refinancing, the consummation of the ABL financing and such other condition as to which the Company and the CD&R Fund may reasonably agree, have not occurred, the prepackaged plan may be vacated by the bankruptcy court.

Furthermore, in the event that the CD&R Fund does not fund the CD&R investment, and without a suitable alternative new investment, we do not believe the prepackaged plan would meet the confirmation requirement of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code that the plan be feasible. See [The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan](#). In that event, we will not seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan and your vote in favor of the prepackaged plan will be disregarded.

The lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) (see [The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements Lock-Up Agreement \(dated August 31, 2009\)](#)) may be terminated by a number of holders that executed such lock-up agreement holding not less than two-thirds (2/3) in aggregate principal amount of all convertible notes held by all holders that executed such lock-up agreement if an event occurs that would provide either the Company or the CD&R Fund with the right to terminate the investment agreement under the terms of the investment agreement, which includes certain triggers relating to the timing of events in the prepackaged plan proceeding (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement](#)). The lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) (see [The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements Lock-Up Agreement \(dated October 8, 2009\)](#)) may be terminated by a number of holders that executed such lock-up agreement holding not less than two-thirds (2/3) in aggregate principal amount of all convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit agreement held by all holders that executed such lock-up agreement if an event occurs that would provide either the Company or the CD&R Fund with the right to terminate the investment agreement under the terms of the investment agreement, which includes certain triggers relating to the timing of events in the prepackaged plan proceeding (see [The](#)

Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement).

Table of Contents

We cannot predict the amount of time that we would spend in bankruptcy for the purpose of implementing the prepackaged plan, and a lengthy bankruptcy proceeding would disrupt our business, as well as impair the prospect for reorganization on the terms contained in the prepackaged plan.

While we expect that a chapter 11 bankruptcy filing solely for the purpose of implementing the prepackaged plan would be of short duration (*e.g.*, 60 days) and would not be unduly disruptive to our business, we cannot be certain that this would be the case. Although the prepackaged plan is designed to minimize the length of the bankruptcy proceeding, it is impossible to predict with certainty the amount of time that we may spend in bankruptcy, and we cannot be certain that the prepackaged plan would be confirmed. Even if confirmed on a timely basis, a bankruptcy proceeding to confirm the prepackaged plan could itself have an adverse effect on our business. There is a risk, due to uncertainty about our future, that:

customers could seek alternative sources of products from our competitors, including competitors that have comparatively greater financial resources and that are in little or no relative financial distress;

employees could be distracted from performance of their duties or more easily attracted to other career opportunities; and

business partners could terminate their relationship with us or require financial assurances or enhanced performance.

A lengthy bankruptcy proceeding would also involve additional expenses and divert the attention of management from operation of our business, as well as creating concerns for employees, suppliers and customers.

The disruption that a bankruptcy proceeding would inflict upon our business could increase with the length of time it takes to complete the proceeding, and the severity of that disruption would depend upon the attractiveness and feasibility of the prepackaged plan of reorganization from the perspective of the constituent parties on whom we depend, including vendors, employees and customers. If we are unable to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan on a timely basis, because of a challenge to the prepackaged plan or a failure to satisfy the conditions to the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan, we may be forced to operate in bankruptcy for an extended period while we try to develop a different reorganization plan that can be confirmed. A protracted bankruptcy case could increase both the probability and the magnitude of the adverse effects described above.

We may be unable to obtain adequate financing or authority to use cash collateral during the pendency of the bankruptcy proceeding.

On or shortly after commencing the prepackaged chapter 11 bankruptcy case, we intend to ask the bankruptcy court to authorize us to obtain debtor-in-possession financing and/or to use cash collateral to fund the prepackaged chapter 11 bankruptcy case. Such financing arrangements and access to cash collateral will provide liquidity during the pendency of the prepackaged chapter 11 bankruptcy case. There can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will approve such financing arrangements or the use of cash collateral on the terms requested. Moreover, if the prepackaged chapter 11 bankruptcy case takes longer than expected to conclude, we may exhaust our financing and available cash collateral. There is no assurance that we will be able to obtain additional financing or an extension of the right to use cash collateral. In such case, the liquidity necessary for the orderly functioning of our businesses may be materially impaired.

We may seek to amend, waive, modify or withdraw the prepackaged plan any time prior to the confirmation of the prepackaged plan.

We reserve the right, prior to the confirmation or substantial consummation thereof, subject to the provisions of section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3019, to amend the terms of the prepackaged plan or waive any conditions thereto, if and to the extent such amendments or waivers are necessary or desirable to consummate the prepackaged plan. The potential impact of any such amendment or waiver on the holders of claims and interests cannot presently be foreseen, but may include a change in the economic impact of the prepackaged plan on some or all of the classes or a change in the relative rights of such classes. All holders of claims and interests will receive notice of such amendments or waivers required by applicable law and the bankruptcy court. If, after receiving sufficient acceptances, but prior to confirmation of the prepackaged plan, we seek to modify the

Table of Contents

prepackaged plan, the previously solicited acceptances will be valid only if (i) all classes of adversely affected creditors and interest holders accept the modification in writing or (ii) the bankruptcy court determines, after notice to designated parties, that such modification was *de minimis* or purely technical or otherwise did not adversely change the treatment of holders accepting claims and interests.

If we are unable to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan on a timely basis, then, in accordance with the terms of the investment agreement, the investment agreement may be terminated and we will not receive the proceeds of the CD&R investment.

If the reorganization case in connection with the prepackaged plan has been commenced and the effective date of the prepackaged plan has not occurred by a date that is no later than four weeks and ten days after the entry of the order confirming the prepackaged plan (provided, that the party seeking to so terminate has not breached in any material respect its obligations under the investment agreement in any manner that has been a proximate cause of the failure to consummate the CD&R investment on or before such date), either we or the CD&R Fund may terminate the investment agreement. The CD&R Fund also has the right to terminate the investment agreement if:

at any time after eight weeks after the filing of the prepackaged plan, the bankruptcy court has not entered the confirmation order with respect to the prepackaged plan on or prior to such date; or

the bankruptcy court enters an order denying confirmation of the prepackaged plan or the confirmation order is vacated or reversed and does not become a final order within four weeks and ten days after the entry of the confirmation order. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement.

The distribution of proceeds in the prepackaged plan will be delayed until after the effective date.

If we file a chapter 11 case and the prepackaged plan is confirmed, the date of the distributions to be made pursuant to the prepackaged plan will be delayed until after the effective date of the prepackaged plan. We estimate that the process of obtaining court approval of the prepackaged plan will last approximately 30 days from the date of the commencement of our chapter 11 case but it could last considerably longer. The distribution would be delayed for a minimum of 11 days thereafter and may be delayed for a substantially longer period.

In the event that the restructuring is accomplished through the confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan, the Company would need to adopt fresh start accounting, which may have a material effect on the Company's financial statements, and certain of the fair values established under fresh start reporting may differ materially from the values recorded on the Company's historical financial statements and reflected or projected in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

In the event the restructuring is accomplished through the confirmation and effectiveness of the prepackaged plan pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, the Company would need to adopt fresh start reporting as of its emergence from chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, in accordance with applicable accounting rules. These rules require the Company to revalue its assets and liabilities to current estimated fair value, re-establish shareholders' equity at the reorganization value determined in connection with the plan of reorganization, and record any portion of the reorganization value which cannot be attributed to specific tangible or identified intangible assets as goodwill. The adoption of fresh start accounting may have a material effect on the Company's financial statements, and certain of the fair values established under fresh start reporting may differ materially from the values recorded on the Company's historical financial statements and reflected or projected in this prospectus/disclosure statement. As a result, the Company's financial statements published for periods following its emergence from chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code will not be comparable with those prepared before that date or contained herein.

Table of Contents

Other Risks Relating to the Company

Our industry is currently experiencing a downturn which, if sustained, could materially and adversely affect our business, liquidity and results of operations.

The United States economy is currently undergoing a period of slowdown and unprecedented volatility, which is having an adverse effect on our business. During fiscal 2008, McGraw-Hill's estimate of low-rise new construction starts for buildings less than five stories declined by 15.1% in square feet compared to 2007. This industry decline contributed to a 34% decline in our total tons shipped. During the first nine months of fiscal 2009, our external tons shipped declined 41% as compared to the same period of 2008, and McGraw-Hill is currently predicting a 35% decline in square footage for nonresidential construction activity in calendar 2009.

Continued uncertainty about current economic conditions has had a negative effect on our business and will continue to pose a risk to our business as our customers may postpone spending in response to tighter credit, negative financial news and/or declines in income or asset values, which could have a material negative effect on the demand for our products. Other factors that could influence demand include fuel and other energy costs, conditions in the nonresidential real estate markets, labor and healthcare costs, access to credit and other macroeconomic factors. From time to time, our industry has also been adversely affected in various parts of the country by declines in nonresidential construction starts, including, but not limited to, high vacancy rates, changes in tax laws affecting the real estate industry, high interest rates and the unavailability of financing. Sales of our products may be adversely affected by weakness in demand for our products within particular customer groups, or a recession in the general construction industry or particular geographic regions. These and other economic factors could have a material adverse effect on demand for our products and on our financial condition and operating results.

We cannot predict the ultimate severity or length of the current economic crisis, or the timing or severity of future economic or industry downturns. Any economic downturn, particularly in states where many of our sales are made, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition, including potential asset impairments.

Current challenges in the credit markets may adversely affect our business and financial condition.

The financial turmoil that affected the banking system and financial markets beginning in the second half of 2007 has resulted in a tightening in the credit markets, a low level of liquidity in many financial markets, and extreme volatility in fixed income, credit, currency and equity markets. The current challenges in the credit markets have had, and may continue to have, a negative impact on our business and our financial condition. We may face significant challenges if conditions in the financial markets do not improve, including raw material shortages resulting from the insolvency of key suppliers and the inability of customers to obtain credit to finance purchases of our products. In addition, declining customer spending may result in higher levels of order cancellations than we have historically experienced, and may drive us to sell our products at lower prices, which would have an adverse effect on our margins and profitability.

If we do not consummate the restructuring by November 6, 2009, we expect to violate the financial covenants in our existing credit agreement, which would be an event of default under our existing credit agreement and could cause all of our existing indebtedness to be declared immediately due and payable.

Our existing credit agreement requires compliance with various covenants and provisions customary for agreements of this nature, including a restricted payments test, and a minimum ratio of Consolidated EBITDA (as defined in our

existing credit agreement) to interest expense of 5.0 to 1 and maximum ratios of total debt and senior debt to Consolidated EBITDA of 4.0 to 1 and 2.75 to 1, respectively. Such covenants and provisions are also incorporated by reference into our swap agreement. As of August 2, 2009, we continued not to be in compliance with the required leverage, senior leverage and interest coverage ratios in our existing credit agreement, although we were in compliance with the remaining covenants.

We have obtained a waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement, including waivers of our financial maintenance covenants, which is effective through November 6, 2009.

Table of Contents

If we are unable to consummate the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan, or otherwise to refinance our outstanding debt by November 6, 2009, we expect that we will fail to be in compliance with the financial covenants under our existing credit agreement as of such date. Absent an extension of the waiver, such violations will constitute an event of default under our existing credit agreement, and the lenders under our existing credit agreement could elect to declare all \$293.3 million of our outstanding borrowings thereunder immediately due and payable. In the event that we do not repay such borrowings upon acceleration, the lenders under our existing credit agreement could exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing such borrowings. A failure to pay or refinance such borrowings will also result in a default under the convertible notes indenture, which could also then be declared immediately due and payable, and under our swap agreement, which could then be terminated by the counterparty thereto. If all such indebtedness, which totaled approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 and such amounts payable pursuant to the termination of the swap agreement, were to become due and payable on November 6, 2009, it would result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition, operations and debt service capabilities. As of August 2, 2009, excluding restricted cash, we had a current cash balance of approximately \$105.4 million to address our liquidity needs. For a description of our non-compliance with the financial ratio covenants under our existing credit agreement, see our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 2, 2009, our current reports on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009, July 15, 2009 and August 27, 2009, and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

In such event, we will immediately need to pursue other alternatives to manage our liquidity needs, including potentially commencing a bankruptcy on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan.

If we do not consummate the restructuring by November 6, 2009, adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly and adversely affect our ability to otherwise refinance our existing debt.

If we do not consummate the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, through the prepackaged plan, adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly and adversely affect our ability to otherwise refinance our existing debt. Beginning in the third quarter of 2008 and continuing into 2009, the credit markets have been very volatile and have presented very unattractive terms and conditions for the few companies entering into credit transactions during that period. The credit markets have favored investment grade securities and securities issued to companies within non-cyclical industries during that period. In the event that we need to complete an alternative refinancing, lenders, if willing to provide credit, may seek more restrictive lending provisions and higher interest rates that may reduce our borrowing capacity and increase our costs. Also, given the increased stress in the financial sector, current or future lenders may become unwilling or unable to continue to advance funds under any agreements in place. We can make no assurances that we will be able to refinance our indebtedness, or that any such refinancing will be under terms that are as favorable to us as past credit agreements or the agreements as contemplated by the restructuring. If we are unable to refinance our indebtedness in a timely fashion, our cash from operations may be insufficient to meet our debt obligations. In addition, the failure to obtain sufficient financing may constrain our ability to operate or grow our business and affect our strategy.

If we do not consummate the restructuring by November 6, 2009, we will need to pursue all other alternatives to refinance our existing debt. Any refinancing of our existing debt using equity will likely be highly dilutive to our existing stockholders and could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

If we do not consummate the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, through the prepackaged plan, by November 6, 2009, we will need to pursue all other alternatives to refinance our existing debt, including an equity refinancing. At our current market valuation, any equity refinancing of our debt would be highly dilutive to our existing stockholders, which may be more or less dilutive than the restructuring. In addition, the issuance and sale of substantial amounts of common stock, or the announcement that such issuances and sales may occur, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Our future operational and financial performance may vary materially from the financial projections contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

In order to comply with the feasibility test of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code, we have provided financial projections in this prospectus/disclosure statement. See The Prepackaged Plan Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan, The Prepackaged Plan Feasibility of the Prepackaged Plan and Unaudited Projected Consolidated Financial Information for Restructuring under the Prepackaged Plan. These projections are based upon a number of assumptions and estimates, including that the financial restructuring will be implemented in accordance with its current terms.

Financial projections are necessarily speculative in nature and one or more of the assumptions and estimates underlying these projections may prove not to be valid. We believe the assumptions and estimates underlying these projections to be reasonable, but they are by their very nature inherently uncertain and subject to significant business, economic and competitive risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control to predict or mitigate. See Risk Factors Other Risks Relating to the Company. Accordingly, our financial condition and results of operations following the implementation of the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan are likely to vary significantly from those set forth in the financial projections. Consequently, the financial projections should not be regarded as a representation by us, our advisors or any other person that the results suggested by the projections will be achieved. Holders of convertible notes are cautioned to read the financial projections in conjunction with the Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data elsewhere in this prospectus/disclosure statement, the financial statement and schedules and related convertible notes for the fiscal year ended 2008 that are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009 and the consolidated financial statements and related convertible notes for the quarters ended February 1, 2009, May 3, 2009 and August 2, 2009 contained in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus/disclosure statement, and not to place undue reliance on the financial projections in determining whether to tender your convertible notes or vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

We may not be able to service our debt or obtain future financing and we may be limited operationally.

We may incur additional debt from time to time to finance acquisitions, capital expenditures or for other purposes if we comply with the restrictions in our existing credit agreement, and if the restructuring is consummated, the amended credit agreement and the ABL agreement.

The debt that we carry may have important consequences to us, including the following:

our ability to obtain additional financing, if necessary, for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other purposes may be impaired or additional financing may not be available on favorable terms;

we must use a portion of our cash flow to pay the principal and interest on our debt. These payments reduce the funds that would otherwise be available for our operations and future business opportunities;

a substantial decrease in our net operating cash flows could make it difficult for us to meet our debt service requirements and force us to modify our operations; and

we may be more vulnerable to a downturn in our business or the economy generally.

If we cannot service our debt, we will be forced to take actions such as reducing or delaying acquisitions and/or capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring or refinancing our debt, or seeking additional equity capital. We can give no assurance that we can do any of these things on satisfactory terms or at all.

Restrictive covenants in our existing and future credit agreements may adversely affect us.

We must comply with operating and financing restrictions in our existing credit agreement and swap agreement. These restrictions affect, and in many respects limit or prohibit, our ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

make restricted payments, including dividends or other distributions;

Table of Contents

incur liens;

make investments, including joint venture investments;

sell assets;

repurchase our debt, including our convertible notes, and our capital stock; and

merge or consolidate with or into other companies or sell substantially all our assets.

If the term loan refinancing is consummated on the terms contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, we will need to comply with the operating and financing restrictions in such amended credit agreement in lieu of the restrictions under our existing credit agreement. We expect that these restrictions will affect and, in many respects, limit or prohibit our ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

incur guarantee obligations;

make dividends and other restricted payments;

create liens;

make investments;

dispose of assets;

prepay other indebtedness;

make acquisitions;

engage in mergers;

change the nature of our business; and

engage in certain transactions with affiliates.

We may also have similar restrictions with any future debt.

We are required to make mandatory payments under our existing credit agreement upon the occurrence of certain events, including the sale of assets and the issuance of debt or equity securities, in each case subject to certain limitations and conditions set forth in our existing credit agreement. Our existing credit agreement also requires us to achieve specified financial and operating results and satisfy set financial tests relating to our leverage, interest coverage and senior debt ratios. These restrictions could limit our ability to plan for or react to market conditions or to meet extraordinary capital needs or otherwise could restrict our activities. In addition, under certain circumstances and subject to the limitations set forth in our existing credit agreement, we are required to pay down our existing term loan to the extent we generate positive cash flow each fiscal year. These restrictions could also adversely affect our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs or to engage in other business activities that would be in our interest.

If the term loan refinancing is consummated on the terms contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, such amended credit agreement will have provisions requiring us, subject to certain limitations and conditions set forth therein, to prepay the term loans thereunder upon the occurrence of certain events, including specified sales of assets, certain debt offerings and certain insurance recovery and condemnation events. In addition, if the term loan refinancing is consummated on the terms contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, under certain circumstances and subject to the limitations set forth therein, we will be required to pay down the outstanding term loans thereunder (i) in an amount equal to 50% of annual excess cash flow (as defined in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L) for any fiscal year ending on or after October 31, 2010 and (ii) in an amount equal to the greater of \$10.0 million and 50% of certain 2009 tax refunds (as defined in the form of amended

Table of Contents

credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters specified in Annex L) received by the Company. These restrictions could adversely affect our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs or to engage in other business activities that would be in our interest.

In addition, if the ABL financing is consummated on the terms contemplated in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, we will need to comply with the operating and financing restrictions in, and make the mandatory repayments required by, such ABL agreement in addition to those described above. We expect that these restrictions will affect and, in many respects, limit or prohibit our ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

guarantee certain obligations;

make dividends and other restricted payments;

create or suffer to exist certain liens;

make investments;

dispose of assets;

engage in sale and leaseback transactions;

prepay other indebtedness;

modify organizational documents and certain other agreements;

create or permit restrictions on dividends or payments from subsidiaries;

make acquisitions or engage in mergers;

change the nature of our business; and

engage in certain transactions with affiliates.

Our businesses are seasonal, and our results of operations during our first two fiscal quarters may be adversely affected by seasonality.

The metal coil coating, metal components and engineered building systems businesses, and the construction industry in general, are seasonal in nature. Sales normally are lower in the first calendar quarter of each year compared to the other three quarters because of unfavorable weather conditions for construction and typical business planning cycles affecting construction. This seasonality adversely affects our results of operations for the first two fiscal quarters. Prolonged severe weather conditions can delay construction projects and otherwise adversely affect our business.

Price volatility and supply constraints in the steel market could prevent us from meeting delivery schedules to our customers or reduce our profit margins.

Our business is heavily dependent on the price and supply of steel. The steel industry is highly cyclical in nature, and steel prices have been volatile in recent years and may remain volatile in the future. Steel prices are influenced by

numerous factors beyond our control, including general economic conditions domestically and internationally, the availability of raw materials, competition, labor costs, freight and transportation costs, production costs, import duties and other trade restrictions. Steel prices increased through most of fiscal 2008 due to cost increases in iron, ore, coke, steel scrap, ocean freight and transportation costs. However, rapidly declining demand due to the effects of the credit crisis and global economic slowdown on the construction, automotive and industrial markets has resulted in many steel manufacturers around the world announcing plans to cut production by closing plants and furloughing union and non-union workers. Steel suppliers such as U.S. Steel and Arcelor Mittal are among these manufacturers who have cut production.

We do not have any long-term contracts for the purchase of steel and normally do not maintain an inventory of steel in excess of our current production requirements. However, from time to time, we may purchase steel in

Table of Contents

advance of announced steel price increases. We can give you no assurance that steel will remain available or that prices will not continue to be volatile. While most of our contracts have escalation clauses that allow us, under certain circumstances, to pass along all or a portion of increases in the price of steel after the date of the contract but prior to delivery, we may, for competitive or other reasons, not be able to pass such price increases along. If the available supply of steel declines, we could experience price increases that we are not able to pass on to our customers, a deterioration of service from our suppliers or interruptions or delays that may cause us not to meet delivery schedules to our customers. Any of these problems could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We rely on a few major suppliers for our supply of steel, which makes us more vulnerable to supply constraints and pricing pressure, as well as the financial condition of those suppliers.

We rely on a few major suppliers for our supply of steel and may be adversely affected by bankruptcy, change in control, financial condition or other factors affecting those suppliers. During the first nine months of fiscal 2009, we purchased approximately 28% of our steel requirements from one vendor. No other vendor accounted for over 10% of our steel requirements during the first nine months of fiscal 2009. Due to unfavorable market conditions and our inventory supply requirements, during the first nine months of fiscal 2009 we purchased insignificant amounts of steel from foreign suppliers. Limiting purchases to domestic suppliers further reduces our available steel supply base. Therefore, recently announced cutbacks, a prolonged labor strike against one or more of our principal domestic suppliers, or financial or other difficulties of a principal supplier that affects its ability to produce steel, could have a material adverse effect on our operations. Furthermore, if one or more of our current suppliers is unable for financial or any other reason to continue in business or to produce steel sufficient to meet our requirements, essential supply of our primary raw materials could be temporarily interrupted and our business could be adversely affected. However, alternative sources, including foreign steel, are currently believed to be sufficient to maintain required deliveries.

We may recognize additional goodwill or other intangible asset impairment charges.

As of February 1, 2009, we estimated the market implied fair value of our goodwill was less than its carrying value by approximately \$508.9 million, which was recorded as a goodwill impairment charge in the first quarter of fiscal 2009. This charge was an estimate based on the result of the preliminary allocation of fair value in the second step of the goodwill impairment test. However, due to the timing and complexity of the valuation calculations required under the second step of the test, we finalized our allocation of the fair value during the second quarter of fiscal 2009 with regard to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets in which their respective values are dependent on property, plant and equipment.

Based on our Phase III restructuring plan to close certain of our manufacturing facilities, management determined that there was an indicator to require us to perform another interim goodwill impairment test for each of our reporting units that had goodwill remaining as of May 3, 2009. As a result of this impairment indicator, we updated the first step of our goodwill impairment test in the second quarter of fiscal 2009 and determined that our carrying value exceeded our fair value at most of our reporting units with goodwill remaining in each of our operating segments, indicating that goodwill was potentially impaired. As a result, we initiated the second step of the goodwill impairment test. As of May 3, 2009, we determined the market implied fair value of our goodwill was less than its carrying value by approximately \$102.5 million, which has been recorded as a goodwill impairment charge in the second quarter of fiscal 2009. The goodwill impairment charge from this triggering event was finalized in the second quarter of fiscal 2009.

In addition, a future triggering event, such as a decline in our cash flow projections, may cause additional impairments based on factors such as our stock price, projected cash flows, assumptions used, control premiums or other variables. Any future triggering event, such as declines in our cash flow projections, may also cause additional intangible asset impairments.

Table of Contents

Failure to retain or replace key personnel could hurt our operations.

Our success depends to a significant degree upon the efforts, contributions and abilities of our senior management, plant managers and other highly skilled personnel, including our sales executives. These executives and managers have many accumulated years of experience in our industry and have developed personal relationships with our customers that are important to our business. If we do not retain the services of our key personnel or if we fail to adequately plan for the succession of such individuals, our customer relationships, results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

If we are unable to enforce our intellectual property rights, or if our intellectual property rights become obsolete, our competitive position could be adversely affected.

We utilize a variety of intellectual property rights in our services. We have a number of U.S. patents, pending patent applications and other proprietary rights, including those relating to metal roofing systems, metal overhead doors, our pier and header system, our Long Bay® System and our building estimating and design system. We also have several registered trademarks and pending registrations in the United States. We view our portfolio of process and design technologies as one of our competitive strengths. We may not be able to successfully preserve these intellectual property rights in the future and these rights could be invalidated, circumvented or challenged. If we are unable to protect and maintain our intellectual property rights, or if there are any successful intellectual property challenges or infringement proceedings against us, our business and revenue could be materially and adversely affected.

We incur costs to comply with environmental laws and have liabilities for environmental cleanups.

Because we have air emissions, discharge wastewater, own and operate real property, and handle hazardous substances and solid waste, we incur costs and liabilities to comply with environmental laws and regulations and may incur significant additional costs as those laws and regulations or their enforcement change in the future or if there is an accidental release of hazardous substances into the environment. The operations of our manufacturing facilities are subject to stringent and complex federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. These include, for example, (1) the federal Clean Air Act and comparable state laws and regulations that impose obligations related to air emissions, (2) the federal RCRA and comparable state laws that impose requirements for the storage, treatment, handling and disposal of waste from our facilities and (3) the CERCLA and comparable state laws that regulate the cleanup of hazardous substances that may have been released at properties currently or previously owned or operated by us or at locations to which we have sent waste for disposal. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, the imposition of remedial requirements, personal injury, property or natural resource damages claims and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. For more information about costs we have incurred for environmental matters in recent years, see Item 3. Legal Proceedings and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 2, 2008.

The industries in which we operate are highly competitive.

We compete with all other alternative methods of building construction, which may be viewed as more traditional, more aesthetically pleasing or having other advantages over our products. In addition, competition in the metal components and metal buildings markets of the building industry and in the metal coil coating segment is intense. It is based primarily on:

quality;

service;

on-time delivery;

ability to provide added value in the design and engineering of buildings;

price;

Table of Contents

speed of construction in buildings and components; and

personal relationships with customers.

We compete with a number of other manufacturers of metal components and engineered building systems and providers of coil coating services ranging from small local firms to large national firms. In addition, we and other manufacturers of metal components and engineered building systems compete with alternative methods of building construction. If these alternative building methods compete successfully against us, such competition could adversely affect us.

In addition, several of our competitors have recently been acquired by steel producers. Competitors owned by steel producers may have a competitive advantage on raw materials that we do not enjoy. Steel producers may prioritize deliveries of raw materials to such competitors or provide them with more favorable pricing, both of which could enable them to offer products to customers at lower prices or accelerated delivery schedules.

Our acquisition strategy may be unsuccessful if we incorrectly predict operating results or are unable to identify and complete future acquisitions and integrate acquired assets or businesses.

We have a history of expansion through acquisitions, and we believe that as our industry continues to consolidate, our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to complete acquisitions. Growing through acquisitions and managing that growth will require us to continue to invest in operational, financial and management information systems and to attract, retain, motivate and effectively manage our employees. Pursuing and integrating acquisitions, including our acquisition of Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, involves a number of risks, including:

the risk of incorrect assumptions or estimates regarding the future results of the acquired business or expected cost reductions or other synergies expected to be realized as a result of acquiring the business;

diversion of management's attention from existing operations;

unexpected losses of key employees, customers and suppliers of the acquired business;

conforming the financial, technological and management standards, processes, procedures and controls of the acquired business with those of our existing operations; and

increasing the scope, geographic diversity and complexity of our operations.

Although we expect acquisitions to be an integral part of our future growth, we can provide no assurance that we will be successful in identifying or completing any acquisitions or that any businesses or assets that we are able to acquire will be successfully integrated into our existing business. We cannot predict the effect, if any, that any announcement or consummation of an acquisition would have on the trading prices of our securities.

Our acquisition strategy subjects us to numerous risks that could adversely affect our results of operations.

Acquisitions are an essential part of our growth strategy, and our ability to acquire additional businesses or operations on favorable terms is important to our long-term growth. Depending on conditions in the acquisition market, it may be difficult or impossible for us to identify businesses or operations for acquisition, or we may not be able to make acquisitions on terms that we consider economically acceptable. Even if we are able to identify suitable acquisition opportunities, our acquisition strategy depends upon, among other things, our ability to obtain financing and, in some

cases, regulatory approvals, including under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, which we refer to as the HSR Act.

Our incurrence of additional debt, contingent liabilities and expenses in connection with our acquisition of Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, or in connection with any future acquisitions, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, our financial position and results of operations may fluctuate significantly from period to period based on whether significant acquisitions are completed in particular periods. Competition for acquisitions is intense and may increase the cost of, or cause us to refrain from, completing acquisitions.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus/disclosure statement contains forward-looking statements. Any statements about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions, future events or performance are not historical facts and may be forward-looking. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as anticipate, estimate, plans, projects, continuing, ongoing, expects, management believes, we believe, similar words or phrases. Accordingly, these statements involve estimates, assumptions and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in them. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of several factors more fully described under the caption Risk Factors and elsewhere in this prospectus/disclosure statement, including the exhibits hereto. All forward-looking statements are necessarily only estimates of future results and there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from expectations, and, therefore, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements. Any forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors discussed throughout this prospectus/disclosure statement. Further, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law.

Forward-looking statements regarding future events and our future performance, including the expected completion and timing of the restructuring and other information relating thereto, involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, the following items:

industry cyclicality and seasonality and adverse weather conditions;

ability to service or refinance our debt;

fluctuations in customer demand and other patterns;

raw material pricing and supply;

competitive activity and pricing pressure;

the ability to make strategic acquisitions accretive to earnings;

general economic conditions affecting the construction industry;

the current financial crisis and U.S. recession;

changes in laws or regulations;

our ability to obtain, on reasonable terms, if at all, the financing we will need in the future to meet our debt maturities and debt service obligations and to execute our business strategies;

the volatility of our stock price and the potential risk of delisting from the NYSE;

the potential dilution associated with future equity or equity-linked financings that we may undertake to raise additional capital and the risk that the equity pricing may not be favorable to us;

our ability to comply with the financial tests and covenants in our existing and future debt obligations;

the significant demands on our liquidity while current economic and credit conditions are severely affecting our operations, including the potential for acceleration on our outstanding indebtedness and our potential obligation to repurchase convertible notes upon consummation of the CD&R investment and on November 15, 2009 if this exchange offer is not fully subscribed and we do not have sufficient cash to satisfy the obligation of the remaining amount of convertible notes outstanding and of our other outstanding indebtedness;

the satisfaction of the conditions to consummate the recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan;

the impact of the prepackaged plan on our operations, credibility and valued relationships;

Table of Contents

the uncertainty surrounding the restructuring, including our ability to retain employees, customers and vendors;

the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the investment agreement;

the failure of the CD&R investment to close for any other reason;

the failure of the Company to enter into or consummate the term loan refinancing and/or the ABL financing for any reason;

the amount of the costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the restructuring; and

other risks detailed in the section titled "Risk Factors" and other factors and matters contained or incorporated in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Although our management believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement. We undertake no obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may arise from changing circumstances or unanticipated events, except as otherwise required by law.

Table of Contents

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

As widely reported, worldwide financial markets began experiencing extreme disruptions in the second half of 2007, including, among other things, extreme volatility in security prices, severely diminished liquidity and credit availability, rating downgrades of certain investments and declining valuations of others. In addition, during the same period, the U.S. economy has been contracting, as evidenced by reduced demand for a range of goods and services and a declining gross domestic product. These economic developments affect our business in a number of ways. The overall decline in economic conditions has reduced demand for our products. In addition, the tightening of credit in financial markets adversely affects the ability of our customers to obtain financing for construction projects. These factors have resulted in a decrease in, or cancellation of, orders for our products and have also affected the ability of our customers to make payments. The uncertainty surrounding future economic activity levels and diminished credit availability along with steel price volatility have resulted in significantly decreased activity levels for our business.

During the first nine months of fiscal 2009, our sales volumes were significantly below expectations, primarily in the engineered buildings and components segments. When we began fiscal 2009, McGraw-Hill predicted a 12% decline in nonresidential construction in 2009. Subsequently, McGraw-Hill revised its forecast further downward and, as of July 2009, was predicting a 35% decline in nonresidential construction activity in 2009. McGraw-Hill reported a 48% decline in the period from January 2009 through July 2009 of nonresidential square footage compared to the same prior year period and approximately a 62% decline from January 2009 through July 2009 of nonresidential construction square footage in our commercial and industrial sectors compared to the same prior year period. McGraw-Hill also reported a 41.8% reduction in low-rise nonresidential (five stories or less) square-footage starts during the first nine months of fiscal 2009 compared with the same period in fiscal 2008.

Table of Contents

THE RESTRUCTURING

Overview

We are proposing the restructuring to address the Company's immediate need for liquidity in light of a potentially imminent default under, and acceleration of, our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to the acceleration of our other indebtedness, including under the convertible notes indenture), and the high likelihood that we will be required to repurchase the convertible notes on November 15, 2009, the first scheduled mandatory repurchase date under the convertible notes indenture.

The restructuring consists of four related transactions:

the CD&R investment, which involves a \$250.0 million investment by the CD&R Fund in the form of a private placement to the CD&R Fund of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock (see "The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment");

a retirement of all of the convertible notes (see "The Restructuring Retirement of the Convertible Notes");

the term loan refinancing, which involves the refinancing of our existing credit facility under which we will repay approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement providing for a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance (see "The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing"); and

the ABL financing, which involves our entry into an ABL agreement for a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility (see "The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing").

Each of the transactions comprising the restructuring may be accomplished through either the out-of-court recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, the in-court prepackaged plan. If the restructuring is being accomplished through the recapitalization plan, the retirement of the convertible notes tendered in the exchange offer would be accomplished through this exchange offer and the refinancing of our existing credit facility would be accomplished through an amendment to our existing credit agreement. In the alternative, if the restructuring is being accomplished through the prepackaged plan, the retirement of the convertible notes as well as the refinancing of our existing credit facility would be accomplished through the prepackaged plan.

The closing of the exchange offer is conditioned on the satisfaction or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waiver of the minimum tender condition, which requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer. If the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, we intend, but are not required, to retire any remaining convertible notes outstanding after the consummation of this exchange offer by exercising our redemption right under the convertible notes indenture on or after November 20, 2009; if we do not so exercise our redemption right, such remaining convertible notes will otherwise be retired pursuant to the terms of the convertible notes indenture.

For a more detailed description of this exchange offer, see "The Exchange Offer."

The restructuring, if successful, will increase the Company's capital and liquidity levels and reduce the amount of its outstanding debt. Specifically, upon the completion of the restructuring, we will reduce our outstanding indebtedness by (1) using the proceeds from the CD&R investment to retire the convertible notes by either funding the aggregate cash consideration in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, by paying holders of convertible notes pursuant to the prepackaged plan and (2) using the proceeds from the CD&R investment and a portion of the Company's existing cash on hand to repay approximately \$143.3 million in principal amount of term loans under our existing credit facility.

We expect our indebtedness to be reduced from approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 to approximately \$150.4 million at the closing of the restructuring, consisting of \$150.0 million in principal amount of term loans under the amended credit agreement and \$0.4 million of our industrial revenue bond. See Capitalization.

The ABL financing contemplated by the restructuring would provide us with up to \$125.0 million in liquidity subject to availability under a borrowing base for working capital purposes and future expansion. Based on discussions with prospective lenders under the ABL agreement, we expect that because of borrowing base constraints, initial availability under the ABL agreement would be substantially less than the \$125.0 million

Table of Contents

commitment, and may be as low as \$45.0 million. We have been in discussions with prospective lenders regarding the terms of the ABL agreement to give effect to the ABL financing and the Company has finalized with such prospective lenders the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R and confirmed participation for the full availability under such ABL financing. While the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders, and the Company has been informed that the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter in to the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Assuming we are able to complete the restructuring, we expect that, for the foreseeable future, cash generated from operations, together with the proceeds of the ABL financing, will be sufficient to allow us to fund our operations, to increase working capital as necessary to support our strategy and to fund planned capital expenditures and expansions (including approximately \$5.0 million expected, for the remainder of fiscal 2009).

In the event that we cannot effect the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan because the conditions to the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan have not been satisfied or waived, we will face an immediate liquidity crisis. Absent the consummation of the restructuring, we do not expect, and we cannot assure you, that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity to meet our debt repayment/repurchase obligations, including any potential acceleration of our existing term loan indebtedness and our obligation to repurchase the convertible notes at the option of the holders thereof on November 15, 2009, the next scheduled repurchase date. Due to our non-compliance with the required leverage, senior leverage and interest coverage ratios in our existing credit agreement, our outstanding indebtedness of approximately \$293.3 million thereunder may be declared immediately due and payable as early as November 6, 2009, the date of expiration of the current waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement. In the event that we do not repay such borrowings upon acceleration, the lenders under our existing credit agreement could exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing such borrowings. A failure to pay or refinance such borrowings will also result in a default under the convertible notes indenture, which could also then be declared immediately due and payable, and under our swap agreement, which could then be terminated by the counterparty thereto. If all such indebtedness, which totaled approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009, and such amounts payable pursuant to the termination of the swap agreement were to become due and payable on November 6, 2009, it would result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition, operations and debt service capabilities. As of August 2, 2009, excluding restricted cash, we had a current cash balance of approximately \$105.4 million to address our liquidity needs. For a description of our non-compliance with the financial ratio covenants under our existing credit agreement, see our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 2, 2009, our current reports on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009, July 15, 2009 and August 27, 2009 and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

In the event that we experience a liquidity crisis as described above, it could likely result in us filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. If we commence such a bankruptcy filing, holders of convertible notes may receive consideration that is substantially less than what is being offered under the restructuring.

Background to the Restructuring

In 2004, the Company entered into its existing senior secured credit facility and issued the convertible notes. The existing senior secured credit facility was initially comprised of a \$125 million revolving credit facility and a \$400 million term loan due on June 18, 2010. The revolving credit facility expired in June of 2009 and approximately \$293.3 million of the term loans remain outstanding. The convertible notes mature in November 2024, but, on certain specified dates, the first of which is November 15, 2009, holders of convertible notes may, at their option, require the Company to purchase all or a portion of their convertible notes at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal

amount of such convertible notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon. The convertible notes are convertible into 24.9121 shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the convertible notes (which equates to a conversion price of approximately \$40.14 per share), but, in lieu of issuing all of such shares upon conversion, the Company is required to pay, in respect of a portion of such shares, cash up to the principal amount of the convertible notes and to issue shares of common stock in respect of the remaining value of the convertible notes that are so converted.

Table of Contents

Until the middle of 2008, in light of the trading range of the common stock (which was generally at or above the conversion price for the convertible notes), the Company's results of operations and cash flow, and the general robustness of the credit markets, the Company believed that:

it was not likely that holders of convertible notes would exercise their rights to require the Company to repurchase their convertible notes in November 2009 instead of converting their convertible notes into common stock;

the Company could refinance the convertible notes on commercially acceptable terms in the event that such holders were to exercise their rights; and

it was not likely that the Company would have difficulty obtaining a new credit facility or an extension of the existing credit facility on commercially acceptable terms at the expiration of the existing credit facility.

In March 2008, in light of the nearing maturities of the existing credit facility, the Company began to explore alternatives for refinancing its existing credit facility.

In the second half of 2008, the Company's business began to be severely negatively affected by the domestic and global recession and, in particular, by the dramatic reduction in new non-residential construction in the United States. In addition, financial turmoil affecting the banking system and financial markets resulted in severe tightening in the credit markets, and the Company's stock price declined dramatically, from approximately \$40 per share in early August 2008, to as low as approximately \$15 per share in mid-October 2008. In late August to early September 2008, in light of these events and the increasing likelihood that holders of convertible notes would elect to exercise their rights to require the Company to repurchase their convertible notes at the earliest scheduled repurchase date (November 15, 2009), management began to explore the Company's alternatives for refinancing the convertible notes and continued to explore alternatives for refinancing its existing credit facility.

In late 2008, the Company retained J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. to assist the Company in discussions with our key relationship banks and to explore a comprehensive range of potential alternatives to strengthen the Company's balance sheet and enhance our long-term financial and competitive position, including but not limited to capital raises and strategic investments. Around this time, we also began to engage in discussions with a number of private equity investors about a potential investment in the Company.

In late November 2008, a representative of CD&R contacted the Company about a potential transaction involving the Company and a private investment fund managed by CD&R, and in December 2008, CD&R and the Company entered into a customary confidentiality agreement with respect to such potential transaction. In January 2009, representatives of CD&R met with representatives of the Company's senior management team. At this meeting, Company representatives conducted a management presentation in which they described the Company's operations and business.

From early February 2009 through early March 2009, the Company and CD&R negotiated the terms of a potential significant, minority investment in the Company of \$200 million, and CD&R and its representatives and advisors engaged in a due diligence investigation of the Company's business. During this period, the global financial crisis continued and the economic outlook for the non-residential construction industry in general, and for the Company specifically, continued to deteriorate, and the Company's share price fell precipitously, to below \$4 per share. On March 10, 2009, the Company issued its earnings release for its fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2009, in which it reported, among other things, that the effects of worsening economic conditions on our end markets and the rapid decline in steel prices caused tonnage volume shipped in the first quarter to decline 45% sequentially and 40% year-over-year, and that as a result of substantially lower utilization rates and high inventory costs, the Company

reported an operating loss for the period that was significantly increased by non-cash impairment charges. By March 2009, as a result of the worsening conditions in the capital markets, the downturn in the Company's end markets and the effect of these developments on the operating performance of and business forecast plan for the Company, the terms of the potential investment then under discussion between CD&R and the Company were no longer sufficient to address the Company's capital structure needs. In March 2009, CD&R indicated to the Company that it maintained its interest in a potential transaction involving the Company and that it would work with the Company and its representatives to revise such terms for a potential transaction that would provide a more comprehensive solution to the Company's capital needs.

In early March 2009, the Company engaged Greenhill & Co., LLC as an additional financial advisor.

Table of Contents

In early April 2009, CD&R outlined to management the revised terms of a potential investment in the Company that would provide a more comprehensive solution to the Company's capital needs. The revised terms increased the amount of CD&R's potential investment in the Company from \$200 million to \$250.0 million and provided for a transaction in which a private investment fund managed by CD&R would purchase from the Company \$250.0 million of preferred stock that would be convertible into 80% of the outstanding common stock of the Company on a fully diluted basis. In addition, in connection with the transaction, the private investment fund managed by CD&R would have the ability to appoint a majority of the directors of the Company and obtain other rights customarily afforded to controlling stockholders. The revised terms also indicated that the potential investment in the Company would be contingent upon the satisfaction of certain conditions aimed at addressing the Company's leverage and liquidity, including that (1) the Company would pay down a significant portion of the outstanding term loans and seek agreement of the lenders under its existing credit agreement to extend the maturity of the remaining term loans on amended terms, (2) the Company would restructure, retire or otherwise satisfy its expected redemption obligations under the convertible notes without using cash in excess of needed operating liquidity and (3) the Company would have sufficient liquidity, after taking into account the satisfaction of the Company's obligations with respect to the convertible notes, in the form of cash on the balance sheet and a committed revolver with a term commensurate with the extended remaining term loans to support the Company's business operations. CD&R indicated that a potential investment on these terms was subject to satisfactory completion of CD&R's on-going due diligence investigation and other customary conditions.

From mid-March through May 2009, JP Morgan contacted approximately six industry participants and approximately 15 financial investors and private equity firms to gauge their interest in a potential investment in, or acquisition or recapitalization of, the Company. Only a few of these contacted firms were willing to execute a confidentiality agreement and begin discussions, and ultimately none expressed any interest in pursuing a transaction other than restructuring transactions at valuation levels that implied no recovery for holders of common stock and substantial impairment for holders of convertible notes. In particular, the Company received no indications of interest competitive with the value and commitment to completion offered by CD&R.

By late April 2009, CD&R and the Company, although not yet agreeing to the final terms of the transaction, had agreed on a basis for continuing discussions regarding a CD&R investment transaction, including that:

the Company would offer to pay down approximately \$143.0 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and seek agreement of the term loan lenders to extend the maturity of the remaining \$150.0 million for a period of five years on amended terms;

the Company would seek the agreement of a group of lenders to commit to a new asset-backed revolving credit facility, in the amount of at least \$125.0 million;

the Company would launch an exchange offer to acquire substantially all of the convertible notes in exchange for a combination of cash and equity consideration; and

if the foregoing steps and transactions could be accomplished, at the concurrent closings of such transactions, CD&R would purchase from the Company \$250.0 million of preferred stock, which would be convertible into 75% of the outstanding common stock on a fully diluted basis, but before giving effect to dilution in respect of any common stock required to be issued in such exchange offer to holders of convertible notes.

Accordingly, in May and June 2009, the Company and its representatives together with CD&R and its representatives engaged in discussions with the agent banks and one other lead financial institution under the Company's existing credit agreement and revolving credit facility (which were bound by confidentiality obligations to the Company and were able to receive material non-public information about the Company).

During May 2009, in light of the dramatic decline during the first two fiscal quarters ended April 30, 2009 of the Company's results of operations, including its Adjusted EBITDA (a financial measure used and defined in the existing credit agreement), due to the continuing recession and economic crisis, the Company's management became concerned that the Company would fall out of compliance with several financial covenants under the existing credit agreement, which failure would result in a default that would allow the lenders to accelerate and demand immediate repayment of the entire outstanding term loans. If the Company were unable to make the

Table of Contents

required repayment, it would also be in default under the convertible notes indenture, which could then be declared immediately due and payable. In order to obtain additional time to complete a transaction with CD&R or an alternative refinancing or restructuring, on May 20, 2009, the Company obtained a waiver from its lenders, including waiver of its financial maintenance covenants and restrictions on the Company's ability to enter into an agreement for a substantial investment in the Company. The waiver was effective through July 15, 2009, with an automatic extension to September 15, 2009, upon the signing of a definitive agreement for an investment. In the press release announcing that the Company obtained the waiver from its lenders, the Company also announced that it had made significant progress with a leading private equity firm with regard to a substantial investment in the Company, and that it was in advanced stages of negotiations with that private equity firm. At the time of the press release, although CD&R continued to indicate a high level of commitment to completing a transaction with the Company, CD&R indicated that it was unwilling to allow its name to be associated with a transaction until definitive documentation was executed, and, given the conditions to a transaction set forth in CD&R's revised proposal with respect to the Company's leverage and liquidity, CD&R indicated that it was not prepared to execute definitive documentation until more progress was made with respect to the proposed refinancing.

On June 15, 2009, without yet reaching an agreement with the lenders under the Company's existing credit agreement, the Company's revolving credit facility matured, leaving the Company with cash on hand as its only source to address its liquidity needs.

In June 2009, senior management and an industry participant, which we refer to as the Industry Participant, spoke regarding the Industry Participant's potential interest in acquiring the Company. The Industry Participant had not shown interest when originally contacted by JP Morgan in the spring of 2009, but the Industry Participant explained that, due to improvements in its own business in the intervening two months, it had determined to reconsider a possible acquisition of the Company. In early and mid-July 2009, the Company's senior management, together with Greenhill, met twice in person with senior management of the Industry Participant and its financial advisor, and throughout July 2009, the Industry Participant engaged in due diligence of the Company while it continued to evaluate whether to proceed to make an acquisition proposal for the Company.

During June 2009, negotiations continued with CD&R with respect to the final terms of the CD&R investment in the Company, and negotiations continued between the Company and its representatives, on the one hand, and a group of the Company's lenders, on the other hand, with respect to the terms of the amendment and extension to the Company's existing credit agreement that would be a condition to a CD&R investment. In addition, during this period, the Company and its representatives, together with CD&R and its representatives, began negotiations with certain of the Company's lenders with respect to a new asset-backed revolving credit facility that would be a condition to a CD&R investment. In mid-July 2009, in order to obtain additional time to complete these negotiations and discussions, the Company obtained an extension of the credit agreement waiver, which had originally been set to expire on July 15, 2009, so that it would expire on August 14, 2009, which date would automatically extend to September 15, 2009 upon the signing of a definitive agreement for an investment.

Throughout July and the first half of August 2009, negotiations continued between the Company and CD&R with respect to the investment, and between the Company and the Industry Participant with respect to a potential acquisition of the Company. In addition, during this period, (a) the Company and its representatives, together with CD&R and its representatives, continued negotiations with certain of the Company's lenders with respect to the terms of a potential new asset-backed revolving credit facility and (b) CD&R and its representatives joined the Company and its representatives to continue discussions with certain of the Company's lenders with respect to the terms of a potential amendment of the Company's existing credit agreement to amend and extend a portion of the term loans outstanding thereunder. During this time, CD&R and the Company discussed that, if the consent of 100% of the lenders under the Company's existing credit agreement could not be obtained or if the holders of substantially all of the convertible notes opted not to tender their convertible notes in an exchange offer for a combination of cash and

Company common stock, then both the Company and CD&R would be willing to effect the CD&R investment and the restructuring of the Company's balance sheet through a prepackaged plan of reorganization. A prepackaged plan of reorganization would require acceptance by a smaller percentage of the lenders under our existing credit facility and holders of convertible notes, thereby increasing the likelihood that the CD&R investment and the restructuring of the Company's balance sheet could be achieved (see Summary The Prepackaged Plan).

Table of Contents

On August 12, 2009, the Industry Participant informed the Company that it and its board of directors had determined not to make a proposal to acquire the Company. From August 12 through August 14, 2009, the Company and CD&R completed negotiation and documentation of the CD&R investment.

During the evening of August 13, 2009, the Company's board of directors met to consider the proposed investment and related transactions. The Company's board of directors had met in person and by telephone on numerous occasions over the previous weeks and months, including an in-person meeting on August 10, 2009, and had received numerous presentations from management regarding the Company's business, operations and prospects, and from management JP Morgan and Greenhill regarding the Company's search for a strategic, financial or restructuring solution to the Company's impending debt repayment obligations under the existing credit facility and the convertible notes, regarding the negotiations with and terms of the proposed transaction with CD&R and regarding possible outcomes and recovery scenarios to creditors and stockholders in the event the Company were to file for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. Among other things, the directors considered (1) the absence of interest from any third parties other than the Industry Participant, which had withdrawn its interest, (2) the potentially imminent default under, and acceleration of, the Company's existing credit facility (which default, in turn, could lead to the potential acceleration of the Company's other indebtedness, including under the convertible notes indenture), and that such default could have occurred as early as August 15, 2009 (the expiration date of the waiver then in effect, which waiver was subsequently extended to November 6, 2009), and (3) the high likelihood that the Company would be required to repurchase the convertible notes on November 15, 2009. At the August 13, 2009 board meeting, Greenhill delivered its opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing, that, as of such date, and based on and subject to, among other things, the limitations and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the consideration to be received by the Company pursuant to the proposed CD&R investment is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Company (which opinion was subsequently superseded by an updated opinion delivered to the Company's board of directors on August 31, 2009 and described below). See The Restructuring Opinion of Greenhill Relating to the CD&R Investment.

Based on the presentations and discussions at the August 13, 2009 meeting and at prior meetings, the Company's board of directors believed that, in the absence of a CD&R transaction, the Company would likely be forced to file for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan, that such a bankruptcy filing would materially adversely affect the Company's business and destroy value (see Risk Factors Risks Relating to NOT Accepting the Exchange Offer or Rejecting the Prepackaged Plan), that the CD&R transaction would result in the Company's receipt of \$250.0 million of additional capital and would create significant value for the Company, its creditors and shareholders, and that the CD&R transaction would create significantly greater value than would be created in a bankruptcy case with respect to a filing on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan or would likely be created in a restructuring in which either no new outside capital would be provided, or in which existing creditors would be required to contribute new capital. Following further discussion, the Company's board of directors unanimously approved the original investment agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. During the evening of August 13, 2009, the Company, CD&R and their respective outside legal counsels finalized the original investment agreement, and in the early morning of August 14, 2009, the parties executed the original investment agreement and announced the transaction (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment), including the Company's intention to commence an exchange offer to acquire the convertible notes in exchange for \$500 in cash and 125 shares of Common Stock for each \$1,000 in principal amount of convertible notes tendered and not withdrawn. On a pro forma basis, after taking into account the common stock that would be issued to holders of convertible notes under the terms of the proposed exchange offer, the CD&R Fund's ownership of the Company would be approximately 71.5% while holders of convertible notes would receive, in the aggregate, shares of common stock representing approximately 15.0% of the Company.

On August 21, 2009, the Company obtained another extension, dated as of August 20, 2009, of the credit agreement waiver to November 6, 2009, pursuant to which, in addition to waiving certain of the Company's financial covenants,

the term loan lenders waived any default or event of default resulting from the company's execution of the original investment agreement and/or arising from the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock.

Table of Contents

After the announcement of the execution of the original investment agreement, the Company began negotiations with representatives of a group of existing holders of convertible notes to increase the proposed consideration in the exchange offer.

As a result of these negotiations, on August 26, 2009, the Company and the group of holders of convertible notes reached consensus on possible amended exchange offer terms provided that holders of convertible notes representing more than two-thirds of the outstanding convertible notes would execute a lock-up and voting agreement committing such noteholders to tender their convertible notes in the amended exchange offer. Such possible amended terms contemplated that the CD&R Fund would continue to invest \$250.0 million in the Company but its pro forma ownership of the Company would be approximately 68.5%, and holders of convertible notes would receive \$500 cash and 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes tendered in such proposed exchange offer, representing, in the aggregate, approximately 24.5% of the ownership of the Company on a pro forma basis. During the period of negotiations with the noteholder group, the Company also engaged in negotiations with the CD&R Fund regarding the amendments to the investment agreement that would be necessitated by the terms under negotiation with the noteholder group. CD&R indicated a willingness to proceed on the basis of the terms negotiated by the Company with the noteholder group. On August 27, 2009, the Company issued a press release announcing its entry into negotiations with the CD&R Fund and the group of noteholders on the basis of such possible amended terms. On August 28, 2009, the Company and the CD&R Fund executed an amendment to the investment agreement to extend the date by which the Company would be obligated to commence the exchange offer. Negotiations continued from August 25, 2009 to August 30, 2009.

On the evening of August 31, 2009, the Company's board of directors met to consider the proposed amended terms. Among other things, the directors weighed the costs and benefits of the increased certainty of success of the restructuring that a lock-up and voting agreement would provide against the reduced ownership of the Company by the current stockholders on a pro forma basis. At the August 31, 2009 board meeting, Greenhill delivered a revised opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing, that, as of such date, and based on and subject to, among other things, the limitations and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the consideration to be received by the Company pursuant to the revised proposed CD&R investment is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Company. This opinion superseded the opinion of Greenhill previously delivered to the Company's board of directors on August 13, 2009.

Following discussions, the Company's board of directors unanimously approved the amended terms contemplated by amendment no. 2 to the investment agreement (see Annex D). In addition, the Audit Committee met and redetermined that the delay necessary in securing stockholder approval prior to the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock and of the common stock pursuant to the exchange offer would seriously jeopardize the financial viability of the Company and approved the reliance by the Company on the exception to the NYSE's Shareholder Approval Policy contained in Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. The Audit Committee had previously determined the same in connection with the execution of the original investment agreement.

On August 31, 2009, (1) the Company and the CD&R Fund executed amendment no. 2 to the investment agreement which, among other things, amended the terms of the exchange offer contemplated by the original investment agreement to provide that holders of convertible notes would receive \$500 cash and 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes tendered in the exchange offer, and (2) concurrently with such execution, the Company and a group of noteholders representing more than 75% of the outstanding convertible notes executed the lock-up and voting agreement, dated August 21, 2009. Certain of the members of the group of noteholders also hold term loans and other obligations under our existing credit agreement and agreed to support the term loan refinancing as part of such lock-up agreement. Subsequent to the execution of such lock-up agreement, additional holders of notes became party to such lock-up agreement, increasing the aggregate amount of convertible notes subject thereto to 79% of the outstanding convertible notes.

After the launch of this exchange offer, the Company began negotiations with representatives of a group of holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement to amend the terms of the proposed term loan refinancing. As a result of these negotiations, on October 8, 2009, (1) the Company and the CD&R Fund executed amendment no. 3 to the investment agreement (see Annex E) which, among other things, amended certain provisions to the

Table of Contents

investment agreement to reflect the CD&R Fund's and the Company's agreement that, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the investment agreement, the execution of the form of amended credit agreement attached as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth in Annex L (prior to giving effect to the term amended by amendment no. 4 to the investment agreement described below) is deemed to satisfy the related condition to the CD&R investment, (2) concurrently with such execution, the Company and a group of lenders executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) (see The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements Lock-Up Agreement (dated October 8, 2009)) and (3) the Company and holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement attached as Annex N executed an amendment to such lock-up agreement (see Annex O) to take into account the matters set forth on Annex L (prior to giving effect to the term amended by amendment no. 4 to the investment agreement described below).

After the execution of amendment no. 3 to the investment agreement and the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), the Company continued negotiations with representatives of holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement in order to obtain the consent of all holders of such obligations for the term loan refinancing. As a result of such negotiations, on October 16, 2009, the Company and the CD&R Fund executed amendment no. 4 to the investment agreement (see Annex F) which amends the form of the credit agreement attached as Annex K after giving effect to matters set forth on Annex L such that the maturity date of the term loans under the new credit agreement, which previously was the fifth anniversary of the closing of the CD&R investment, would, if the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, be four years and six months from the closing date.

After the announcement of the execution of the original investment agreement, the Company and its representatives, together with CD&R and its representatives, continued negotiations with certain of the Company's lenders with respect to the terms of the proposed ABL financing. As a result of these negotiations, the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders to effect the proposed ABL financing, and the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter into the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R; however, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Reasons for the Restructuring

The Company is pursuing the restructuring in order to address its imminent debt repayment and repurchase obligations. We are currently facing a potentially imminent default under, and acceleration of, our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to a default under, and acceleration of, our other indebtedness, including under the convertible notes indenture). In addition, there is a high likelihood that we will be required to repurchase the convertible notes on November 15, 2009, the first scheduled mandatory repurchase date under the convertible notes indenture. In short, we may be required to repay or repurchase \$473.7 million of our outstanding indebtedness by the middle of November. As of August 2, 2009, the Company had only approximately \$105.4 million of unrestricted cash with which to satisfy these obligations, and no realistic ability to obtain the necessary additional funds in the capital markets.

We expect that the restructuring, if successful, will increase the Company's capital and liquidity levels and reduce the amount of our outstanding debt. Specifically, upon the completion of the restructuring, we expect that our indebtedness would be reduced from approximately \$473.7 million as of August 2, 2009 to approximately \$150.4 million at the closing of the restructuring (consisting of \$150.0 million in principal amount of term loans under the amended credit agreement and \$0.4 million of our industrial revenue bond).

In addition, the ABL financing contemplated by the restructuring will provide us with liquidity in the range of \$45.0 million to \$125.0 million (based upon our borrowing base from time to time), for working capital purposes and future expansion.

Assuming we are able to complete the restructuring, we expect that, for the foreseeable future, cash generated from operations, together with the proceeds of the ABL financing, will be sufficient to allow us to service our debt, fund our operations, increase working capital as necessary to support our strategy and to fund planned capital expenditures and expansions (including approximately \$5 million expected for the remainder of fiscal 2009).

Table of Contents

If we do not complete the restructuring either through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, we will face an immediate liquidity crisis. If we do not complete the restructuring, we do not expect, and we cannot assure you, that we will have, or have access to, sufficient liquidity (1) to meet our debt repayment/repurchase obligations, including any potential acceleration of our existing credit facility, which may occur as early as November 6, 2009 (which may, in turn, also lead to a default under, and acceleration of, our other indebtedness, including under the convertible notes indentures) and (2) to meet our obligation to repurchase the convertible notes at the option of the holders thereof on November 15, 2009, the next scheduled repurchase date.

In such event, we will have an immediate need to pursue other alternatives to manage our liquidity needs, including potentially filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan. Based upon our efforts to identify alternatives to the restructuring described above under The Restructuring Background to the Restructuring, we do not expect, and there can be no assurance, that any alternative to such bankruptcy filing would be found.

We believe that a bankruptcy (other than the prepackaged plan) could result in recoveries to the companies creditors and equity holders substantially below those expected to result from the restructuring or prepackaged plan, and could materially adversely affect our business and prospects.

We therefore determined to pursue this restructuring because we believed that it was superior to any existing alternative.

Opinion of Greenhill Relating to the CD&R Investment

On August 31, 2009, Greenhill rendered its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed in writing, to our board of directors and which addressed, subject to the limitations and assumptions set forth in the opinion, only the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the Company of the consideration to be paid by the CD&R Fund for the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement. **GREENHILL'S OPINION AND ANALYSIS DO NOT ADDRESS ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE RESTRUCTURING, INCLUDING THE FAIRNESS OF THIS EXCHANGE OFFER AND THE CONSIDERATION TO BE PAID TO THE HOLDERS OF CONVERTIBLE NOTES PURSUANT TO THIS EXCHANGE OFFER, AND DO NOT CONSTITUTE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A HOLDER OF CONVERTIBLE NOTES OR ANY OTHER PERSON SHOULD TENDER ITS CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN THIS EXCHANGE OFFER OR ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN. GREENHILL'S OPINION AND ANALYSIS WERE NOT PREPARED WITH A VIEW TOWARDS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, AND GREENHILL BELIEVES ITS OPINION AND ANALYSIS ARE OF LITTLE OR NO RELEVANCE TO A DECISION BY A HOLDER OF CONVERTIBLE NOTES OR ANY OTHER PERSON WHETHER OR NOT TO TENDER ITS CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN THIS EXCHANGE OFFER OR TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN.**

Based upon the express limitations contained in its opinion, Greenhill believes that holders of convertible notes and other persons (other than our board of directors) are not entitled to rely upon or otherwise use its opinion or analysis for any purpose, and Greenhill would intend to assert the substance of the noted limitations on use against any holder of convertible notes or other such person seeking to or otherwise claiming a right to rely upon or otherwise use such opinion or analysis.

Greenhill is not aware of any controlling court decision addressing the validity of such a claim. It is possible that holders of convertible notes or other persons could seek to assert a claim that they may rely upon or otherwise use the opinion or analysis, which Greenhill would intend to oppose. The validity of any such claim, if asserted, could only be finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The availability of such a state-law defense would have no

effect on the rights and responsibilities of our board of directors under governing state law, or the rights and responsibilities of our board of directors or Greenhill under the federal securities laws. Subject to the foregoing, Greenhill has not objected to the inclusion of its opinion or the summary of its analysis as part of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

The foregoing factors should be taken into account in deciding whether Greenhill's opinion and analysis should be considered by readers of this document.

Table of Contents

The full text of the written opinion of Greenhill, dated August 31, 2009, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limits on the opinion and the review undertaken in connection with rendering the opinion, is attached as Annex M to this prospectus/disclosure statement and is incorporated herein by reference. This opinion replaced and superseded Greenhill's opinion, dated August 13, 2009.

In connection with rendering the opinion described above, Greenhill, among other things:

reviewed the investment agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009, by and between the Company and the CD&R Fund, as amended by an amendment thereto, dated August 28, 2009, and as proposed to be amended by a draft of Amendment No. 2 thereto (including certain related documents), which as amended by such draft Amendment No. 2, we refer to as the draft investment agreement;

reviewed a draft of the form of certificate of designations, preferences and rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock included as an exhibit to the draft investment agreement;

reviewed the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K;

reviewed a draft of the ABL term sheet attached hereto as Annex Q;

reviewed the form of the stockholders agreement attached hereto as Annex G;

reviewed the form of the indemnification agreement attached hereto as Annex J;

reviewed the form of the registration rights agreement attached hereto as Annex I;

reviewed a draft of the lock-up and voting agreement;

reviewed certain publicly available financial statements of the Company;

reviewed certain other publicly available business and financial information relating to the Company that Greenhill deemed relevant;

reviewed certain information, including financial forecasts and other financial and operating data concerning the Company, prepared by the management of the Company;

discussed the past and present operations and financial condition and the prospects of the Company with senior executives of the Company;

compared the equity value implied by the consideration to be paid for the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement with the trading valuations of certain publicly traded companies that Greenhill deemed relevant;

compared the equity value implied by the consideration to be paid for the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement with that received in certain publicly available transactions that Greenhill deemed relevant;

compared the equity value implied by the consideration to be paid for the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement to the valuation derived by discounting future cash flows and a terminal value of the business at discount rates Greenhill deemed appropriate;

reviewed the illustrative bankruptcy recoveries by the Company's stockholders and creditors implied by management's projections under various scenarios;

participated, at the written request of the Company, in discussions and negotiations among representatives of the Company and its legal advisors and representatives of the CD&R Fund and its legal advisors; and

performed such other analyses and considered such other factors as Greenhill deemed appropriate.

Greenhill's opinion is for the information of our board of directors and was rendered to our board of directors in connection with their consideration of the CD&R investment. The opinion may not be used for any other purpose without Greenhill's prior written consent. Greenhill was not requested to opine as to, and Greenhill's opinion does not in any manner address, (1) the underlying business decision to proceed with or effect the CD&R investment or the restructuring, (2) any of the financial or other terms of the restructuring or (3) any plan of reorganization under

Table of Contents

chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Greenhill expressed no opinion as to the fairness of any portion or aspect of the CD&R investment or the restructuring to the holders of any class of securities, creditors or other constituencies of the Company, the fairness of any portion or aspect of the CD&R investment or the restructuring to any one class or group of the Company's security holders relative to any other class or group of the Company's security holders, or the solvency, creditworthiness or fair value of the Company under any applicable laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance or similar matters. In particular, Greenhill expressed no opinion as to the prices at which any publicly-traded shares of common stock of the Company will trade at any future time. Greenhill's opinion was approved by a fairness committee. The opinion is not intended to be and does not constitute a recommendation to the members of our board of directors as to whether they should approve the CD&R investment or the investment agreement.

In giving its opinion, Greenhill assumed and relied upon, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all information that was either publicly available or supplied or otherwise made available to it by management of the Company for the purposes of its opinion. Greenhill further relied upon the assurances of the management of the Company that they were not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make such information inaccurate or misleading. With respect to financial forecasts, projections and other data furnished or otherwise provided to it, Greenhill assumed that they were reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best then currently available estimates and good faith judgments of the management of the Company as to those matters, and Greenhill relied on such forecasts and data in arriving at its opinion. Greenhill expressed no opinion with respect to such financial projections and data or the assumptions upon which they were based. In addition, Greenhill did not make any independent appraisal of the assets or liabilities of the Company, nor was it furnished with any such valuations or appraisals. At the direction of our board of directors, Greenhill based its review of the potential recoveries by the Company's stockholders and creditors in a bankruptcy of the Company on those implied by management's projections under various scenarios. Greenhill has assumed that the CD&R investment will be consummated in accordance with the terms set forth in the final, executed investment agreement, the terms of which it has assumed are identical in all material respects to the draft investment agreement reviewed by Greenhill, without any waiver of any material terms or conditions set forth in the investment agreement, and that the CD&R investment and restructuring will be effectuated as contemplated therein. Greenhill has assumed and relied upon, without independent verification, the accuracy of the representations and warranties contained in the investment agreement and that no indemnification payments will be made by the Company under the investment agreement. Greenhill has further assumed that all material governmental, regulatory and other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the CD&R investment will be obtained without any effect on the Company, the CD&R investment or the contemplated benefits of the CD&R investment in any way meaningful to its analysis. Greenhill's opinion was necessarily based on financial, economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to it as of, the date of the opinion. It should be understood that subsequent developments may affect its opinion, but Greenhill does not have any obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion.

The following is a summary of the material financial and comparative analyses delivered by Greenhill to the Company's board of directors in connection with rendering its opinion described above. The summary set forth below does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Greenhill, nor does the order of analyses described represent relative importance or weight given to those analyses by Greenhill. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables must be read together with the full text of each summary and are not alone a complete description of Greenhill's financial analyses.

Table of Contents**Financial Forecast**

For the purposes of Greenhill's analysis, the Company provided to Greenhill, and instructed Greenhill to rely on, the financial forecast prepared by management that is summarized below:

	FY2009 (P)	FY2010 (P)	FY2011 (P)	FY2012 (P)
	(\$ in millions)			
Revenue	\$ 961	\$ 861	\$ 1,084	\$ 1,331
Gross Profit	\$ 161	\$ 190	\$ 252	\$ 335
<i>Margin (%)</i>	<i>16.8%</i>	<i>22.1%</i>	<i>23.2%</i>	<i>25.2%</i>
Adjusted EBIT(1)	\$ (3)	\$ 1	\$ 36	\$ 93
<i>Margin (%)</i>	<i>(0.3)%</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>
Adjusted EBITDA(1)	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 73	\$ 127
<i>Margin (%)</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>9.6%</i>
Capital Expenditures	\$ (23)	\$ (9)	\$ (50)	\$ (40)

(1) Excludes the effects of the significant charges incurred in 2009 for lower of cost or market adjustments, asset impairments, goodwill and intangible asset impairments, and debt extinguishment and refinancing costs.

Comparable Company Analysis

Greenhill reviewed revenue, adjusted equity value and enterprise value as multiples of estimated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, which we refer to as EBITDA, commonly referred to as trading multiples, of the Company and selected companies in the building products sector and selected steel producers with businesses deemed comparable to the Company for the purposes of this analysis. The companies reviewed by Greenhill are listed below:

Building Products

Kingspan Group
Acuity Brands
Armstrong World Industries
Worthington Industries
Simpson Manufacturing
Interface
Gibraltar Industries
Apogee
Quanex Building Products

Steel Producers with Businesses Comparable to the Company

Nucor
Bluescope Steel

Although no company is directly comparable to the Company, Greenhill selected these companies because it believed that they had characteristics that were instructive for purposes of its analysis. Greenhill reviewed the trading multiples for the selected companies based upon publicly available I/B/E/S estimates.

Based upon these multiples, and applying its professional judgment, Greenhill selected a range of EBITDA trading multiples from 7.0x to 9.5x and applied this range to management's forecasted EBITDA for each of 2009 and 2010. This analysis indicated the following ranges of enterprise values, equity values and equity values per share for the

Company:

Comparable Company	Current Trading			EBITDA	Enterprise Valuation Range			Net Debt(1)	Equity Value Range			Equity Value per Share Range(2)		
	Low	-	High		Low	-	High		Low	-	High	Low	-	High
Technology	7.0x	-	9.5x	\$ 36	\$ 253	-	\$ 343	\$ 375	\$ (122)	-	\$ (32)	\$ (6.11)	-	\$ (0.00)
Technology	7.0x	-	9.5x	\$ 36	\$ 249	-	\$ 337	\$ 375	\$ (126)	-	\$ (37)	\$ (6.31)	-	\$ (0.00)

(\$ in millions, except per share data)

(1) Based on \$474 million debt outstanding less \$99 million in projected cash at November 1, 2009.

(2) Based on 20.0 million fully-diluted shares outstanding.

Table of Contents

Greenhill believes that the comparable company analysis is of little or no relevance to a decision by a holder of convertible notes whether or not to tender its convertible notes in this exchange offer or accept or reject the prepackaged plan because, given the Company's liquidity crisis and limited alternatives, Greenhill does not believe that the range of enterprise values implied by the analysis is likely to be a meaningful indicator of potential recoveries by any holder of convertible notes. In addition, Greenhill's opinion did not address, and the comparable company analysis should not be relied upon as indicating, the price at which the Company's common stock will trade at any future time.

Comparable Transaction Analysis

Using publicly available information, Greenhill reviewed selected precedent transactions with a transaction value between \$200.0 million and \$1.5 billion announced since 2000 by companies in the building products and steel producers sector. Specifically, Greenhill reviewed the following transactions:

Building Products Transactions

Date	Target	Acquiror
03/13/2008	Pavestone Co.	CRH
12/19/2007	IMSA Acero	Bluescope Steel
02/09/2007	ElkCorp	Building Materials Corp.
09/25/2006	Alcoa Home Exteriors	Ply Gem Industries
06/19/2006	APAC, Inc.	Oldcastle Materials
03/02/2006	Material Service Corp.	Hanson Aggregates
07/10/2002	Kiewit Materials	Rinker Materials
08/11/2000	Republic Group	Premier Construction Products
06/20/2000	Justin Industries	Berkshire Hathaway
06/02/2000	Celotex Ceiling Products	BPB

Steel Producers Transactions

Date	Target	Acquiror
09/04/2008	Beta Steel	NLMK
07/28/2008	AmeriCast Technologies	Bradken Limited
06/16/2008	Bayou Steel	Arcelor Mittal
05/20/2008	Esmark	Severstal
12/09/2007	Claymont Steel	Evraz Group S.A.
06/21/2007	Novamerican Steel	Barzel Industries
06/13/2007	The Techs Holdings	Steel Dynamics
02/28/2007	Steel Technologies	Mitsui & Co.
12/29/2006	Harris Steel	Nucor Corp.
11/10/2006	Tube City IMS	Onex Corp.
04/26/2006	MMI Products	Oldcastle (CRH)
05/30/2002	Birmingham Steel	Nucor Corp.
05/25/2000	Steelscape	IMSA Acero

For each of the selected precedent transactions, Greenhill analyzed the enterprise value of the target company expressed as a multiple of EBITDA and revenue for the last twelve months. Based upon these multiples and applying its professional judgment, Greenhill selected a range of EBITDA transaction multiples from 7.5x to 9.0x

Table of Contents

and applied this range to management's forecasted EBITDA for each of 2009 and 2010. This analysis indicated the following ranges of enterprise values, equity values and equity value per shares for the Company:

Comparable Transaction	Transaction Multiples			Enterprise Valuation Range				Equity Value Range			Equity Value per Share Range			
	Low	-	High	EBITDA	Low	-	High	Net Debt(1)	Low	-	High	Low	-	High
(\$ in millions, except per share data)														
EBITDA	7.5x	-	9.0x	\$ 36	\$ 271	-	\$ 325	\$ 375	\$ (104)	-	\$ (50)	\$ (5.21)	-	\$
EBITDA	7.5x	-	9.0x	\$ 36	\$ 266	-	\$ 320	\$ 375	\$ (109)	-	\$ (55)	\$ (5.43)	-	\$

(1) Based on \$474 million debt outstanding less \$99 million in projected cash at November 1, 2009.

(2) Based on 20 million fully-diluted shares outstanding.

Greenhill believes that the comparable transaction analysis is of little or no relevance to a decision by a holder of convertible notes whether or not to tender its convertible notes in this exchange offer or accept or reject the prepackaged plan because, given the Company's liquidity crisis and limited alternatives, Greenhill does not believe that the range of enterprise values implied by the analysis is likely to be a meaningful indicator of potential recoveries by a holder of convertible notes. In addition, Greenhill's opinion did not address, and the comparable transaction analysis should not be relied upon as indicating, the price at which the Company's common stock will trade at any future time.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

Using a discounted cash flow methodology, Greenhill calculated the present values of the estimated future cash flows for the Company implied by management's forecast. In this analysis, Greenhill assumed a weighted average cost of capital of between 11.0% and 13.0% and EBITDA terminal multiples of between 6.0x and 8.0x. While Greenhill's discounted cash flow analysis implied a range of per share equity values of the Company of \$18.48 to \$32.14 and a range of enterprise values of the Company of \$745 million to \$1,018 million, Greenhill noted that such a traditional discounted cash flow analysis was of little utility because, among other things: (1) the analysis implicitly assumed that the Company's near-term liquidity crisis could be averted, the Company's existing stockholders would survive the near-term liquidity crisis and retain an equity interest, and the Company had no other actionable alternatives to the CD&R investment and restructuring other than filing for bankruptcy protection on terms other than as contemplated by the prepackaged plan; (2) the analysis was highly sensitive to the scale and timing of a recovery in the non-residential construction market, which was very uncertain; (3) the vast majority of the value in the discounted cash flow analysis was in the terminal value, which caused the total value to be very sensitive to small changes in terminal value and discount rate assumptions; and (4) a traditional weighted average cost of capital analysis did not reflect financing terms then-available to the Company. Greenhill noted the sensitivity of the calculated present values to potential delays in the recovery of the non-residential construction market by up to four years as well as to blended market costs of capital ranging from 15% to 25%, which costs of capital might be more indicative of the Company's true cost of capital given its liquidity position. Greenhill believes that these considerations make the discounted cash flow analysis of little or no relevance to a decision by a holder of convertible notes whether or not to tender its convertible notes in this exchange offer or to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Illustrative Bankruptcy Recovery Analysis

Greenhill reviewed the illustrative bankruptcy recoveries by the Company's stockholders and creditors implied by management's projections under various scenarios. Greenhill applied EBITDA multiples of 7.0x to 9.5x to forecasted EBITDA for each of 2009 and 2010 to derive an implied enterprise value range for the Company. The implied enterprise value range for 2009 and 2010 ranged from \$253 million to \$343 million and from \$249 million to \$337 million, respectively. Greenhill then subtracted the amount of specified secured claims (the existing credit facility and industrial revenue bonds) and unsecured claims (the convertible notes), which resulted in potential remaining equity value per existing share ranging from a negative \$11.26 through a negative \$6.54 (*i.e.*, no recovery). In performing this analysis, Greenhill assumed that the Company's cash on hand would be required to pay bankruptcy expenses and for working capital needs and would therefore be unavailable to pay creditors.

Table of Contents

Based on such analysis, Greenhill observed that the enterprise valuation of the Company would have to exceed 13.1x and 13.3x forecasted 2009 EBITDA and forecasted 2010 EBITDA, respectively, for current stockholders to attain any recovery under this analysis.

Greenhill's illustrative bankruptcy recovery analysis supported Greenhill's conclusion that in a standalone restructuring through bankruptcy, stockholders of the Company would be unlikely to retain any meaningful value. While the illustrative bankruptcy recovery analysis examined, among other things, illustrative potential recoveries for the holders of convertible notes, Greenhill did not conduct any independent valuation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of the Company, nor was Greenhill furnished with any such appraisals, and at the Company's direction Greenhill based its analysis of the potential recoveries by the Company's stockholders and creditors in a bankruptcy on those implied by management's financial forecast. While Greenhill believes that the illustrative bankruptcy recovery analysis was an appropriate and reasonable way to generally analyze the nature of the potential stockholders recoveries in a bankruptcy of the Company, Greenhill believes that an analysis intended to provide reasonable estimates of potential creditor recoveries in a bankruptcy would be substantially more complex and would require, among other things, a valuation or appraisal of the assets and liabilities of the Company, and thus Greenhill believes that the illustrative bankruptcy recovery analysis is of little or no relevance to a decision by a holder of convertible notes whether or not to tender its convertible notes in this exchange offer or accept or reject the prepackaged plan. In this regard, Greenhill notes that in "The Prepackaged Plan Liquidation Analysis" the Company has set forth a liquidation analysis that is an estimate by the Company of the proceeds that may be generated as a result of the hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation of the Company's assets.

The consideration for the CD&R investment was determined through arm's length negotiations between the Company and the CD&R Fund and was approved by the Company's board of directors. Greenhill provided advice to the Company during these negotiations. Greenhill did not, however, recommend any specific amount of consideration to the Company or its board of directors, that any specific amount of consideration constituted the only appropriate consideration for the CD&R investment or that the terms of the CD&R investment are the most beneficial terms from the Company's perspective that could under the circumstances be negotiated among the parties to the CD&R investment.

Our board of directors selected Greenhill as the Company's financial advisor based on its qualifications and expertise in providing financial advice to acquirors, target companies and their respective boards of directors in merger and acquisition transactions. During the two years preceding the date of the opinion Greenhill was not engaged by, performed any services for or received any compensation from the Company or any other parties to the investment agreement (other than any amounts that were paid to it under the letter agreement pursuant to which Greenhill was retained as a financial advisor to the Company in connection with the CD&R investment) and at the date of the opinion Greenhill had no material relationships mutually understood to be contemplated with such parties. The Company has paid Greenhill a fee for delivering its opinion to the Company's board of directors, in addition to a monthly advisory fee and certain contingent transaction fees, which fees will become payable upon closing of the restructuring. As a result, a substantial portion of Greenhill's compensation is dependent upon the successful consummation of the CD&R investment. In addition, the Company has agreed to reimburse Greenhill for travel and other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with, or arising out of Greenhill's activities under or contemplated by its engagement, including all reasonable fees and disbursement of its legal counsel, consultants and other advisors, and to indemnify Greenhill and its affiliates for certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, arising out of its engagement. Greenhill is also acting as the dealer-manager in connection with this exchange offer, for which it will be reimbursed for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and be indemnified for certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, and for which it may receive an additional fee.

Greenhill's opinion was one of many factors considered by the Company's board of directors in evaluating the CD&R investment and restructuring and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the Company's board of

directors with respect to the CD&R investment and restructuring.

Description of the CD&R Investment

On August 14, 2009, we entered into an investment agreement with the CD&R Fund, which we refer to as the original investment agreement, which was subsequently amended by (1) an amendment, dated as of August 28, 2009,

Table of Contents

and (2) an amendment no. 2, dated as of August 31, 2009, which we refer to as the amendments. The term “investment agreement” refers to the investment agreement, as amended. Pursuant to the investment agreement, subject to the terms and conditions therein, the Company agreed to sell, and the CD&R Fund agreed to purchase, for a total purchase price of \$250.0 million, an aggregate of 250,000 shares of a new class of our preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, to be designated the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, at a price of \$1,000 per share.

The Investment Agreement

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the investment agreement. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the investment agreement, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The original investment agreement is included as Annex C and the amendments are included as Annex C, Annex D, Annex E and Annex F hereto, each of which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the investment agreement in its entirety.

The investment agreement has been included to provide investors and security holders with information regarding its terms. It is not intended to provide any other factual information about the Company, the CD&R Fund, or CD&R or their respective subsidiaries and affiliates. The investment agreement contains representations and warranties by the Company, on the one hand, and by the CD&R Fund, on the other hand, each made solely for the benefit of the other. In the investment agreement, the assertions embodied in the representations and warranties are qualified by information in a confidential disclosure letter delivered in connection with the signing of the original investment agreement. The disclosure letter contains information that has been included in the Company’s general prior public disclosures, as well as additional potentially nonpublic information. While the Company does not believe that the disclosure letter contains information required to be publicly disclosed under the securities laws other than information that has already been so disclosed, the disclosure letter contains information that modifies, qualifies and creates exceptions to the representations and warranties set forth in the investment agreement. Moreover, certain representations and warranties in the investment agreement were made as of a specified date, may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from what might be viewed as material to stockholders, or may have been used for the purpose of allocating risk between the Company, on the one hand, and the CD&R Fund, on the other hand. Accordingly, the representations and warranties in the investment agreement should not be relied on by any persons as characterizations of the actual state of facts about the Company or the CD&R Fund at the time they were made or otherwise. In addition, information concerning the subject matter of the representations and warranties may change after the date of the original investment agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in the Company’s public disclosures.

*In this section of the prospectus/disclosure statement, we refer to (1) the investment agreement, (2) the stockholders agreement (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement*), (3) the registration rights agreement (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Registration Rights Agreement*), (4) the indemnification agreement (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Indemnification Agreement*), (5) the certificate of designations (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock*), (6) the ABL agreement, the amended credit agreement and the ancillary refinancing documents related to the ABL agreement and the amended credit agreement (see *The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing*), and (7) the prepackaged plan (see *The Prepackaged Plan*) as the transaction documents. We refer to the concurrent closing of the CD&R investment, the term loan refinancing, the ABL financing and this exchange offer, or, in the alternative, the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan, as the closing.*

Structure

Under the investment agreement, at the closing, the CD&R investment and the other transactions contemplated by the restructuring will be accomplished as follows:

the Company will issue, sell and deliver to the CD&R Fund, and the CD&R Fund will purchase from the Company, an aggregate of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$250.0 million, upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the investment agreement;

Table of Contents

the Company and our subsidiaries, as applicable, will execute and deliver an amendment to our existing credit agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing); and

the Company and our subsidiaries, as applicable, will execute and deliver an ABL agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing).

Concurrently with the closing, but after the Company receives the proceeds from the CD&R investment, the Company will:

repay \$143.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit agreement that are not rolled into the amended credit agreement, together with all accrued and unpaid interest and all other interest due and payable as of the closing, and cash collateralize or backstop in full, or replace with or roll over and novate into letters of credit issued and outstanding under the ABL agreement, all letters of credit outstanding under our existing credit agreement;

pay all fees, costs, expenses and other obligations (including under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement and related documents) that are due and payable as of the closing;

(1) if the restructuring is being accomplished through the recapitalization plan, accept the convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to this exchange offer and (2) if the restructuring is being accomplished through the prepackaged plan, pay the claims with respect to the convertible notes pursuant to the prepackaged plan;

reimburse the CD&R Fund for transaction expenses up to \$14.5 million (net of any transaction expenses that were previously reimbursed); and

pay CD&R a deal fee in an amount equal to \$8.25 million.

The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan

We have agreed to commence this exchange offer and the solicitation for acceptances to the prepackaged plan under the terms of the investment agreement. Pursuant to the investment agreement, this exchange offer and the solicitation must be commenced and conducted on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth on Annex A to the investment agreement. We are prohibited from waiving any condition to this exchange offer or making any changes to the terms and conditions to this exchange offer without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund.

We may extend this exchange offer beyond the initial expiration date without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund for a period of not more than 10 business days, if, at such date, any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived and, subject to the termination of the investment agreement, we are required to extend this exchange offer if it expires before the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part is declared effective.

In the event that the conditions to the recapitalization plan are satisfied, including the conditions to this exchange offer (which includes the minimum tender condition), the Company has agreed to accept for exchange all convertible notes validly tendered in this exchange offer.

Commencement of a Reorganization Case in Connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant

Under the investment agreement, we and the CD&R Fund have agreed that in the event that the conditions to the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or waived, we will seek to accomplish the restructuring through the prepackaged plan. Specifically, we agreed, among other things:

to use our reasonable best efforts to obtain acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes; and

if the conditions to this exchange offer are not satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund waived, by the expiration date, but we have received, as of the expiration date, acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be

Table of Contents

confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes:

to file chapter 11 petitions in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and commence the prepackaged plan proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code;

to file certain first day motions and seek to obtain entry of the orders approving such motions;

to schedule a hearing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware on the earliest date possible to consider confirmation of the prepackaged plan and approve this prospectus/disclosure statement;

to send notices to all persons to whom such notices are required to be sent under the Bankruptcy Code and to such other persons as ordered by the bankruptcy court, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding;

to use our reasonable best efforts to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware;

to use our reasonable best efforts to obtain the dismissal of any and all appeals and motions for reconsideration filed with respect to the prepackaged plan or with respect to the confirmation order relating to the prepackaged plan; and

to cause the prepackaged plan to become effective and the distributions provided for under the prepackaged plan to be commenced as promptly as possible on or following the day on which conditions to effectiveness set forth in the prepackaged plan have been satisfied or waived.

Conditions to the CD&R Investment

Conditions to the CD&R Investment under the Recapitalization Plan. The obligation of the CD&R Fund, on the one hand, and the Company, on the other hand, to consummate the CD&R investment at the closing of the recapitalization plan is conditioned on the satisfaction or waiver by both the Company and the CD&R Fund of the following conditions:

the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the HSR Act (which condition was satisfied on September 8, 2009, when the U.S. Federal Trade Commission granted early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act) and the Austrian Act (which condition was satisfied on September 26, 2009, when the review period under the Austrian Act expired);

the absence of (1) any provision of any applicable law and any issued injunction, judgment, decree or other order that prohibits the closing, that restricts the CD&R Fund or its affiliates from owning, voting, or converting or exercising any Series B convertible preferred stock in accordance with its terms, or exercising the CD&R Fund's consent rights contemplated by the stockholders agreement and (2) any lawsuit by a governmental entity seeking to effect any of the foregoing;

the NYSE's confirmation that the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock and the restructuring are in compliance with the NYSE's stockholder approval policy; and the Company's proper, unconditional obtainment of an exception under Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual to issue the Series B convertible preferred stock without stockholder approval (which confirmation was provided to the Company on August 13, 2009, subject to the Audit Committee's determination that the delay necessary in

securing stockholder approval prior to the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock and of the common stock pursuant to the exchange offer would seriously jeopardize the financial viability of the Company and its approval of the Company's reliance on the exception contained in Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, which determination was made by the Audit Committee on August 13, 2009 and on August 31, 2009);

the Company's provision of notice to its stockholders as required by, and in compliance with, Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual (which was provided by the Company on September 29, 2009), and the expiration of the ten-day notice period set forth in such paragraph (which occurred on October 8, 2009);

Table of Contents

the Company's filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware of the certificate of designations for the Series B convertible preferred stock;

the expiration of this exchange offer and the satisfaction or waiver, with the prior consent of the CD&R Fund, of all of the conditions to this exchange offer; and

the sufficiency for the following applications of the proceeds from the CD&R investment, together with the Company's available cash, which sufficiency we refer to as the sufficiency of proceeds condition:

to repay \$143.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit agreement that are not rolled into the amended credit agreement, together with all accrued and unpaid interest and all other interest due and payable as of the closing;

to cash collateralize or backstop in full all letters of credit outstanding under our existing credit agreement that are not replaced with or rolled over and novated into letters of credit issued and outstanding under the ABL agreement;

to pay all fees, costs, expenses and other obligations relating to the recapitalization plan (including under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement and related documents) that are due and payable as of the closing;

to pay the cash consideration for all convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under this exchange offer; and

to pay the maximum consideration necessary to repurchase or redeem all convertible notes not so tendered under this exchange offer pursuant to the convertible notes indenture.

The obligation of the Company to consummate the CD&R investment is conditioned on the satisfaction or waiver by the Company of the following conditions:

the truth and correctness (without regard to materiality or material adverse effect qualifications) of the representations and warranties of the CD&R Fund contained in the investment agreement (excluding the private placement representations (see Representation and Warranties below)) as of the date of the investment agreement and at and as of the date of the closing as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date), except where the failure of such representations and warranties to be true and correct, individually or in the aggregate, has not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have, a material adverse effect on the ability of the CD&R Fund to consummate the CD&R investment;

the truth and correctness in all respects of the private placement representations at and as of the date of the investment agreement and at and as of the date of the closing as if made at and as of such time;

the receipt by the Company of a customary certificate of a senior officer of the CD&R Fund certifying to the satisfaction of the conditions described in the immediately preceding two bullet points;

the CD&R Fund's performance of and compliance in all material respects with all covenants and obligations in the investment agreement that are to be performed or complied with by it at or prior to the closing; and

the CD&R Fund's due execution and delivery of each of the stockholders agreement, the registration rights agreement and the indemnification agreement.

The obligation of the CD&R Fund to consummate the CD&R investment is conditioned on the satisfaction or waiver by the CD&R Fund of the following conditions:

the truth and correctness (without regard to materiality or material adverse effect qualifications) of the representations and warranties of the Company contained in the investment agreement (excluding those relating to capitalization and the lack of a material adverse change) as of the date of the investment agreement and at and as of the date of the closing as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date), except where the failure of such

Table of Contents

representations and warranties to be true and correct, individually or in the aggregate, has not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have, a material adverse effect;

the truth and correctness in all but *de minimis* respects of the representations and warranties of the Company relating to capitalization at and as of the date of the investment agreement and at and as of the date of the closing as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date);

the truth and correctness in all respects of the representations and warranties of the Company relating to the lack of a material adverse change at and as of the date of the closing as if made at and as of such time;

the Company's performance of, and compliance in, all material respects with all covenants and obligations in the investment agreement that are to be performed or complied with by it at or prior to the closing;

the Company's due execution and delivery of each of the stockholders agreement, the registration rights agreement and the indemnification agreement;

the Company's due authorization, execution and delivery of the amended credit agreement either (1) in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L with such changes thereto deemed advisable by the CD&R Fund in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing Term Loan Refinancing), or (2) on terms and conditions that are, in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective shareholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K or (y) otherwise acceptable to the CD&R Fund;

the amended credit agreement and other related documents being in full force and effect;

the satisfaction of all conditions precedent to the effectiveness of the amended credit agreement and the other related documents;

the receipt by the CD&R Fund of copies of the amended credit agreement and the other related documents;

subject to the consummation of the CD&R investment, (1) the termination of the revolving commitments under our existing credit agreement, and (2) to the extent required by the amended credit agreement and the ABL agreement, the subordination of the security interests arising under the amended credit agreement and related documents with respect to the collateral securing the ABL financing on a first-priority basis to the security interests in such collateral;

the Company's due authorization, execution and delivery of the ABL agreement on terms and conditions that either (1) reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet attached as Annex Q or (2) are, in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective shareholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet and, in each case described in clauses (1) and (2), otherwise are either (a) in the CD&R Fund's reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective shareholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, or (b) in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion

(exercised in good faith), acceptable to the CD&R Fund (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing);

the ABL agreement and the other related documents being in full force and effect;

the satisfaction of all conditions precedent to (1) the effectiveness of the ABL agreement and the other related documents, (2) the initial borrowings and any other extensions of credit thereunder other than delivery of a borrowing notice, and (3) the effectiveness of the documents related to the ABL agreement;

the receipt by the CD&R Fund of copies of the ABL agreement and the other related documents;

Table of Contents

the due authorization, execution and delivery of each ancillary refinancing document contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing on terms that are (1) consistent with the amended credit agreement and the ABL agreement, as applicable, and (2) otherwise either (a) in the CD&R Fund's reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective shareholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of such agreement or document for companies sponsored by CD&R, or (b) in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), acceptable to the CD&R Fund;

on the date of the closing, after giving effect to the closing, (A) the absence of (1) any breach or default under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, (2) any allegations of breach or default by a person with the right to cause an acceleration of, or with the right to exercise any other remedy under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, and (3) any notice of intention to terminate the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and (B) the absence of any default or event or circumstance that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would (1) constitute a breach, default or event of default under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, (2) result in a termination of the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, (3) cause or permit the acceleration or any other change of the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, (4) cause or permit the acceleration or any other change in any right or obligation under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing, or (5) cause or permit the acceleration or any other change in the loss or impairment of any benefit under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing;

the Company reasonably believing that we and our subsidiaries will be able to satisfy all terms and conditions to be satisfied by any of them under the amended credit agreement, the ABL agreement or the ancillary refinancing documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing;

no more than \$150.0 million in term loans being outstanding under the amended credit agreement after giving effect to the term loan refinancing;

the revolving credit commitments provided for under the ABL agreement being not less than \$125.0 million in aggregate;

the available revolving credit commitments under the ABL agreement and the unrestricted cash available to the Company after applying any cash of the Company to the purposes set forth in the sufficiency of proceeds condition being not less than \$90.0 million in the aggregate;

the ability of the Company to satisfy all conditions to borrowings and other extensions of credit under the ABL agreement;

the approval by our board of directors, including the approval by the disinterested directors serving on our board pursuant to Article TENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation, of the investment agreement, the other transaction documents and the transactions contemplated thereby (which such approval, with respect to

the agreements and transactions related to the CD&R investment and with respect to this exchange offer, was received on August 13, 2009);

to the extent that the Company has authorized and unissued shares of common stock sufficient to permit the conversion of all or a portion of the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued at the closing, (1) the due authorization for listing, subject to official notice of issuance, on the NYSE or such other exchange on which the common stock is then listed or quoted, of such shares of common stock (which

Table of Contents

authorization was received by the Company on October 1, 2009) and (2) the number of such shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock that are so duly authorized for listing is no less than 7.8 million shares;

the adoption and declaration of advisability, and the approval and recommendation, by our board of directors, of certain amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation*); and

the receipt by the CD&R Fund of customary certificates of certain senior officers of the Company certifying to the satisfaction of certain of the conditions, including a certificate of our Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer certifying to the satisfaction of the sufficiency of proceeds condition.

Conditions to the CD&R Investment under the Prepackaged Plan. In the event that we seek to accomplish the restructuring through the prepackaged plan, the obligation of the CD&R Fund, on the one hand, and the Company, on the other hand, to consummate the CD&R investment is conditioned on the satisfaction or waiver by both the Company and the CD&R Fund of the following conditions in addition to the conditions to the closing of the recapitalization plan:

the confirmation order has been entered and no stay of such order is in effect; and

the satisfaction or waiver of all other conditions to the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan (see *The Prepackaged Plan Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan*),

and the following conditions to the closing of the recapitalization plan will not apply:

the NYSE's confirmation that the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock and the restructuring are in compliance with the NYSE's stockholder approval policy; and the Company's proper, unconditional obtainment of an exception under Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual to issue the Series B convertible preferred stock without stockholder approval;

the Company's provision of notice to its stockholders as required by, and in compliance with, Paragraph 312.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, and the expiration of the ten-day notice period set forth in such paragraph; and

the expiration of this exchange offer and the satisfaction or waiver, with the prior consent of the CD&R Fund, of all of the conditions to this exchange offer.

Termination of the Investment Agreement

The investment agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the consummation of the CD&R investment:

(1) by either the CD&R Fund or the Company, if:

by November 12, 2009:

the closing of this exchange offer has not occurred; and

acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes have not been received; or

the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced and the effective date of the prepackaged plan has not occurred by a date that is no later than four weeks and ten days after the entry of the order confirming the prepackaged plan;

provided, that the party seeking to so terminate has not breached in any material respect its obligations under the investment agreement in any manner that has been a proximate cause of the failure to consummate the CD&R investment on or before the date on which the investment agreement can be so terminated, which date we refer to as the outside date;

Table of Contents

(2) by either the CD&R Fund or the Company in the event that any governmental entity issues an order or takes any other action (and such order or other action has become final and nonappealable):

restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the closing;

prohibiting or restricting the CD&R Fund or its affiliates from owning and exercising in full all exchange, conversion and voting rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated to be exercisable by the CD&R Fund; or

prohibiting or restricting the CD&R Fund from exercising its consent rights under the stockholders agreement;

provided that the party seeking to so terminate has not breached in any material respect its obligations under the investment agreement in any manner that was a proximate cause of such order or action;

(3) by the CD&R Fund, if:

the Company terminates this exchange offer or this exchange offer expires in accordance with the terms of the investment agreement without the Company having accepted for purchase the convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer, unless, in either case, the Company has commenced the prepackaged plan proceeding by the day following the date on which acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes have been received and this exchange offer has expired pursuant to the terms of the investment agreement; or

this exchange offer has expired on or after the outside date and the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied and acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes have not been received;

(4) by the CD&R Fund, if our board of directors:

approves or recommends to our stockholders a superior proposal (see Acceptance of Superior Proposal below);

formally withdraws its support for this exchange offer;

makes a recommendation against this exchange offer or the restructuring;

recommends another company transaction proposal; or

resolves to effect any of the foregoing;

(5) by the CD&R Fund, if:

the Company or any of our subsidiaries commence any case, proceeding or other action under any existing or future law of any jurisdiction, relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws relating to relief of debtors, which we refer to as a bankruptcy proceeding:

seeking to have an order for relief entered with respect to it, or seeking to adjudicate it a bankrupt or insolvent,

seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, winding-up, liquidation, dissolution or composition or similar action with respect to it or its debts generally, or

seeking appointment of a receiver, trustee, custodian, conservator or other similar official for it or for all or any substantial part of its assets

in each case, other than with respect to the prepackaged plan proceeding;

Table of Contents

any bankruptcy proceeding has been commenced against any of the Company and our subsidiaries other than the prepackaged plan proceeding and such bankruptcy proceeding has not been dismissed within 30 days of such commencement;

the Company or any of our subsidiaries have become unable, admit our inability or fail generally to pay our debts as they become due;

the Company or any of our subsidiaries make a general assignment for the benefit of our creditors;

the Company fails to comply with our obligations to commence the prepackaged plan proceeding (see Commencement of a Reorganization Case in Connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant above);

if the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced, at any time after 25 days after the filing of the prepackaged plan, if the bankruptcy court has not entered the order approving the motion relating to the fees and expenses payable to the CD&R Fund and CD&R under the investment agreement on or prior to such date;

if the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced, at any time after eight weeks after the filing of the prepackaged plan, if the bankruptcy court has not entered the confirmation order with respect to the prepackaged plan on or prior to such date;

if the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced, the prepackaged plan proceeding is dismissed or converted from a case under chapter 11 to one under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, or the Company files a motion or other pleading with the bankruptcy court seeking the dismissal or conversion of the prepackaged plan proceeding;

at any time, if the Company or any of our subsidiaries file a plan of reorganization or liquidation other than the prepackaged plan; or

if the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced, at any time, if the bankruptcy court (a) grants relief that is materially inconsistent with the investment agreement or the prepackaged plan in any respect or (b) enters an order confirming any plan of reorganization other than the prepackaged plan;

(6) by the Company, to accept a superior proposal or if the bankruptcy court enters an order requiring the Company to terminate the investment agreement in order to accept a qualifying transaction (see Termination Fees; Transaction Expenses Following Termination below);

(7) by either the CD&R Fund or the Company, if the prepackaged plan proceeding has been commenced and the bankruptcy court enters an order denying confirmation of the prepackaged plan, or the order confirming the prepackaged plan is vacated or reversed and does not become a final order within four weeks and ten days after the entry of such confirmation order; or

(8) by the mutual written consent of the CD&R Fund and the Company.

If the investment agreement is terminated and the CD&R investment is abandoned, except for the provisions relating to the indemnity obligations of the Company in connection with the CD&R losses for execution and performance of the investment agreement (see Indemnity below), confidentiality, the provisions described in Termination Fees;

Transaction Expenses Following Termination below, the provisions relating to amendment, and waivers and certain other miscellaneous provisions in the investment agreement, the investment agreement forthwith becomes void and there will be no liability on the part of either party thereto.

Termination Fees; Transaction Expenses Following Termination

In the event the investment agreement is terminated for any reason (other than in circumstances described in clause (8) above under Termination of the Investment Agreement and other than solely as a result of the failure of the parties to obtain the clearance or approval under the HSR Act) and the CD&R Fund has not taken any action, or failed to take any action, in breach of the investment agreement that proximately caused the event, condition or passage of time giving rise to the termination of the investment agreement or the failure of the closing to occur, then we will reimburse the

Table of Contents

CD&R Fund for all of its transaction expenses up to \$9.5 million in the aggregate (net of any transaction expenses already paid no later than two business days after submission of reasonable supporting documentation of such expenses).

In the event that the investment agreement is terminated:

in circumstances described in clause (4) or clause (6) above under Termination of the Investment Agreement ;
or

in circumstances described in clause (1) above under Termination of the Investment Agreement, and (a) within 12 months of the date of termination, the Company enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates, a transaction contemplated by any qualifying transaction (as described below), and (b) at the time of the termination, (x) the CD&R Fund is not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in the investment agreement or its representations and warranties contained in the investment agreement and (y) the following conditions have been satisfied:

the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the HSR Act and the Austrian Act (each, as described on the front cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement);

the absence of (1) any provision of any applicable law and any issued injunction, judgment, decree or other order that prohibits the closing, that restricts the CD&R Fund or its affiliates from owning, voting, or converting or exercising any Series B convertible preferred stock in accordance with its terms, or exercising the CD&R Fund's consent rights contemplated by the stockholders agreement and (2) any lawsuit by a governmental entity seeking to effect any of the foregoing; or

in circumstances described in clause (3), clause (5) or clause (7) above under Termination of the Investment Agreement, and at the time of such termination, the CD&R Fund is not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in the investment agreement or its representations and warranties contained in the investment agreement, and within 12 months of the date of termination, the Company enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates, a transaction contemplated by any qualifying transaction;

then the Company will pay to the CD&R Fund a termination fee in an amount equal to \$8.25 million and the Company will reimburse the CD&R Fund for up to \$9.5 million of its expenses relating to the restructuring (net of any amounts previously paid or reimbursed).

A qualifying transaction means any company transaction proposal (see No Solicitation Covenant below), which, in the case of a company transaction proposal that is a restructuring, reorganization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction, is a superior lender proposal (as described in No Solicitation Covenant below, without giving regard to the parenthetical in such definition).

Term Loan Refinancing Covenant

We have agreed to pay when due all interest, fees, expenses and other obligations arising under our existing credit agreement and related credit documents as and when they become payable, and to otherwise comply with and timely perform all of our obligations under such agreements and documents at all times during the term of the investment agreement, including during the pendency of the prepackaged plan proceeding (subject to the consent or approval of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware).

In addition, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use reasonable best efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts) to take all reasonable actions and to do all things reasonably necessary, proper or advisable, to amend our existing credit agreement on the terms and conditions provided in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L or otherwise contemplated thereby. The CD&R Fund may make such additions, modifications, alterations, corrections or other changes to the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K

Table of Contents

after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L as it deems advisable in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) to:

add, provide or complete any schedule, annex, exhibit, numerical amount or other information that is omitted, missing or incomplete, or modify, alter, correct or change (including without limitation by deleting or replacing) any wording that is in brackets;

cure any ambiguity, mistake, omission or defect;

cure any inconsistency, including with any other provision of the same agreement or of the ABL agreement or any other transaction document or other agreement entered into in connection therewith;

address a material risk that (1) we will be unable to comply with the terms or conditions of the agreement or (2) by complying with the terms and conditions of the agreement we will be subject to a material risk of not complying with the terms and conditions of the ABL agreement or any other transaction document or other agreement entered into in connection therewith;

effect the intent evidenced by the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L ; or

avoid adverse tax consequences to us or any of our subsidiaries.

In the event that we cannot amend our existing credit agreement on the terms and conditions contemplated in the previous paragraph for any reason, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts, including by actively assisting us in negotiation of related definitive documentation) to amend the terms of our existing credit agreement (1) on terms and conditions that are, in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K or (y) otherwise acceptable to the CD&R Fund, and (2) to extend the maturity of \$150.0 million principal amount of the term loans outstanding under our existing credit agreement, as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than outside date (see Termination of the Investment Agreement above).

See The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing

Pursuant to the lock-up agreements, holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed a lock-up agreement have agreed, subject to the terms contained in the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to support the term loan refinancing by accepting a portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L and (2) to vote all their obligations under the existing credit agreement in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. See The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements. Including the holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, we have commitments or consents from 100% of lenders under our existing credit agreement to consummate the term loan refinancing by executing the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L.

ABL Financing Covenant

We have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts) to take all reasonable actions and to do all things reasonably necessary,

proper or advisable, to arrange and obtain revolving credit commitments for general corporate purposes from lenders on terms and conditions that reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet attached as Annex Q and otherwise are either (a) in the CD&R Fund's reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial item) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, or (b) in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), acceptable to the CD&R Fund.

Table of Contents

In the event that revolving credit commitments cannot be obtained on terms and conditions described in the previous paragraph, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts, including by actively assisting us in our negotiation of related definitive documentation) to obtain alternative financing from alternative sources (A) that is on terms and conditions that (1) are, in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet and otherwise (2) are either (a) in the CD&R Fund's reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, or (b) in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), acceptable to the CD&R Fund, and (B) that provides revolving credit commitments in an aggregate principal amount that is not less than \$125.0 million, as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than the outside date.

See The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing.

We have been in discussions with prospective lenders regarding the terms of the ABL agreement to give effect to the ABL financing and the Company has finalized with such prospective lenders the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R and confirmed participation for the full availability under such ABL financing. While the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders, and the Company has been informed that the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter in to the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Conduct of Business Covenant

We have agreed that, except (1) as expressly permitted or required by the transaction documents or otherwise consented to by the CD&R Fund and (2) as set forth in the disclosure letter to the investment agreement, from the date of the original investment agreement to the date of the closing (or the termination of the investment agreement, if applicable), we and our subsidiaries will conduct our business in all material respects in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice provided that we may make such changes to the manner in which we conduct business as are required by the prepackaged plan proceeding.

In addition, during the same period, except as expressly permitted or required by the transaction documents, without the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, neither we nor any of our subsidiaries:

will take any action that, if taken after the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock:

would require the written consent of or vote by holders of such Series B convertible preferred stock under the certificate of designations (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Voting Rights) or would require the consent of the CD&R Fund and its affiliates pursuant to the stockholders agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Consent Rights);

would trigger a redemption right under the certificate of designations (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Change of Control Redemption Right); or

would result in an adjustment to be made under the certificate of designations (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred

Stock Convertibility and Anti Dilution Adjustments);

amend, modify, terminate or otherwise make any change to, directly or indirectly, our existing credit agreement and related credit documents except we may extend (and, as described in our current report on Form 8-K filed on August 27, 2009, on August 21, 2009, have extended) the current waiver from the lenders under our existing credit agreement;

Table of Contents

other than with respect to the prepackaged plan proceeding, commence a bankruptcy proceeding (see Termination of the Investment Agreement above); or

take any action that is in furtherance of the delisting of the common stock from the NYSE or the listing of the common stock on any other stock exchange or automated quotation system.

We also agree not to declare or pay any dividend or distribution on any of our securities on or prior to the closing.

No Solicitation Covenant

We have agreed to cease any discussions or negotiations with any parties that may be ongoing with respect to a company transaction proposal (as described below). In addition, after the execution of the investment agreement, we agreed not to, and not to authorize or permit our subsidiaries to:

solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage any inquiry with respect to, or the making, submission or announcement of, any proposal that constitutes or could reasonably be expected to lead to a company transaction proposal;

participate in any negotiations regarding a company transaction proposal with, or furnish any nonpublic information relating to a company transaction proposal to, any person;

engage in discussions regarding a company transaction proposal with any person, except to notify such person of the restrictions in the investment agreement;

approve, endorse or recommend any company transaction proposal;

enter into any letter of intent or agreement in principle or any agreement providing for any company transaction proposal, except for a confidentiality agreement, which confidentiality provisions are no less restrictive to such person making the company transaction proposal than the provisions in the confidentiality agreement executed by the CD&R Fund with the Company is to the CD&R Fund, its affiliates, and their respective personnel and representatives; or

propose or agree to do any of the foregoing.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if at any time prior to the closing, we receive a bona fide, written and unsolicited company transaction proposal and our board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with outside counsel and our independent financial advisor, that such company transaction proposal constitutes a superior proposal (as described below) or is reasonably likely to result in a superior proposal, the Company may:

furnish nonpublic information to the person making such company transaction proposal, if:

prior to so furnishing such nonpublic information, we have (1) advised the CD&R Fund of the receipt of the company transaction proposal and made specified disclosures to the CD&R Fund regarding the terms and conditions of such company transaction proposal and (2) have received from such person making the company transaction proposal a customarily restrictive confidentiality agreement; and

all such nonpublic information has previously been provided to the CD&R Fund or is provided to the CD&R Fund prior to or substantially contemporaneously with the time it is provided to the person making such

company transaction proposal; and

engage in discussions or negotiations with such person with respect to the company transaction proposal.

Until the later of (1) any scheduled expiration date on which all of the conditions to this exchange offer have been satisfied (or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived) or acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes have been received and (2) the date on which all conditions to the CD&R investment have been satisfied (or in our reasonable judgment, such conditions are reasonably certain to be satisfied by the outside date (see Termination of the Investment Agreement above)), at any time at which (a) any of the conditions to this exchange offer has not been satisfied (or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived), acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including

Table of Contents

confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes have not been received or any other condition to the CD&R investment has not been satisfied (and, in the Company's reasonable judgment, there is material uncertainty as to whether any such condition will be satisfied by the outside date) and (b) we are not in material breach of any of our material covenants and agreements contained in the investment agreement, then we may:

propose a contingency plan proposal (as described below) to any person that, to our knowledge, is not considering making, and, in the case of a holder of convertible notes or a lender under our existing credit agreement, has not since April 1, 2009 made, a company transaction proposal other than a contingency plan proposal;

participate in negotiations and engage in discussions regarding a contingency plan proposal with, or furnish nonpublic information relating to a contingency plan proposal to, any person that, to our knowledge, is not considering making, and, in the case of a holder of convertible notes or a lender under our existing credit agreement, has not since April 1, 2009 made, a company transaction proposal other than a contingency plan proposal; or

propose or agree to do any of the foregoing;

so long as:

prior to furnishing any nonpublic information, we have (i) advised the CD&R Fund of the receipt of the contingency plan proposal and made specified disclosures to the CD&R Fund regarding the terms and conditions of such contingency plan proposal; and (ii) have received from such person making a customarily restrictive confidentiality agreement; and

all such nonpublic information has previously been provided to the CD&R Fund or is provided to the CD&R Fund prior to or substantially contemporaneously with the time it is provided to the person making such contingency plan proposal or to whom such contingency plan proposal has been made.

We have agreed (1) to promptly advise the CD&R Fund of the receipt of any request for nonpublic information relating to the Company or any of our subsidiaries other than requests for information not reasonably expected to be related to a company transaction proposal and (2) to keep the CD&R Fund fully informed of the status of any company transaction proposal or contingency plan proposal in connection with which we have provided nonpublic information.

A company transaction proposal means any inquiry, proposal or offer from any person or group of persons other than the CD&R Fund or its affiliates relating to any (1) direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of a business that constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or 20% or more of any class or series of equity securities (or any indebtedness or other obligation that is exchangeable for or convertible into any such security, or any other right to acquire any such security, contingent or otherwise) of the Company, or (2) any tender offer or exchange offer, merger, reorganization, restructuring, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, equity infusion or similar transaction involving the Company (or any of our subsidiaries whose business constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole) that if consummated would result in any person or group of persons beneficially owning 20% or more of the voting rights of any class or series of capital stock of the Company.

A contingency plan proposal means any proposal relating to any merger, restructuring, reorganization, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction involving us or any of our subsidiaries that our board of directors in good faith determines does not constitute a superior proposal or a superior lender proposal and is not reasonably likely to result in a superior proposal or a superior lender proposal, which determination is made after consultation with outside counsel and our independent financial advisor and assumes consummation of the restructuring.

A superior lender proposal means any proposal involving any person making more than a *de minimis* investment or commitment (other than a person who is as of the date hereof a holder of convertible notes or a lender under our existing credit agreement) relating to a restructuring, reorganization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction pursuant to which (1) holders of convertible notes would receive consideration in respect of the convertible notes that is of equal or greater total market value than such holders would receive pursuant to the restructuring, or (2) the lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive cash in repayment of the outstanding borrowings under our existing

Table of Contents

credit agreement in an amount equal to or greater than pursuant to the term loan refinancing, or would receive consideration in respect of their rights under our existing credit agreement and related credit documents that are of equal or greater total market value and security than such lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive pursuant to the term loan refinancing and that does not include any equity security.

A superior proposal means a bona fide written proposal or offer from any person or group of persons other than the CD&R Fund or its affiliates not solicited in violation of the investment agreement relating to any direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of a business that constitutes 50% or more of our net revenues, net income or assets, or 50% or more of any class or series of our securities, any tender offer or exchange offer that if consummated would result in any person or group of persons beneficially owning 50% or more of the voting rights of any class or series of our capital stock, any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, equity infusion or similar transaction involving us (or our subsidiaries whose business constitutes 50% or more of our net revenues, net income or assets) or any restructuring or reorganization of us, in each case, that our board of directors in good faith determines, would, if consummated, result in a transaction that is more favorable to us and our existing stockholders than the restructuring, which determination is made (1) after receiving the advice of our independent financial advisor, (2) after taking into account the likelihood (and likely timing) of consummation of such transaction on the terms set forth therein (as compared to the terms in the transaction documents) and (3) after taking into account all relevant legal (with the advice of outside counsel), financial (including the financing terms of any such proposal, the additional transaction costs and the effect of any termination fee, expenses or amounts payable under the investment agreement), regulatory or other aspects of such proposal and any other relevant factors permitted by applicable law.

Acceptance of Superior Proposal

At any time prior to the closing, if we receive a superior proposal, our board of directors may terminate the investment agreement to enter into a definitive agreement with respect to such superior proposal, so long as:

we have provided prior written notice to the CD&R Fund at least five calendar days in advance of our intention to take such actions and providing disclosure of the terms and conditions of such superior proposal;

during such notice period, we and our independent financial advisor and outside counsel have negotiated with the CD&R Fund in good faith (to the extent the CD&R Fund desires to negotiate) to make such adjustments in the terms and conditions of the investment agreement so that such company transaction proposal ceases to constitute a superior proposal; and

at or prior to the time of termination of the investment agreement, we have paid the termination fee (see Termination Fees; Transaction Expenses Following Termination above).

In the event of any material revisions to the superior proposal, we have agreed to deliver a new written notice to the CD&R Fund and comply with the above enumerated requirements with respect to such new written notice, except that the new notice period will be two calendar days instead of four calendar days.

Regulatory Filings and Third-Party Consents Covenant

We and the CD&R Fund have each agreed to cooperate and consult with the other and use our respective best efforts to take all actions, to file all documents, to do and to help the other party to do, all things necessary, proper or advisable to cause the conditions to this exchange offer and the closing to be satisfied as promptly as practicable and to consummate the restructuring, including (1) preparing and filing as promptly as practicable all documentation, effecting all necessary applications, notices, petitions, filings and other documents and obtaining all necessary

permits, consents, waivers, clearances, approvals, authorizations, permits, orders, consents of, or any exemptions by, all governmental entities, (2) seeking all necessary or advisable consents of third parties to the restructuring and (3) using best efforts to cause the satisfaction, but not waiver, of the conditions to closing with respect to the expiration or termination of any waiting period require to consummate the CD&R investment under the HSR Act and the Austrian Act. In particular, we and the CD&R Fund have each agreed to use our respective best efforts to obtain, and use our respective best efforts to help the other obtain, as promptly as practicable, all approvals, authorizations, consents, clearances, expirations or terminations of waiting periods or exemptions required from all

Table of Contents

necessary governmental entities for the restructuring, including, but not limited to, filings and notifications with respect to, and expiration or termination of any applicable waiting period under, the HSR Act and any other applicable competition or merger control laws.

On August 28, 2009, each of the Company and the CD&R Fund made an appropriate filing of a Notification and Report Form pursuant to the HSR Act with respect to the CD&R investment and the CD&R Fund made an appropriate filing under the Austrian Act. The waiting period under the HSR Act was terminated on September 8, 2009. The review period under the Austrian Act expired on September 26, 2009.

Each party specifically agreed not to agree or commit to contest the enforceability of the investment agreement under the Bankruptcy Code, or, except as otherwise provided in the investment agreement, agree or commit to delay or not to close any of the transactions contemplated by the investment agreement, without the express written consent of the other party.

Each party agreed to cooperate in all respects with each other in connection with any filing or submission and in connection with any investigation or other inquiry and to promptly (1) furnish to the other such necessary information and reasonable assistance as the other party may request in connection with the matters described in this section, (2) inform the other party of any communication from any governmental entity regarding the restructuring and of any communication received or given in connection with any legal, administrative or other proceeding by a private party or any investigation, proceeding or other action by the NYSE, in each case regarding the restructuring and (3) provide counsel for the other party with copies of all filings made by such party, and all correspondence between such party (and its advisors) with any governmental entity or the NYSE, and any other information supplied by such party and such party's subsidiaries to a governmental entity or the NYSE, in connection with the restructuring, subject to certain redactions. Each party also agreed to permit counsel for the other party to review in advance, and consider in good faith the views of the other parties in connection with, any proposed written communication to any governmental entity or the NYSE in connection with the restructuring. The parties agreed not to participate in any meeting or discussion with any governmental entity or the NYSE in connection with the restructuring unless it consults with the other party in advance and, to the extent not prohibited by such governmental entity or the NYSE, to give the other party the opportunity to attend and participate.

Each party agreed not to acquire or agree to acquire by merger or consolidation, or by purchasing a substantial equity interest in or a substantial portion of the assets of, or by any other manner, any business or any corporation, partnership, association or other business organization or division thereof or otherwise acquire or agree to acquire any assets that would delay or make materially more difficult the obtaining of any approvals, authorizations, consents, clearances, expirations or terminations of waiting periods or exemptions approval or authorization required under the HSR Act for the CD&R investment.

Representations and Warranties

The investment agreement contains representations and warranties made by the Company to the CD&R Fund and representations and warranties made by the CD&R Fund to the Company.

We made customary representations and warranties in the investment agreement, which are, in some cases, subject to specified exceptions and qualifications (including qualifications that subject certain representations and warranties to a material adverse effect or materiality standard). Our representations and warranties relate to, among other things:

our and our subsidiaries' proper organization, good standing and existence and corporate power to operate our and their properties and conduct our and their businesses;

our ownership of certain subsidiaries;

our capitalization;

the lack of registration rights or voting agreements with respect to our securities;

our corporate power and authority to enter into the transaction documents and to consummate the restructuring;

Table of Contents

the enforceability of the transaction documents;

the absence of any violation of or conflict with or defaults under our and our subsidiaries' organizational documents, certain convertible notes and instruments, or applicable law as a result of entering into the transaction documents and consummating the restructuring;

the absence of any violation of law or order applicable to us or our subsidiaries or any of our and their properties or assets;

the lack of any requirements for notice to, filing with, exemption or review by, or authorization, consent or approval of, any governmental entity or any other person under any provision of any material agreement or other instrument to which we are a party in connection with the execution and delivery of the transaction documents and consummating the restructuring;

certain of our SEC filings and the consolidated financial statements included therein;

the absence of undisclosed liabilities;

our disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting;

the absence of any material complaints, allegations, assertions or claims regarding our accounting or auditing practices;

the absence of any change, condition, event or development since the date of the investment agreement that would have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on the Company;

the lack of action, claim, suit, proceeding or investigation against us or any of our subsidiaries;

our compliance with laws;

our possession of all licenses and permits necessary to own or lease our properties and carry on our business;

the due authorization of the Series B convertible preferred stock and other matters relating to the Series B convertible preferred stock;

tax matters;

our employee benefit plans;

our employees and compliance with labor laws;

our intellectual property;

our real property;

our title to assets;

environmental matters;

certain of our material contracts;

the absence of undisclosed brokers or finders fees;

our compliance with the continued listing requirements of the NYSE;

our insurance policies;

our actions relating to certain state anti-takeover statutes and provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation;

approval by our board of directors of the transaction documents including the transactions contemplated thereby, including this exchange offer;

this prospectus/disclosure statement, the related registration statement and the Schedule TO filed in connection with this exchange offer;

Table of Contents

our receipt of a fairness opinion from Greenhill;

the ABL agreement and other related credit documents contemplated by the ABL financing (including with respect to (1) the absence of any amendment or modification of such documents from and after execution and delivery thereof, (2) the validity and binding effect of such documents on the Company and each of our subsidiaries that is a party thereto, (3) the absence of default or breach (or allegations thereof) in any material respect under the terms of the ABL agreement or the other related documents, and (4) the absence of any default or event or circumstance that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a breach, default or event of default thereunder);

our existing credit agreement and the related credit documents (including with respect to our payment of any and all fees, expenses and other obligations that are due and payable in connection with our existing credit agreement and other related documents and the lack of revolving loans outstanding under our existing credit agreement);

the amended credit agreement and other related documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing (including with respect to (1) the absence of any amendment or modification of such documents from and after execution and delivery thereof, (2) the validity and binding effect of such documents on the Company and each of our subsidiary that are parties thereto, (3) the absence of default or breach in any material respect under (or allegations thereof) the terms of the amended credit agreement or the other related documents, and (4) the absence of any default or event or circumstance that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a breach, default or event of default thereunder); and

the solvency of the Company and our subsidiaries after giving effect to the closing.

In the investment agreement, the CD&R Fund makes customary representations and warranties, which are, in some cases, subject to specified exceptions and qualifications. The CD&R Fund's representations and warranties relate to, among other things:

its status and certain acknowledgements relating to the CD&R investment, which representations and warranties we refer to as the private placement representations, including:

its status as an accredited investor within the meaning of Rule 501 of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act;

its awareness that the sale of the Series B convertible preferred stock and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock is being made in reliance on a private placement exemption from registration under the Securities Act;

its acquisition of the Series B convertible preferred stock and common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock is for its own account;

that the Series B convertible preferred stock and common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock are being offered in a transaction not involving any public offering within the meaning of the Securities Act and that there are transfer restrictions on the Series B convertible preferred stock and common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock;

that the Series B convertible preferred stock and common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock may bear a legend or other restriction; and

that it (1) is able to fend for itself in the transactions contemplated by the investment agreement; (2) has such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters as to be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of its prospective investment in the Series B convertible preferred stock and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock; (3) has the ability to bear the economic risks of its prospective investment and can afford the complete loss of such investment; (4) acknowledges that it (a) has conducted its own investigation of the Company and the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock, (b) has had access to the Company's public filings and to such financial and other information as it deems necessary to make its decision to purchase the Series B convertible preferred

Table of Contents

stock and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock, and (c) has been offered the opportunity to ask questions of the Company and received answers thereto, as it deemed necessary in connection with the decision to purchase the Series B convertible preferred stock and common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock; and (5) understands that the Company is relying upon the truth and accuracy of its representations, acknowledgements and agreements;

that the common stock is listed on the NYSE and the Company is required to file reports containing certain business and financial information with the SEC pursuant to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and that it is able to obtain copies of such reports;

its corporate or other power and authority to enter into the investment agreement and related agreements (including the stockholders agreement and the registration rights agreement) and to consummate the CD&R investment;

the lack of any requirements for notice to, filing with, exemption or review by, or authorization, consent or approval of, any governmental entity or any other person under any provision of any material agreement or other instrument to which we are a party in connection with the execution and delivery of the CD&R investment and related agreements (including the stockholders agreement and the registration rights agreement) and consummating the CD&R investment;

its lack of ownership of our capital stock;

its access to and the availability of funds in an amount equal to the Cash Proceeds;

information supplied by the CD&R Fund for this prospectus/disclosure statement, the related registration statement and the Schedule TO filed in connection with this exchange offer; and

its lack of competitive businesses.

For the purposes of the investment agreement, material adverse effect means any event, change, development, effect or occurrence that:

is material and adverse to the business, assets, results of operations or financial condition of the Company and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole; or

would materially impair the ability of the Company to perform our obligations under the transaction documents or to consummate the restructuring.

In determining whether a material adverse effect has occurred, any effect to the extent resulting from the following is excluded:

any change, development, occurrence or event affecting the businesses or industries in which the Company and its subsidiaries operate including general pricing changes (except to the extent that the effects of such changes have a disproportionate impact on the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to other businesses supplying to the non-residential construction industry);

changes in general domestic economic conditions, including changes in the financial, securities or credit markets, or changes in such conditions in any area in which the Company or its subsidiaries operate (except to

the extent that the effects of such changes have a disproportionate impact on the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to other businesses supplying to the non-residential construction industry);

changes in global or national political conditions, including any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declared or undeclared acts of war or terrorism (except to the extent that the effects of such changes have a disproportionate impact on the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to other businesses supplying to the non-residential construction industry);

the announcement of the transaction documents and the transactions contemplated thereby;

Table of Contents

the failure of the Company to meet any internal or published projections, forecasts or revenue or earning predictions for any period (provided that the underlying causes of such failure may be considered in determining whether there is a material adverse effect on the Company);

any change in the trading prices of the common stock on the NYSE or of the convertible notes (provided that the underlying causes of such change may be considered in determining whether there is a material adverse effect on the Company); or

the announcement or commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding.

Indemnity

We have agreed to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the CD&R Fund and its affiliates and each of their respective officers, directors, partners, employees and agents, and each person who controls the CD&R Fund, which we refer to collectively as the CD&R indemnified parties, from and against, and pay or reimburse such persons for:

CD&R losses for NCI breaches of representations and warranties, which means any and all losses, liabilities, damages and expenses arising from or relating to any inaccuracy in or breach of any representation or warranty when made or deemed made by us in or pursuant to the investment agreement;

CD&R losses for NCI breaches of covenants, which means any and all losses, liabilities, damages and expenses arising from or relating to our failure to perform any covenant or agreement under the investment agreement; or

CD&R losses for execution and performance of the investment agreement, which means any and all losses, liabilities, damages and expenses arising out of or resulting from our authorization and approval and our and/or the CD&R Fund's execution, delivery, performance or termination of the investment agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby (other than any losses, liabilities, damages and expenses attributable to acts, errors or omissions in violation of the investment agreement on the part of the CD&R Fund or any CD&R Indemnified Parties and other than any losses, liabilities, damages and expenses attributable to the economic risks of the CD&R Fund's investment decision) that the CD&R Fund or the CD&R Indemnified Parties are subject to, named in or made party to any litigation by any person other than us.

Our obligation to indemnify the CD&R indemnified parties is effective from and after the closing with respect to the CD&R losses for NCI breaches of representations and warranties and the CD&R losses for NCI breaches of covenants and is effective from and after the execution of the investment agreement with respect to the CD&R losses for execution and performance of the investment agreement.

Our obligation to indemnify the CD&R indemnified parties is subject to:

a *de minimis* exception of \$50,000, under which we are not required to pay any amounts in respect of losses, liabilities, damages and expenses in connection with or related to any individual claim (or any series of related claims (including any class action)) unless such losses exceed \$50,000;

a basket of \$5.0 million, under which we are not required to pay any amounts in respect of losses, liabilities, damages or expenses (other than losses, liabilities, damages or expenses excluded because they do not meet the *de minimis* exception described in the immediately preceding bullet point) until such losses exceed \$5.0 million, following which time all losses above such amount will be subject to indemnification; and

a cap of \$75.0 million.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, CD&R losses for NCI breaches of representations and warranties in respect of certain enumerated fundamental representations, CD&R losses for NCI breaches of covenants and CD&R losses for execution and performance of the investment agreement will be payable without regard to the \$75.0 million cap described above (however, CD&R losses for NCI breaches of representations and warranties in respect of certain enumerated fundamental representations and CD&R losses for NCI breaches of covenants will be taken into account in determining whether such \$75.0 million cap has been reached) and CD&R losses for execution and performance of the investment agreement are payable without regard to the \$5.0 million basket described above and are not taken into account in determining whether the \$5.0 million basket has been reached. We will not be required

Table of Contents

to pay more than \$250.0 million to the CD&R Fund under the investment agreement, inclusive of all fees, expense reimbursements or amounts payable under our indemnification obligation.

The CD&R Fund has agreed to indemnify, defend and hold harmless us and our affiliates and each of our and their respective officers, directors, partners, employees and agents, which collectively we refer to as the NCI indemnified parties, from and against, and pay or reimburse us or such persons for:

NCI losses for CD&R breaches of representations and warranties, which means any and all losses, liabilities, damages or expenses arising from or relating to any inaccuracy in or breach of any representation or warranty when made or deemed made by the CD&R Fund in or pursuant to the investment agreement; or

NCI losses for CD&R breaches of covenants, which means any and all losses, liabilities, damages or expenses arising from or relating to the failure of the CD&R Fund to perform any covenant or agreement under the investment agreement.

The CD&R Fund's obligation to indemnify the NCI indemnified parties is effective from and after the closing.

The CD&R Fund's obligation to indemnify the NCI indemnified parties is subject to a parallel *de minimis* exception, basket and cap as described above with respect to our obligation to indemnify the CD&R indemnified parties.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the NCI losses for CD&R breaches of representations and warranties in respect of certain enumerated fundamental representations or NCI losses for CD&R breaches of covenants will be payable without regard to the \$75.0 million cap (however, NCI losses for CD&R breaches of representations and warranties with respect to an inaccuracy or breach of certain enumerated fundamental representations and NCI losses for CD&R breaches of covenants will be taken into account in determining whether such \$75.0 million cap has been reached). The CD&R Fund will not be required to pay more than \$250.0 million to us or our affiliates pursuant to its indemnity or otherwise.

Governance Matters

We have agreed to take all actions necessary:

to cause all directors serving on our board of directors immediately prior to the closing (other than our Chief Executive Officer and, to the extent such individuals are chosen to serve as unaffiliated shareholder directors, two other directors (see "The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters")) to resign from our board, effective as of the closing;

to cause vacancies on our board of directors to be filled, effective as of the closing, by persons nominated or designated by the CD&R Fund no later than three business days prior to the closing, with the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Fund divided as nearly evenly as possible among each class of our board of directors, and to cause the representation of the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Fund, effective as of the closing, on each committee of our board of directors to be proportionate to the membership of the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Fund on our board of directors;

to ensure that the by-laws, the charters of the committees of our board of directors and any of our corporate guidelines, effective as of the closing, are consistent with the provisions of the stockholders agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement (see "The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement"); and

to elect, effective as of the closing, to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual (which exemptions would exempt us from compliance with the NYSE's requirements for companies listed on the NYSE to have (1) a majority of independent directors, (2) a nominating/corporate governance committee and a compensation committee, in each case, composed entirely of independent directors, and (3) charters for the nominating/corporate governance committee and the compensation committee, in each case, addressing certain specified matters).

Table of Contents***Employee Benefit Matters***

The investment agreement requires the Company to secure, prior to completion of the CD&R investment, amendments to the Company's deferred compensation plan, the Rabbi trust that funds the deferred compensation plan, the Company's severance plan, employment agreements with ten of the Company's senior executives and restricted stock award agreements with three of the Company's senior executives. Below is a brief description of the required amendments.

The amendment to the Company's deferred compensation plan would eliminate the right to appoint a third-party administrator of the plan after the closing. Similarly, the Rabbi trust that is a source of funding for obligations under the deferred compensation plan must be amended so that certain administrative protections that go into effect following a change in control will not apply as a result of the CD&R investment. In addition, as a result of the amendment, the requirement to fully fund the Rabbi trust upon a change of control will not apply as a result of the CD&R investment.

The Company maintains a change of control severance policy, in which 49 employees currently participate. The Company has agreed that it will not add any new participants to the policy between signing and closing without the consent of the CD&R Fund. In addition, the policy will be amended so that after the CD&R investment new participants may be added to the policy only with approval of the Company's board of directors. The policy also will be amended so that a change in duties will no longer permit a participant to resign and collect benefits under the policy. Finally, the policy will be amended so that, following the CD&R investment, with respect to any future change in control, any material amendment or termination of the policy will not be effective until 12 months after adoption.

The Company is a party to employment agreements with ten of its senior executives, including Norman C. Chambers (Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer), Mark E. Johnson (Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer), Mark W. Dobbins (Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), Charles W. Dickinson (President of Metal Components Division) and Keith E. Fischer (President of Robertson-Ceco Division). The Company and these senior executives have entered into amendment agreements with respect to these employment agreements. In general, the amendment agreements modify the "good reason" definition in each executive's employment agreement. In addition, the amendment agreement for Mr. Chambers revises Mr. Chambers' employment agreement to provide that he will be entitled to a cash severance payment equal to the greater of (1) two times his base salary and (2) his base salary through April 30, 2014, upon a termination of his employment without cause or for good reason. (Mr. Chambers is currently entitled to receive his base salary through April 30, 2014 upon a termination of his employment without cause or for good reason.) In addition, pursuant to the amendment agreements, each of Messrs. Chambers, Dobbins and Dickinson has waived his right to accelerated vesting of 64,516, 25,000 and 25,000 Company restricted shares, respectively, as a result of the CD&R investment, and the Company has agreed that the Company restricted shares will continue to vest in accordance with their terms or, if earlier, upon a termination of the executive's employment without cause or for good reason.

Liability Limitations. Each of the Company and the CD&R Fund agreed that no former current or future director, officer, employee, incorporator, shareholder, managing member, member, manager, general partner, limited partner, stockholder, principal agent, other representative or affiliate, which collectively we refer to as the representatives, of any of the CD&R Fund or the Company and no former, current, or future Representative of any of such Representatives will have any liability for any obligations of the CD&R Fund or the Company, as applicable, under the investment agreement or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, the performance of the respective obligations of the CD&R Fund or the Company under the investment agreement or the negotiation, execution or delivery of the investment agreement whether by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding, or by virtue of any statute, regulation or other applicable law or otherwise. Each of the Company and the

CD&R Fund waived and released all such liability.

We have agreed that (1) in no event will the CD&R Fund's aggregate liability under the investment agreement in connection with a failure by the CD&R Fund to close on the CD&R investment in violation of the investment agreement exceed \$250.0 million and (2) in no event will the CD&R Fund be liable for any consequential, incidental, indirect or punitive damages. In addition, the CD&R Fund will not be liable for diminution of value, loss of business opportunity or loss of future revenue, income or profits (except to the extent that such items constitute

Table of Contents

direct damages sought by the Company for breach of contract rather than indirect or consequential damages, which amounts payable with respect thereto will be subject to a cap of \$250.0 million).

Additional Rights of Executive Officers and Directors

The consummation of the CD&R investment will constitute a change of control or change in control, as applicable, for purposes of the agreements and plans described below, which may entitle the Company's executive officers and directors to additional or accelerated payments and benefits under these agreements and plans.

Equity Compensation Awards

All outstanding options to acquire shares of our common stock will vest in full as of the consummation of the CD&R investment and, except with respect to the special long term restricted stock awards granted to Messrs. Chambers, Dobbins and Dickinson, each of whom has, as described above (see Employee Benefits Matters), waived his right to accelerated vesting of 64,516, 25,000 and 25,000 Company restricted shares, respectively, all restricted shares of our stock will vest in full as of the consummation of the CD&R investment. Based on their NCI equity compensation holdings as of September 18, 2009, and assuming a consummation of the CD&R investment on November 2, 2009, upon consummation of the CD&R investment, (1) the number of unvested NCI stock options (each, with an exercise price of \$44.00 per share) held by each of Messrs. Dobbins, Dickinson and Fischer (who are our only named executive officers with unvested options), the three other NCI executive officers who hold unvested options (as a group), and the one non-employee director who holds unvested options that would vest are 341, 341, 341, 896 and 142, respectively; and (2) the number of unvested shares of restricted NCI common stock held by each of Messrs. Chambers, Johnson, Dobbins, Dickinson and Fischer, the six other NCI executive officers (as a group), and the nine non-employee directors (as a group) that would vest and become free of restrictions are 51,423, 14,108, 13,387, 12,833, 12,833, 53,281, and 46,030, respectively.

Employment Agreements and Severance Pay Plan

The Company is party to employment agreements with each of its executive officers, other than Mr. Allen, who is covered by the Company's Change in Control Severance Policy. As described above, the Company and each of these executives (other than Mr. Allen) have entered into amendment agreements with respect to these employment agreements and the Company has agreed to amend the Change in Control Severance Policy effective upon the consummation of the CD&R investment. The descriptions below reflect these amendments.

Employment Agreement with Mr. Chambers: The Company is a party to an employment agreement with Norman C. Chambers. Mr. Chambers' employment agreement provides for payment of certain severance benefits in the event of a termination of his employment by Mr. Chambers for good reason (as defined in the agreement) or by the Company without cause (as defined in the agreement) (we refer to such terminations as qualifying terminations). As described above, the Company and Mr. Chambers have entered into an amendment agreement with respect to Mr. Chambers' employment agreement which will become effective upon the consummation of the CD&R investment.

In the event of a qualifying termination, Mr. Chambers is entitled to receive certain accrued or earned benefits and a severance payment equal to the greater of (i) the base salary he would have been entitled to receive through April 30, 2014 and (ii) two times his base salary, in each case paid through April 30, 2014 (we refer to such amount as the severance payment). In the event of a qualifying termination within two years of certain change in control events (including the CD&R investment), the Company is required to pay Mr. Chambers the present value of the severance payment in a lump sum within seven days of his termination, rather than in installments through April 30, 2014. Assuming that the CD&R investment is consummated on November 2, 2009 and Mr. Chambers experiences a

qualifying termination immediately thereafter, the amount of cash severance to which he will be entitled is approximately \$2.7 million

Employment Agreements with Messrs. Johnson, Dobbins, Dickinson, Fischer and Other Executive Officers (other than Mr. Allen): The Company is a party to substantially similar employment agreements with Messrs. Johnson, Dobbins, Dickinson, Fischer and each of its other executive officers, other than Mr. Allen. Upon a qualifying termination within 24 months after a change in control or during a potential change in

Table of Contents

control period, the executive will be entitled to (i) certain accrued amounts, (ii) a lump sum cash payment, equal to two times the executive's annual base salary at the highest annualized rate in effect during the one year period immediately preceding the date of the change in control or potential change in control, as applicable (in the case of Messrs. Dobbins and Dickinson, this payment is reduced by the market value of the vested portion of the 25,000 restricted shares granted to each of them on August 26, 2004) and (iii) continued medical and dental coverage at the active employee rate for up to 18 months. Assuming that the CD&R investment is consummated on November 2, 2009, and the executive has a qualifying termination immediately thereafter, the amount of cash severance that would be payable to each of Messrs. Johnson, Dobbins, Dickinson, Fischer and the other executive officers (other than Mr. Allen) (as a group), respectively, is approximately \$664,000, \$630,000, \$581,000, \$581,000 and \$2,421,000.

Severance Pay Plan

Mr. Allen is eligible for severance benefits under the Company's Change in Control Severance Policy. Upon Mr. Allen's qualifying termination within 24 months after a change in control, subject to his execution and non-revocation of a release of claims, Mr. Allen is entitled to (i) a lump sum cash payment equal to the participant's annual base salary at the highest annualized rate in effect during the one year period immediately preceding the date of the change in control and (ii) continued medical and dental coverage at the active employee rate for up to 18 months. Assuming that the CD&R investment is consummated on November 2, 2009, and Mr. Allen has a qualifying termination immediately thereafter, the amount of cash severance that would be payable to Mr. Allen is approximately \$165,000.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan

The Company maintains the NCI Building Systems, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan, which we refer to as the DCP, in which all of its executive officers participate.

Pursuant to the terms of the DCP, participants are generally fully vested in amounts credited to their DCP accounts, except for Company Contribution Amounts and Company Restoration Matching Amounts (each, as defined in the DCP). Any unvested Company Contribution Amounts and Company Restoration Matching Amounts in participants' DCP accounts will immediately become vested upon consummation of the CD&R investment. Assuming that the CD&R investment is completed on November 2, 2009, based on unvested Company Restoration Matching Amounts under their DCP accounts as of September 18, 2009, Messrs. Chambers, Johnson and the three other executive officers with unvested Company Restoration Matching Amounts (as a group) will vest, respectively, in approximately \$28,034, \$19,234 and \$7,223 of Company Restoration Matching Amounts. The Company has not made any Company Contribution Amounts to participants' DCP accounts. The DCP also permits participants to elect to have their account balances paid out upon a change in control. Messrs. Dobbins, Dickinson, Robeson, Moore, Brown and Golladay have each elected to have their account balances paid out upon a change in control and, as such, their account balances under the DCP will be paid out upon consummation of the CD&R investment.

Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock

The following is a summary of the preferences, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock as contained in the form of certificate of designations, preferences and rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock. While we believe this summary covers the material preferences, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock contained in the form of certificate of designation, preferences and rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible

Participating Preferred Stock, which is included as Annex H and which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the form of certificate of designations, preferences and rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock in its entirety.

In connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment, we have agreed to file a certificate of designations, preferences and rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock

Table of Contents

substantially in the form of the form of certificate of designations, preferences and rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock attached hereto as Annex H, which certificate of designations, preferences and rights to be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware prior to closing we refer to as the certificate of designations, setting forth the terms, rights, obligations, and preferences of the Series B convertible preferred stock, including those material terms summarized below.

Rank

The Series B convertible preferred stock will, with respect to payment of dividends, redemption payments, rights (including as to the distribution of assets) upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Company, or otherwise:

rank senior and prior to the common stock and each other class or series of equity securities of the Company, whether currently issued or to be issued in the future, that by its terms ranks junior to the Series B convertible preferred stock; and

rank junior to each class or series of equity securities of the Company, whether currently issued or issued in the future, that by its terms ranks senior to the Series B convertible preferred stock.

At the time of the initial issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock or at any time in the future during which shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are outstanding, we have agreed to have no other class or series of equity securities of the Company that ranks on parity with the Series B convertible preferred stock.

We have no outstanding senior securities and we have agreed that at the time of the initial issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock there will be no senior securities outstanding. Following the initial issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock, (1) pursuant to the terms of the certificate of designations, the issuance of senior securities will require the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock and, additionally, (2) pursuant to the terms of the stockholders agreement, subject to certain qualifications and exceptions contained therein, we will agree not to issue shares of our capital stock, ownership interests or voting securities without the prior consent of the CD&R Investors (as described in *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters*). See *Voting Rights Class Voting Rights* below and see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Stockholders Agreement Consent Rights*.

Liquidation

Each share of Series B convertible preferred stock will have an initial liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share. In the event of any liquidation of the Company, each holder of Series B convertible preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions out of the assets of the Company legally available for distribution to its stockholders, before any payment or distribution of any assets of the Company will be made or set apart for holders of any junior securities, including, without limitation, the common stock, for such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock in an amount equal to the greater of:

the sum of (a) the aggregate liquidation preference of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock and (b) the aggregate accrued dividends of such shares as of the date of such liquidation; and

the amount such holder would have received had such holder, immediately prior to such liquidation, converted such shares of Series B convertible preferred stock into shares of common stock in accordance with the certificate of designations (but without taking into account any limitations on convertibility that may then be

applicable).

Dividends

Participating Dividends Holders of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock will be entitled to participate equally and ratably with the holders of shares of common stock in all cash dividends paid on the shares of common stock as if all shares of Series B convertible preferred stock issued and outstanding on the record date for the payment of dividends to the holders of shares of common stock were converted into shares of common

Table of Contents

stock (without taking into account any limitations on convertibility that may then be applicable). Such dividends or distributions payable to the holders of the Series B convertible preferred stock will be payable on the same date that the dividends or distributions are payable to holders of shares of common stock. Holders of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock will not be entitled to participate in dividends or distributions of any nature paid on or in respect of the common stock or to holders of common stock other than as described above; however, holders of Series B convertible preferred stock will be entitled to certain anti-dilution adjustments to the conversion price in the event of such dividends or distributions (see [Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments](#) below).

Series B Preferred Dividends The Company will pay, if, as and when declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available therefor, on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year, dividends on each issued and outstanding share of Series B convertible preferred stock (1) if paid in kind, at a rate *per annum* equal to 12.00% of the then applicable liquidation preference and accrued but unpaid dividends with respect to such share, or (2) if paid in cash, at a rate *per annum* of 8.00% of the then applicable liquidation preference and accrued but unpaid dividends with respect to such share, Series B preferred dividends on each share of Series B convertible preferred stock will accrue and accumulate on a daily basis from the issuance date of such share, whether or not declared and whether or not the Company has funds legally available for the payment of such dividends, will compound quarterly on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year and will be payable quarterly in arrears, if, as and when so authorized and declared by our board of directors, on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year, starting on the first of such dates following the issuance date of such share. In the event that the Series B preferred dividends are not paid in cash on the applicable quarterly dividend payment date on which such Series B preferred dividends would otherwise compound, such Series B preferred dividends will compound at a rate *per annum* equal to 12.00%, regardless of whether such accrued and unpaid dividends are paid in cash thereafter.

The Series B preferred dividends may, at the option of the Company (to be determined by a majority of the directors of the Company who are (1) not nominated by the CD&R Investors (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related matters](#)) or (2) if nominated by the CD&R Investors, independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Certain Limitations on Participation by Directors Nominated or Designated by the CD&R Investors](#))), be paid in cash or in kind by issuing shares of Series B convertible preferred stock.

We have agreed not to pay in kind by issuing shares of Series B convertible preferred stock any Series B preferred dividends accumulating prior to the date following the first date on which there are no longer any outstanding convertible notes, but must pay such Series B preferred dividends on the applicable date, if at all, in cash.

Default Dividend Rate

Upon the occurrence of a default (see [Default](#) below), the dividend rate with respect to the Series B convertible preferred stock will increase (starting on the date on which the default occurs and ending immediately prior to the date on which all then occurring defaults are no longer continuing) by:

6.00% *per annum*, if the default is the result of a failure by us at any time after June 30, 2011 to reserve and keep available for issuance a number of shares of common stock equal to 110% of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of all outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock; or

3.00% *per annum*, for all other defaults.

Only one 3.00% *per annum* dividend rate increase will be applicable at any time; however, if at a time when a 3.00% *per annum* default dividend rate is in effect after June 30, 2011, we fail to reserve and keep available for issuance the

requisite number of shares of common stock to satisfy our obligations under the certificate of designations, the dividend rate will be increased an additional 3.00% *per annum* until such default is no longer continuing.

After giving effect to the restructuring, at the closing, we do not expect to have sufficient authorized but unissued shares of common stock to enable the conversion of all 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued to the CD&R Fund pursuant to the CD&R investment. Pursuant to the stockholders agreement, from and after the closing of the restructuring, we will use our best efforts and take all corporate actions necessary to

Table of Contents

obtain approval from holders of our common stock of an amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation). In the event that we do not obtain such approval prior to June 30, 2010, the dividend rate with respect to the Series B convertible preferred stock will increase by 3.00% *per annum* (and, if such approval is not obtained by June 30, 2011, by an additional 3.00% *per annum*, for an aggregate increase of 6.00% *per annum*) as described in this section.

Dividend Reduction

If, at any time after the 30-month anniversary of the closing, the trading price per share of common stock equals or exceeds two times a specified target price for each trading day during any period of 20 consecutive trading days, the dividend rate will become 0.00% commencing on the day immediately following the last trading day of such period of 20-consecutive trading days and for all days thereafter. The applicable default dividend rate will still apply, however, in the event of a default. The initial specified target price is \$1.2748 and is subject to adjustment for any stock dividends, splits, combination or similar events.

Restrictions with Respect to Junior Securities Dividends

Subject to certain limited exceptions, at any time during which a default is occurring, we have agreed not to declare or pay or set apart for payment any dividend or other distribution with respect to any junior securities, or redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for any consideration any junior securities. In addition, at all times during which shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are issued and outstanding, we have agreed that neither we nor any of our subsidiaries will (1) declare, pay or set aside for payment any dividends or distributions upon any junior securities, except for certain limited exceptions or for such ordinary cash dividends declared, paid or set aside for payment after the dividend has become 0.00% (see Dividend Reduction above) on shares of common stock in which the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock participate or (2) repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any junior securities for any consideration or pay any moneys or make available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares of such junior securities, except for certain limited exceptions, unless, in each case, the Company has access to sufficient lawful funds immediately following such action such that the Company would be legally permitted to redeem in full all shares of the Series B convertible preferred stock then issued and outstanding for an amount equal to the sum of (A) the aggregate liquidation preference and (B) the aggregate accrued dividends of such shares as of such date.

Default

The occurrence of one of the following events described below will constitute a default for purposes of the certificate of designations:

the Company fails to pay any participating dividend (see Participating Dividends above);

following the date on which there are no convertible notes outstanding, the Company fails to pay, in cash or in kind, any Series B preferred dividend on the applicable quarterly dividend payment date;

the Company fails at any time after June 30, 2010 to reserve and keep available for issuance the number of shares of common stock equal to 110% of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of all outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock;

the Company fails to maintain the listing of the common stock on the NYSE or another U.S. national securities exchange;

the Company violates any dividend payment restrictions with respect to junior securities dividends described in Restrictions with Respect to Junior Securities Dividends above;

the Company fails to comply with our obligations to convert Series B convertible preferred stock in accordance with our obligations under the certificate of designations; or

the Company fails to redeem Series B convertible preferred stock in compliance with the certificate of designations.

Table of Contents

The foregoing notwithstanding, unless the circumstances described in the next paragraph apply, no default will be deemed to have occurred or deemed to be continuing in connection with a failure of the type described above, if:

our board of directors can take a cure action which could reasonably be expected to prevent or to cure such failure;

our board of directors does not promptly take such cure action; and

at any time when our board of directors could have taken a cure action and it fails to take such cure action, the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors then on our board of directors or, if the failure to take such cure action was with the approval of our board of directors, the aggregate number of votes that were cast by the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors constituted a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum that granted such approval.

The preceding limitation on the occurrence of a default will not be applicable in circumstances where taking a cure action with respect to default (1) would result in a cross default (as described below), (2) would be adverse to the best interests of the Company in the good faith judgment of a majority of the unaffiliated shareholder directors (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters) or (3) if the failure to take the cure action was with the approval of our board of directors, a majority of the number of votes that were cast by the directors who are independent of both the CD&R Investors and the Company were not cast in favor of taking the cure action.

A cross default means a circumstance in which the taking of a cure action will:

result in a breach of any provision of applicable law or our restated certificate of incorporation;

result in, with notice or lapse of time or both, an event of default under, or result in the termination of, or would cause or permit the acceleration or other changes of any right or obligation or the loss of any benefit under any agreement, arrangement, commitment, plan or other instrument or obligation to which the Company, or any of our subsidiaries, is a party or by which the Company or any of our subsidiaries may be bound, or to which the Company or any of our subsidiaries or any of the properties, assets, or rights of the Company or any of our subsidiaries may be subject, and such result (except with respect to any agreement, arrangement, commitment, plan or other instrument relating to indebtedness that is material to the Corporation and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole) would reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the business, assets, results of operations or financial condition of the Company and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole;

result in a breach of any injunction, judgment, decree or other order of any court or governmental agency and such breach would reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the business, assets, results of operations or financial condition of the Company and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole; or

requires the consent of our stockholders or any other person (other than the CD&R Investors) and (1) if there is reasonably sufficient time to obtain such consent and our board of directors has timely authorized the seeking of such consent, (a) such consent is not obtained prior to the applicable failure and (b) if the consent required is of our stockholders, the CD&R Investors beneficially own in the aggregate less than 45% of the voting power of each group of voting securities of the Company which vote or consent is required to approve such cure action or the CD&R Investors have voted all shares of voting securities of the Company beneficially owned by it entitled

to vote with respect to such cure action to approve such cure action; or (2) there is not reasonably sufficient time to obtain such consent.

Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments

To the extent that there is a sufficient number of authorized and unissued (or issued and included in treasury) and otherwise unreserved shares of common stock (or, if approved by the holders of Series B convertible preferred stock, other capital stock of the Company that is generally identical to the common stock), each holder of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock will have a conversion right, at any time and from time to time, at such holder s

Table of Contents

option, to convert all or any portion of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock into shares of common stock (or such other capital stock). Upon a holder's election to exercise the conversion right, each share of Series B convertible preferred stock will be converted into a number of shares of common stock equal to the quotient of (1) the sum of (a) the liquidation preference and (b) the accrued dividends of such share as of the date of conversion, *divided by* (2) the conversion price of such share in effect at the time of conversion.

To the extent and for so long as any shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are issued and outstanding, the Company has agreed to at all times reserve and keep available an amount of authorized and unissued common stock equal to 110% of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the then issued and outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock. If at any time the Company does not have such sufficient amount of authorized and unissued shares of common stock, the Company must take any and all actions, which, in the event such consent is required, have been consented to by CD&R, to increase the number of shares of authorized and unissued and unreserved shares of common stock, including, without limitation, calling meetings of the Company's stockholders to amend the Company's charter and causing a reclassification of its shares of common stock or authorizing and obtaining stockholder approval for the creation of a new class of common stock (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation).

The initial conversion price (1) with respect to each share of Series B convertible preferred stock issued on the date of the closing, is \$1.2748 and (2) with respect to each share of Series B convertible preferred stock issued as payment in kind in respect of a share of Series B convertible preferred stock, is the conversion price in effect immediately prior to the issuance of such share. The conversion price is subject to certain anti-dilution adjustments. Specifically, the conversion price will be adjusted in accordance with the formulas set forth in the certificate of designations:

if the Company declares a dividend or makes a distribution on the common stock payable in shares of common stock;

if the Company subdivides, splits or combines the shares of common stock;

if the Company effects a below market price issuance, which means an issuance or sale of any common stock, convertible securities or options (subject to certain limited exceptions) without consideration or for consideration per share less than the then-current market price of the common stock;

if the Company effects a distribution of certain assets or securities, which means a distribution to all holders of shares of common stock evidences of indebtedness, shares of capital stock, securities, cash or other assets, subject to certain limited exceptions;

in a spin-off, where the Company makes a distribution to all holders of shares of common stock consisting of capital stock of any class or series, or similar equity interests of, or relating to, a subsidiary of the Company or other business unit;

if the Company effects an above market *pro rata* repurchase, which means a *pro rata* repurchase of common stock that involves the payment by the Company of consideration per share of common stock that exceeds the then-current average market price per share of common stock on the trading day next succeeding the effective date of such *pro rata* repurchase; or

if, during the three-year period immediately following the closing, the Company effects a below conversion price issuance, which means the issuance or sale of any common stock, convertible securities or options (subject to certain limited exceptions) without consideration or for consideration per share less than the conversion price

in effect immediately prior to such issuance or sale at a time when such conversion price is greater than the then-current market price.

With respect to an adjustment of the conversion price as a result of a below market price issuance, a distribution of certain assets or securities, a spin-off, or an above market *pro rata* repurchase, the conversion price will only be

Table of Contents

adjusted if at the time the relevant event is approved, or recommended to our stockholders by our board of directors either:

the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors on our board of directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation; or

if the condition in the immediately preceding bullet point is not met, then (A) so long as at least one unaffiliated shareholder director was part of the quorum granting such approval or recommendation, either (1) a majority of the unaffiliated shareholder directors voting with respect to such approval or recommendation vote in favor of such approval or recommendation or (2) each unaffiliated shareholder director that was a part of the quorum granting such approval or recommendation abstains from voting with respect thereto or (B) a majority of the directors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Fund does not in good faith oppose such approval or recommendation on the merits (without regard to the impact of such approval or recommendation, or the withholding thereof, on the CD&R Investors).

With respect to an adjustment as a result of a below conversion price issuance, the conversion price will only be adjusted if at the time the below conversion price issuance is approved, or recommended to our stockholders by our board of directors either:

the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors on our board of directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation; or

if the condition in the immediately preceding bullet point is not met, either (1) a majority of the unaffiliated shareholder directors votes in favor of such approval or recommendation or (2) a majority of the directors who are independent of both the CD&R Investors and the Company does not in good faith oppose such approval or recommendation on the merits (without regard to the impact of such approval or recommendation, or the withholding thereof, on the CD&R Investors) and the unaffiliated shareholder directors receive a certificate of a majority of the directors who are officers of CD&R or the CD&R Investors or otherwise not deemed independent of the CD&R Investors under the stockholders agreement certifying that, in the good faith judgment of a majority of such directors, such issuance or sale is in the best interests of the Company.

Milestone Redemption

Each holder of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock will have the right to require, at any time on or after the tenth anniversary of the closing, at such holder's option and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the certificate of designations, that the Company redeem all, but not less than all, of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, out of funds legally available therefor, at a purchase price for each share of Series B convertible preferred stock equal to the sum of (A) the liquidation preference and (B) the accrued dividends of such share as of the date on which the redemption of such share occurs.

The Company will have the right, at any time on or after the tenth anniversary of the closing, at the Company's option in accordance with the procedures set forth in the certificate of designations, to redeem all, but not less than all, of the then issued and outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, out of funds legally available therefor, at a

purchase price for each share of Series B convertible preferred stock equal to the sum of (A) the liquidation preference and (B) the accrued dividends of such share as of the date on which the redemption of such share occurs.

Change of Control Redemption Right

In connection with a business combination change of control (as described below), each holder of Series B convertible preferred stock will have the right (exercisable at such holder's option) to require that the Company

Table of Contents

redeem (or that the acquiring or surviving person in such business combination change of control, if not the Company, redeem) such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, out of funds legally available therefor, at a purchase price per share equal to (1) if the redemption date of such share is prior to the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing, the sum of (a) the liquidation preference plus the accrued dividends of such share as of such redemption date and (b) an amount equal to the net present value of the sum of all Series B convertible preferred stock dividends that would otherwise be payable on such share from such redemption date until the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing (calculated based on a dividend rate of 8% *per annum*), or (2) if the redemption date of such share is on or after the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing, the sum of (x) the liquidation preference and (y) the accrued dividends of such share as of such redemption date.

In connection with a board level change of control (as described below), each holder of Series B convertible preferred stock will have the right (exercisable at such holder's option) to require that the Company redeem each of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, out of funds legally available therefor, at a purchase price per share of Series B convertible preferred stock equal to (1) if the redemption date of such share is prior to the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing, the sum of (a) the liquidation preference plus the accrued dividends of such share as of such redemption date and (b) an amount equal to the net present value of the sum of all Series B convertible preferred stock dividends that would otherwise be payable on such share from such redemption date until the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing (calculated based on a dividend rate of 8% *per annum*), or (2) if the redemption date of such share is on or after the fourth anniversary of the date of the closing, the sum of (x) the liquidation preference and (y) the accrued dividends of such share as of such redemption date.

In connection with a change of control under debt instruments (as described below), each holder of Series B convertible preferred stock will have the right (exercisable at such holder's option) to require that the Company redeem each of such holder's shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, out of funds legally available therefor, at a purchase price per share equal to 101% of the sum of (1) the liquidation preference and (2) the accrued dividends of such share as of the redemption date of such share.

A business combination change of control means, unless the circumstances described in the following paragraph apply, the consummation of a business combination transaction by the Company where immediately following such transaction, which we refer to as a non-qualified business combination:

the individuals and entities that beneficially owned the outstanding voting stock of the Company immediately prior to such business combination do not beneficially own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of the entity resulting from such business combination in substantially the same proportions as their ownership immediately prior to such business combination of the voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the Company; or

any person (excluding the CD&R Investors and their affiliates) either (1) beneficially owns more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity than the CD&R Investors and their affiliates so beneficially own (unless the CD&R Investors and their affiliates beneficially own more than 17.5% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity) or (2) beneficially owns 25% or more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity.

The consummation of a non-qualified business combination will not constitute a business combination change of control if at the time such business combination is approved, or recommended to our stockholders by our board of directors (if so approved or recommended) and at the time immediately prior to the consummation of such business

combination (1) the CD&R Investors beneficially own 45% or more of the combined voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the Company or (2) the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast constitutes a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors then on our board of directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors constitutes a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation.

Table of Contents

A board level change of control means any person (other than any CD&R Investor or any of their affiliates) acquiring beneficial ownership of 50% or more of the combined voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the Company, if at the time immediately prior to the consummation of such acquisition and, if such acquisition (or any transaction or series of transactions leading to such acquisition) is approved, or recommended to our stockholders by our board of directors, at the time such acquisition is approved or recommended by our board of directors, (1) the CD&R Investors do not beneficially own 45% or more of the combined voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the Company and (2) the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors then on our board of directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation.

A change of control under debt instruments means any event that would constitute a change of control for purposes of the amended credit agreement or the ABL agreement, or any subsequent amendment, restatement, refinancing, replacement or other modification of such agreements or any successor contract to any such agreements (assuming that the events constituting a change of control under any such successor or amended debt agreement are the same as were in effect in the amended credit agreement or the ABL agreement, as applicable, as of the closing), so long as at the time such change of control is approved, or recommended to our stockholders by our board of directors (if so approved or recommended) and at the time immediately prior to the consummation of such change of control (1) the CD&R Investors do not beneficially own 45% or more of the combined voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the Company and (2) the aggregate number of votes that the directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors are entitled to cast do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all directors then on our board of directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by directors nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation.

The change of control redemption right described in this section will not be triggered by either the out-of-court recapitalization plan or the in-court prepackaged plan.

Automatic Conversion upon Certain Business Combinations

If a non-qualified business combination is consummated pursuant to which the common stock is to be converted into the right to receive cash, securities or other property of an entity other than the Company, then upon the consummation of such non-qualified business combination, all shares of Series B convertible preferred stock (other than those with respect to which the redemption rights described above in **Change of Control Redemption Right** has been exercised) will automatically convert into the right to receive the kind and amount of cash, securities or other property, if any, receivable in such non-qualified business combination by a holder of common stock holding that number of shares of common stock into which shares of Series B convertible preferred stock would have been convertible (without taking into account any limitations on convertibility) immediately prior to the consummation of such non-qualified business combination. In the event that holders of shares of common stock have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in a non-qualified business combination, each holder of Series B convertible preferred stock will also have the same opportunity to elect the form of consideration that each such holder is entitled to receive.

Voting Rights

General. The holders of Series B convertible preferred stock will be entitled to vote on an as-converted basis with the holders of the common stock on all matters submitted to a vote of our stockholders, except as otherwise provided in the certificate of designations or as required by applicable law, voting together with the holders of common stock as a

single class.

Class Voting Rights. So long as any shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are outstanding, in addition to any other vote required by applicable law, the Company may not take any of the following actions without the

Table of Contents

prior affirmative vote or written consent of the holders representing at least a majority of the then-outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, voting together as a separate class:

any amendment, alteration, repeal or other modification of any provision of our restated certificate of incorporation, the certificate of designations or the by-laws that would alter or change the terms or the powers, preferences, rights or privileges of the Series B convertible preferred stock so as to affect them adversely;

any authorization, creation, increase in the authorized amount of, or issuance of any class or series of senior securities or any security convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for, shares of senior securities; and

any increase or decrease in the authorized number of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock or the issuance of additional shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, subject to certain limited exceptions.

Special Contingent Voting Rights. In addition to any other vote required by applicable law, during any period:

beginning on a redemption date in respect of a redemption described above in Milestone Redemption, if the Company fails to deposit on or prior to such date money in immediately available funds sufficient to pay the aggregate purchase price as of such date for all shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be redeemed on such date or at any time on or after a redemption date in respect of a redemption described above in Milestone Redemption that the Company fails to pay the applicable full redemption price for any share of Series B convertible preferred stock to be redeemed on such date and ending at such time when the applicable full redemption price for all shares of Series B convertible preferred stock to be so redeemed has been paid; or

beginning at any time that the Company fails to pay the applicable full redemption price in respect of a redemption in connection with a business combination change of control, a board level change of control or a change of control under debt instruments (see Change of Control Redemption Right above) for any share of Series B convertible preferred stock that a holder of Series B convertible preferred stock has requested be redeemed and ending at such time when the full applicable redemption price for all shares of Series B convertible preferred stock so requested to be redeemed is paid,

we may not, without the consent of holders representing at least a majority of the then-outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, voting together as a separate class:

take any of, commit, resolve or agree to take any of, or authorize or otherwise facilitate any of the actions described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Consent Rights ;

take any action that would result in an adjustment to the conversion price (see Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments above);

enter into any agreement or understanding, or commit, resolve or agree to enter into any agreement or understanding with respect to a business combination;

hire, terminate or change the compensation of any executive officer except for ordinary raises consistent with past practices, subject to certain conditions; or

adopt an annual budget.

See also Certain Additional Covenants Debt Agreements below.

Certain Additional Covenants

Merger. We will agree not to merge with or into or consolidate with or into, or sell, transfer, exchange or lease all or substantially all of our property to, any other entity, or permit consummation of any other business combination, unless the surviving successor, transferee or lessee entity, as the case may be, (1) expressly assumes the due and punctual performance and observance of each and every covenant and condition of the certificate of designations to be performed and observed by the Company and (2) if such business combination is a not a non-qualified business combination, expressly agrees, as part of the terms of such business combination, to exchange, at

Table of Contents

the holders' option, shares of Series B convertible preferred stock for shares of the surviving entity's capital stock having terms, preferences, rights (including, without limitation, as to dividends, voting, redemption at the option of the holder, and rights to assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the entity), privileges and powers no less favorable (individually and in the aggregate) than the terms, preferences, rights, privileges and powers under the certificate of designations, in each case, such that the rights of the holders of Series B convertible preferred stock are protected against dilution or other impairment.

Debt Agreements. In addition to any other vote required by applicable law, the Company will not, without the consent of the holders of a majority of the Series B convertible preferred stock outstanding, enter into any debt agreement or other financing agreement which by its terms would restrict the payment of dividends pursuant to the certificate of designations or the payment of any amounts due upon the redemption of Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the certificate of designations.

Stockholders Agreement

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the form of stockholders agreement. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the form of stockholders agreement, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The form of stockholders agreement is included as Annex G hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the form of stockholders agreement in its entirety.

In connection with, and as a condition to, the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement, the Company, the CD&R Fund and any parallel or co-investment vehicles under common control or management with the CD&R Fund which purchased shares of Series B convertible preferred stock at the closing, which, collectively with the CD&R Fund, we refer to as the initial CD&R Investors, will enter into a stockholders agreement substantially in the form of the form of stockholders agreement attached hereto as Annex G, which stockholders agreement to be entered into at the closing we refer to as the stockholders agreement, setting forth certain terms and conditions regarding the CD&R investment and the ownership of the shares of the Series B convertible preferred stock, including certain restrictions on the transfer of the Series B convertible preferred stock and the common stock issuable upon conversion thereof and on certain actions of the CD&R Fund and its affiliates with respect to the Company, and to provide for, among other things, subscription rights, corporate governance rights and consent rights and other obligations and rights, including the material terms described below.

Board Representation and Other Related Matters

Under the stockholders agreement, from and after the closing and for so long as the CD&R Fund, the initial CD&R Investors and their affiliates that are permitted transferees under the stockholders agreement (see Transfer Restrictions below), which we collectively refer to as the CD&R Investors, hold voting power of the Company equal in the aggregate to at least 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing, the CD&R Investors will be entitled to nominate or designate to serve on the Company's board of directors (and to nominate or designate the replacements of such directors) a number of individuals proportionate to their percentage of the voting power of the Company at the relevant time, subject to any applicable legal and regulatory limitations. At each annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders at which any directors of the Company are to be elected during the time from and after the closing when the CD&R Investors are entitled to nominate or designate directors, the Company will take all corporate and other actions necessary to cause the applicable CD&R nominees or designees to be nominated for election as directors on our board of directors, and the Company will use our reasonable best efforts to solicit proxies in favor of the election of such nominees or designees to be elected at such meeting.

In addition, upon the occurrence of certain events relating to our failure to cause the CD&R Investors' nominees or designees to be elected to our board of directors or the removal of such persons without cause other than by action or request from the CD&R Investors, the CD&R Investors will have the right to designate a board observer to attend (without voting rights) each meeting of our board of directors or any committee thereof (and to receive from us, copies of all notices, information and other material we provide to our board of directors and committees) until such time as such event is cured.

Table of Contents

For so long as the CD&R Investors hold in the aggregate at least 20% of the voting power of the Company, the CD&R Investors will be entitled to appoint one of its designees to our board of directors as Lead Director or as Chairman of the Executive Committee of our board of directors.

The foregoing notwithstanding, for so long as stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors own in the aggregate at least 5% of the voting power of the Company, the Company's board of directors will include (1) at least two directors who will not be appointed or designated by the CD&R Investors and will be independent of both the CD&R Investors and the Company, which we refer to as the unaffiliated shareholder directors, and (2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. A vacancy with respect to an unaffiliated shareholder director must be filled by the remaining unaffiliated shareholder director or, if no such director exists, the directors not nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors, or if no such directors exist, all directors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors. In addition, for so long as the stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors own in the aggregate at least 5% of the voting power of the Company, an unaffiliated shareholder director may not be removed except by the affirmative vote (including by written consent) of stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors holding 80% of all of the voting power held by stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors.

Committees

Subject to any applicable legal and regulatory limitations, the CD&R Investors will also be entitled to representation on all committees of our board of directors proportionate to their percentage of the voting power of the Company at the relevant time. The foregoing notwithstanding, on each committee of our board of directors, there will be at least one CD&R Investors' nominee or designee and one unaffiliated shareholder director, provided that (1) where a director nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors is in a conflict position, such director may not serve on a special committee of our board of directors, and (2) where the CD&R Investors are in a conflict position, none of their nominees or designees (except those who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors) may serve on the relevant special committee of our board of directors.

From and after the closing, our board of directors will maintain an Affiliate Transactions Committee, which will be comprised of (1) the unaffiliated shareholder directors then in office and (2) one director nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors who is independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors if there is such a director on our board of directors, and otherwise, the Chief Executive Officer. The Affiliate Transactions Committee will review, consider and approve all affiliate transactions (subject to customary exceptions) and no such affiliate transaction can be effected without the prior approval of a majority of the directors on the Affiliate Transactions Committee; however, for so long as the provisions in Article TENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation are still in effect, an affiliate transaction that is subject to Article TENTH may be effected in accordance therewith, in lieu of the review, consideration or approval of the Affiliate Transactions Committee.

The foregoing rights and restrictions described in this section will terminate on the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold voting power of the Company equal in the aggregate to less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing.

Agreement with Respect to Controlled Company Status

Effective upon the closing, we will have taken all corporate action and filed all election notices or other documentation with the NYSE necessary to elect to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. In addition, for so long as we qualify as a controlled company within the meaning set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual or any similar provision in the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading, we have

agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to take advantage of the related exemptions therein. Such exemptions would exempt us from compliance with the NYSE's requirements for companies listed on the NYSE to have (1) a majority of independent directors, (2) a nominating/corporate governance committee and a compensation committee, in each case, composed entirely of independent directors, and (3) charters for the nominating/corporate governance committee and the compensation committee, in each case, addressing certain specified matters.

Table of Contents

Certain Limitations on Participation of Directors Nominated or Designated by the CD&R Investors

Series B Preferred Dividends. With respect to action to be taken, or any determination to be made, regarding whether dividends payable on the outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are to be paid in cash or in kind by issuing shares of Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the certificate of designations, such action will be taken or determination will be made by a majority of the directors of the Company who are (1) not nominated by the CD&R Investors or (2) if nominated by the CD&R Investors, independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors. The remaining directors will not have any right to vote upon, and may be excluded from participating in any discussion of, such action or determination.

The directors taking the action or making any determination with respect to whether dividends payable on the outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are to be paid in cash or in kind must reasonably believe that such action or determination will not (1) constitute a default under any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any of the credit agreements and related documents contemplated by the term loan refinancing or the ABL financing or any other material financing or loan agreement, contract or other instrument or obligation to which the Company or any of our subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of our subsidiaries are bound, or to which the Company or any of our subsidiaries or any of the properties, assets, or rights of the Company or any of our subsidiaries may be subject or (2) result in the Company having insufficient liquidity to operate our business in the ordinary course, consistent with past practice.

Amendment or Waiver under the Stockholders Agreement. With respect to any action by the Company to amend, waive, or enforce or comply with any provision of the stockholders agreement, or to make any determination pursuant to the stockholders agreement, in which the CD&R Investors have or may have interests different from the Company or its stockholders (other than the CD&R Investors), such action must be taken or determination must be made on behalf of the Company solely by a majority of the directors who are either (1) independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors and not nominated by the CD&R Investors or (2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Any action to amend, waive, enforce or comply with any provision of the stockholders agreement, or any determination to be made pursuant to the stockholders agreement, which either (a) relates to the qualifications for, selection, nomination or election of, or to the powers, rights or privileges of the unaffiliated shareholder directors or (b) requires the consent or approval of the unaffiliated shareholder directors must be taken, or must be made, on behalf of the Company solely by the unaffiliated shareholder directors. No director nominated or designated by the CD&R Investors will have any right to vote upon, and by a decision of the remaining directors may be excluded from participating in, any discussion of any such action or determination referenced in this paragraph.

Consent Rights

Pursuant to the stockholders agreement, for so long as the CD&R Investors hold at least 25% of the voting power of the Company, subject to certain customary exceptions and specified baskets, the Company will agree not to take certain actions without the consent of the CD&R Fund, including:

acquiring any business organizations or divisions of a business organization or any assets outside the ordinary course of business;

selling or disposing of any business organizations or divisions of a business organization or any assets outside of the ordinary course of business;

authorizing, issuing, delivering, selling, pledging, disposing of, granting, awarding or encumbering any shares (or options, warrants, convertible securities or rights of any kind to acquire or receive any shares) of capital stock, ownership interests or voting securities;

redeeming, repurchasing or acquiring any shares of capital stock or securities convertible into or exercisable for shares of the capital stock;

declaring or paying any extraordinary dividend or distribution;

incurring or guaranteeing any material indebtedness;

Table of Contents

engaging to a material extent in any business in which the Company is not currently engaged on the date of the closing or any business related, ancillary or complementary to such business;

adopting a plan or agreement of complete or partial liquidation or dissolution or commencing a bankruptcy proceeding;

increasing the size of the Company's board of directors; or

amending, altering or repealing the Company's charter or by-laws.

In addition, until such time as the CD&R Investors hold less than 20% of the voting power of the Company, without the prior consent of the CD&R Investors in their sole discretion, the Company will be prohibited from issuing any stock or security (other than common stock, Series B convertible preferred stock and, with respect to the foregoing, options, restricted stock units, restricted stock and stock appreciation rights issued by the Company pursuant to any employment contract, employee or benefit plan, stock purchase plan, stock ownership plan, stock option or equity compensation plan or other similar plan, to or for the benefit of any employees (including new employees), officers or directors of the Company or any of our subsidiaries), including, without limitation, non-participating preferred stock or debt securities that are convertible into shares of capital stock or capital stock equivalents by their terms, that gives rise, in the good faith belief of the CD&R Investors based on advice of counsel, to a not insubstantial risk that distributions (or deemed distributions) on the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock that are paid (or deemed paid) in shares of such stock would not be governed by the general rule of section 305(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Voting Agreement

At any time following the closing and prior to the earlier of (1) a change of control, (2) the six-month anniversary of the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold in the aggregate less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing and (3) the 30-month anniversary of the closing, during which the CD&R Investors hold less than 50% of the voting power of the Company, at any and all meetings of stockholders of the Company, the CD&R Investors will cause each share of common stock and Series B convertible preferred stock owned by it and certain of its affiliates to be present in person or represented by proxy at all meetings of stockholders of the Company and:

to vote in favor of all director nominees nominated by our board of directors for election by the stockholders in accordance with the terms of the stockholders agreement and our by-laws, and

as recommended by our board of directors on:

proposals relating to or concerning compensation or equity incentives for directors, officers or employees of the Company adopted in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice,

proposals the subject matter of which is described under "Consent Rights" above; and

proposals by stockholders of the Company (including under Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act);

provided, in respect of the first two proposals described above, that our board of directors' recommendation is consistent with the CD&R Investors' exercise of their consent rights and the submission of such proposal occurred in a reasonably timely manner and such proposals have not failed to receive the requisite number of affirmative votes for

the adoption of such proposals since the CD&R Investors exercise of their consent right in connection therewith.

Subscription Rights

From and after the closing until such time as the CD&R Investors hold in the aggregate less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing, if the Company offers to sell equity securities or equity security equivalents of the Company (other than certain excluded securities), the CD&R Investors will have the opportunity to acquire from the Company, for the same price and on the same terms as such equity securities or equity security equivalents are offered to others, up to the amount of equity securities or equity security equivalents required to enable the CD&R Investors to maintain, in the aggregate,

Table of Contents

(1) with respect to offers to sell common stock, other voting stock or equity security equivalents convertible or exchangeable for common stock or other voting stock, the CD&R Investors' then-current percentage of the Company's voting power and (2) with respect to offers to sell equity securities or equity security equivalents consisting of non-voting equity of the Company or equity security equivalents convertible or exchangeable for non-voting equity, the CD&R Investors' then-current percentage of the Company's economic interest.

Standstill

The restrictions described below in *Acquisition of Equity Securities* will terminate upon the occurrence of a change of control, and will not apply at any time during which stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors own less than 5% of the voting power of the Company.

The restrictions described below in *Acquisition of Debt Securities* and in *Acquisition of Equity Securities* will terminate upon the occurrence of certain events relating to our failure to cause the CD&R Investors' nominees or designees to be elected to our board of directors or the removal of such persons without cause other than by action or request from the CD&R Investors.

Acquisition of Equity Securities During the period from the closing until the earlier of (1) the 30-month anniversary of the closing and (2) the six-month anniversary of the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing, the CD&R Investors and certain of their affiliates will be prohibited from:

acquiring, offering or proposing to acquire, or agreeing to acquire, in any manner, beneficial ownership of any securities of the Company or our subsidiaries (including convertible securities) if immediately following such acquisition or agreement, the CD&R Investors and such affiliates would beneficially own in the aggregate more than 80% of the voting power or economic interest of the Company, other than acquisitions of (1) term loans advanced pursuant to, or outstanding under, the amended credit agreement contemplated by the term loan refinancing, or (2) securities of the Company or our subsidiaries resulting from (a) the payment of dividends in kind in additional shares of Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the certificate of designations (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Dividends*), (b) the exercise of subscription rights granted under the stockholders agreement (see *Subscription Rights* above), (c) the adjustment of the conversion price pursuant to the terms of the certificate of designations (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments*), (d) any repurchase or redemption of securities by the Company or (e) any other right of the CD&R Investors or transaction contemplated by the transaction documents; or

seeking, directly or indirectly, any amendment, waiver, or release of, or to contest the validity of, any of the restrictions described in the immediately preceding bullet point.

If the six-month anniversary of the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing has not occurred prior to the 30-month anniversary of the closing, during the period from the 30-month anniversary of the closing until such six-month anniversary, the CD&R Investors and certain of its affiliates will be restricted from engaging in the actions described above.

The CD&R Investors and their affiliates will not be prohibited under the stockholder agreement from taking the restricted actions described above (1) with respect to an exchange for equity securities of the Company of term loans advanced pursuant to, or outstanding under, the amended credit agreement contemplated by the term loan financing, if

the terms and conditions of such exchange are approved by the prior written consent of a majority of directors of the Company who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors or (2) from and after the 30-month anniversary of the closing, if a majority of the unaffiliated shareholder directors approve such action.

Acquisition of Indebtedness

During the period from the closing until the later of (1) the 30-month anniversary of the closing and (2) the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R

Table of Contents

Investors immediately following the closing, without the prior written consent of a majority of the directors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors, the CD&R Investors and certain of their affiliates will be prohibited from:

acquiring, offering or proposing to acquire or agreeing to acquire, directly or indirectly, in any manner, beneficial ownership of any indebtedness or debt securities of the Company other than term loans advanced pursuant to, or outstanding under, the amended credit agreement contemplated by the term loan refinancing; or

seeking, directly or indirectly, any amendment, waiver, or release of, or to contest the validity of, any of the restrictions described in the bullet point above by the Company.

Transfer Restrictions

The restrictions described in this section entitled *Transfer Restrictions* (1) do not apply at any time during which stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors own less than 5% of the voting power of the Company and (2) terminate upon the occurrence of a change of control.

Prior to the expiration of the transfer limitation period (as described below), without the approval of a majority of the directors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors, the CD&R Investors are prohibited from transferring, selling, pledging, assigning or otherwise disposing of (including by merger or otherwise by operation of law) any of the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock or common stock held by them, except:

to certain of its affiliates that agree to be bound by the provisions of the stockholders agreement;

to the Company;

in a qualified business combination (as described below) that is approved, or recommended to the stockholders of the Company, by our board of directors in which:

the consideration received by the CD&R Investors (other than with respect to any Series B convertible preferred stock that is exchangeable for, or convertible into, preferred stock of the resulting entity of the qualified business combination in accordance with the sub-bullet point below, if applicable), on an as-converted basis, is equal to, and in the same form as, the per-share consideration received by all holders of common stock; and/or

the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock are exchangeable for, or convertible into, shares of the resulting entity of the qualified business combination having terms, preferences, rights, privileges and powers substantially similar to and no more favorable than the terms, preferences, rights, privileges and powers under the certificate of designations, and the number of shares of such preferred stock of the resulting entity are convertible in the aggregate into the same amount and form of consideration that would have been receivable in the qualified business combination if the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock had been fully converted into the underlying common stock immediately prior to such qualified business combination; or

in a business combination (other than a qualified business combination) that is approved, or recommended to the stockholders of the Company, by our board of directors in which the consideration received by the CD&R Investors, on an as-converted basis, is equal to, and in the same form as, the per-share consideration received by all holders of common stock.

We refer to the transfers, sales, pledges, assignments and other disposals described in the immediately preceding four bullet points as the transfer restriction exceptions.

Table of Contents

Following the transfer limitation period, the CD&R Investors are prohibited from transferring, selling, pledging, assigning or otherwise disposing of (including by merger or otherwise by operation of law) any of the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock or common stock held by them, except:

the common stock held by it may be transferred, sold, pledged, assigned or otherwise disposed of (including by merger or otherwise by operation of law) by the CD&R Investors:

in a privately negotiated transaction, provided that the transferee represents that (1) it is not a competitor of the Company, (2) it is not and will not be, after giving effect to the transfer, a holder of 10% or more of the voting power of the Company or any affiliate of such a holder and (3) it is not proposing to effect a change of control of the Company without the prior written consent of a majority of the directors who are independent of both the Company and the CD&R Investors;

in public market trades, provided that the CD&R Investors or their affiliates transferring such shares have no reason to believe that any transferee does not meet the requirements described in clauses (1) through (3) described in the sub-bullet point immediately above and the CD&R Investors or their affiliates transferring such shares have instructed their underwriters or brokers, if any, of such requirements;

in a traditional underwritten public offering in accordance with the registration rights agreement; and

such shares of Series B convertible preferred stock or common stock may be transferred, sold, pledged, assigned or otherwise disposed of (including by merger or otherwise by operation of law) in the transfer restriction exceptions described in the paragraph above.

The transfer limitation period means any time during the period from the closing until the later of (1) the 30-month anniversary of the closing and (2) the occurrence of certain events relating to our failure to cause the CD&R Investors nominees or designees to be elected to our board of directors or the removal of such persons without cause other than by action or request from the CD&R Investors.

A qualified business combination means a business combination immediately following which:

the individuals and entities that were the beneficial owners of all classes and series of voting stock outstanding immediately prior to such business combination beneficially own more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of the entity resulting from such business combination in substantially the same proportions as their ownership immediately prior to such business combination; and

no person or group (excluding the CD&R Investors and their affiliates) either:

beneficially owns more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity than the CD&R Investors and their affiliates so beneficially own, and the CD&R Investors and their affiliates beneficially own more than 17.5% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity; or

beneficially owns 25% or more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity.

Hedging Restrictions

During the period from the closing until the later of (1) the 30-month anniversary of the closing and (2) the first date on which the CD&R Investors hold in the aggregate less than 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing, the CD&R Investors and certain of their affiliates will be prohibited from hedging its or their direct or indirect exposure to the common stock and the Series B convertible preferred stock, except in transactions involving an index-based portfolio of securities that includes common stock (provided that the value of such common stock in such portfolio is not more than 5% of the total value of the portfolio of securities).

Table of Contents

Agreement to Keep the CD&R Investors Informed

From and after the closing and so long as the CD&R Investors hold voting power of the Company equal in the aggregate to at least 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the initial CD&R Investors immediately following the closing, we will keep the CD&R Investors informed of any events, discussions, notices or changes with respect to any tax, criminal or regulatory investigation or action involving us or any of our subsidiaries that have been brought to the attention of our board of directors, and we will reasonably cooperate with the CD&R Investors and their affiliates in an effort to avoid or mitigate any cost or regulatory consequences to them that might arise from such investigation or action (including by reviewing written submissions in advance, attending meetings with authorities and coordinating and providing assistance in meeting with regulators).

Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation

As contemplated by the stockholders agreement, our board of directors have adopted and declared advisable, and unanimously approved and recommended to our stockholders each of the amendments to our restated certificate of incorporation described below:

amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock;

amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation to enable holders of a majority of the capital stock of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors to vote on proposals affecting the number of authorized shares of any class or classes of stock may be increased or decreased;

amendment to Article FIFTH, section 4 of our restated certificate of incorporation to provide for the removal of directors with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holder or holders of 80% of the outstanding voting power of the Company;

amendment to Article FIFTH, section 5 of our restated certificate of incorporation to provide for the calling of special meetings of stockholders by the Chief Executive Officer, by our board of directors pursuant to a resolution approved by a majority of the entire board of directors, or by the Secretary of the Company at the written request of the holder or holders of 25% of the outstanding voting power of the Company;

deletion of Article FIFTH, section 6 of our restated certificate of incorporation that prohibited stockholder action by written consent;

deletion of Article SEVENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation that prohibited preemptive or preferential right;

deletion of Article TENTH of our restated certificate of incorporation relating to approval of certain business combinations; and

addition of a new article to our restated certificate of incorporation relating to the number of votes that may be held by certain directors to give effect to the provisions in the stockholders agreement.

From and after the closing, we will use our best efforts and take all corporate actions necessary to obtain stockholder approval of each of the amendments described above promptly following the closing.

In the event that stockholder approval of the amendment to Article FOURTH, section 1 of our restated certificate of incorporation has not been obtained by the date that is 18 months following the closing, or at any time thereafter the number of shares of authorized but unissued and unreserved shares of common stock is less than 110% of the number of shares of common stock required to permit the conversion of all then-outstanding shares of Series B convertible preferred stock into shares of common stock in accordance with the applicable terms of conversion as set forth in the certificate of designations, the Company has agreed to take all actions permitted by law and consented to by the CD&R Investors (if such consent is required under the terms of the stockholders agreement), to increase the number of shares of authorized but unissued and unreserved shares of common stock, including, without limitation, at the option of the CD&R Investors (in their sole discretion), taking actions to effect a reclassification or to create a new class of capital stock generally identical to the common stock.

Table of Contents**Registration Rights Agreement**

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the form of registration rights agreement. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the form of registration rights agreement, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The form of registration rights agreement is included as Annex I hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the form of registration rights agreement in its entirety.

In connection with, and as a condition to, the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement, at the closing, we and the initial CD&R Investors will enter into a registration rights agreement substantially in the form of the form of registration rights agreement attached hereto as Annex I, which registration rights agreement to be entered into at the closing, we refer to as the registration rights agreement, under which the Company will grant the CD&R Investors customary demand and piggyback registration rights, including the material terms described below.

Demand Registration

At any time and from time to time on or after the earlier of (i) the 30-month anniversary of the closing (ii) a Company default event or (iii) a change of control event, the CD&R Fund may make a demand request in writing that the Company effect the registration under, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Securities Act of all or any part of the shares of common stock and all shares of capital stock of the Company as may be created as described under

The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation held by the CD&R Investors that were acquired by the CD&R Investors on, from and after the date of the registration rights agreement, including, without limitation, shares of common stock or such new class of capital stock, if any, issued or issuable upon conversion of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, and any shares of capital stock or other equity interests issued or issuable by the Company, directly or indirectly, by way of conversion or exchange thereof or stock dividends, stock splits or in connection with a combination of shares, reclassification, recapitalization, merger or other reorganization, which we refer to as the registrable shares (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti Dilution Adjustments for a description of convertibility of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock), held by the CD&R Investors. Promptly after its receipt of any demand request, the Company will give timely written notice of such request to all holders of registrable shares, and will use its reasonable best efforts to file, as promptly as reasonably practicable, a registration statement covering all registrable shares that have been requested to be registered (1) in the demand request and (2) by any holder of registrable shares by written notice to the Company, in accordance with the method or methods of disposition of the applicable registrable shares elected by the CD&R Fund.

Subject to certain limited exceptions, the CD&R Fund is entitled to initiate no more than five demand registrations (other than short-form registrations that are not underwritten offerings) and underwritten offerings included in a shelf registration statement as described below in Shelf Underwritten Offerings in the aggregate, provided, however, that (1) in respect of four out of the five such demand registrations to which holders of registrable shares are entitled under the registration rights agreement, the Company will not be obligated to effect such demand registration unless the amount of registrable shares requested to be registered by the CD&R Fund is reasonably expected to result in aggregate gross proceeds (prior to deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses) of at least \$50.0 million and (2) the Company will not be obligated to effect such demand registration during the four-month period following the effective date of a registration statement pursuant to any other registration initiated pursuant to a demand request.

We will agree to use our reasonable best efforts to qualify for registration on Form S-3 or any comparable or successor form or forms or any similar short-form registration at all times after the earlier of (i) the 30-month anniversary of the closing, (ii) a Company default event or (iii) a change of control event. If requested by the CD&R Fund and available to the Company, such short-form registration will be a shelf registration statement providing for the registration of, and the sale on a continuous or delayed basis of the registrable shares, pursuant to Rule 415 of the Securities Act or otherwise.

Table of Contents

At any time and from time to time on or after the earlier of (i) the 30-month anniversary of the closing (ii) a Company default event or (iii) a change of control event, the CD&R Fund will be entitled to request an unlimited number of short-form registrations, if available to the Company, with respect to the registrable shares held by the CD&R Investors, provided that the Company will not be obligated to effect any short-form registration (1) within 90 days after the effective date of any registration statement of the Company under the registration rights agreement and (2) unless the amount of registrable shares requested to be registered by the CD&R Investors is reasonably expected to result in aggregate gross proceeds (prior to deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses) of at least \$50.0 million. In no event will the Company be obligated to effect any shelf registration other than pursuant to a short-form registration.

Upon filing any short-form registration, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to keep such short-form registration effective with the SEC at all times and to re-file such short-form registration upon its expiration, and to cooperate in any shelf take-down, whether or not underwritten, by amending or supplementing the prospectus related to such short-form registration as may be reasonably requested by the CD&R Fund, or as otherwise required, until such time as all registrable shares that could be sold in such short-form registration have been sold or are no longer outstanding.

To the extent the Company is a well-known seasoned issuer (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act) at the time any demand request for a short-form registration is submitted to the Company and such demand request requests that the Company file a shelf registration statement, the Company will file an automatic shelf registration statement (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act) on Form S-3 in accordance with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC thereunder, which covers those registrable shares which are requested to be registered. The Company will use its reasonable best efforts to remain a well-known seasoned issuer (and not to become an ineligible issuer (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act)) during the period during which any automatic shelf registration statement is effective. If at any time following the filing of an automatic shelf registration statement when the Company is required to re-evaluate its well-known seasoned issuer status the Company determines that it is not a well-known seasoned issuer, the Company will use its reasonable best efforts to post-effectively amend the automatic shelf registration statement to a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 or file a new shelf registration statement on Form S-3 or, if such form is not available, Form S-1, have such shelf registration statement declared effective by the SEC and keep such Registration Statement effective during the period during which such short-form registration is required to be kept effective as described below.

If the filing, initial effectiveness or continued use of a registration statement, including a shelf registration statement, initiated with respect to a demand request, would require the Company to make a public disclosure of material nonpublic information, which disclosure in the good faith judgment of our board of directors (after consultation with external legal counsel) (1) would be required to be made in any registration statement so that such registration statement would not be materially misleading, (2) would not be required to be made at such time but for the filing, effectiveness or continued use of such registration statement or (3) would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company or our business or on the Company's ability to effect a bona fide and reasonably imminent material proposed acquisition, disposition, financing, reorganization, recapitalization or similar transaction, then the Company may, upon giving prompt written notice of such action to holders of registrable shares participating in such registration, delay the filing or initial effectiveness of, or suspend use of, such Registration Statement, provided that the Company will not be permitted to do so (a) more than once in any six-month period or (b) for any single period of time in excess of 60 days, or for periods exceeding, in the aggregate, 90 days during any 12-month period. In the event that the Company exercises its rights under the preceding sentence, such holders of registrable shares will agree to suspend, promptly upon receipt of the notice referred to above, the use of any prospectus relating to such registration in connection with any sale or offer to sell registrable shares. If the Company so postpones the filing of a prospectus or the effectiveness of a registration statement, the CD&R Fund will be entitled to withdraw such request.

If the CD&R Fund intends that the registrable shares covered by its demand request be distributed by means of an underwritten offering, the CD&R Fund will advise the Company of that as a part of the demand request, and the Company will advise the other holders of registrable shares with respect to such demand request. The CD&R Fund has the right to choose the lead underwriter, subject to the prior written consent, not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, of the Company for an underwritten demand request.

Table of Contents

The Company may not include in any underwritten demand registration any securities that are not registrable shares without the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund.

If any of the registrable shares registered pursuant to a demand registration are to be sold in a firm commitment underwritten offering, and the managing underwriter(s) of such underwritten offering advises holders of registrable shares participating in the registration that, in its good faith opinion, the total number or dollar amount of registrable shares (and, if permitted by the registration rights agreement, securities other than registrable shares requested to be included in such offering) exceeds the largest number or dollar amount of securities that can be sold in such offering without adversely affecting the marketability of the offering (including an adverse effect on the per share offering price), the Company will include in such offering only such number of securities that in the good faith opinion of such underwriter can be included without adversely affecting the marketability of the offering, in the following order of priority: (i) registrable shares of the CD&R Investors, *pro rata* (if applicable) on the basis of the aggregate number of registrable shares owned by each such CD&R Investor; (ii) registrable shares of other holders of registrable shares, *pro rata* (if applicable) on the basis of the aggregate number of registrable shares owned by each such holder; and (iii) any securities other than registrable shares requested to be included in the registration by any other person (including the securities to be sold for the account of the Company) allocated among such persons in such manner as the Company may determine.

Piggyback Registration

If, at any time on or after (i) the 30-month anniversary of the closing, (ii) a Company default event or (iii) a change of control event, the Company proposes or is required to file a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to an offering of securities of the Company, but excluding a registration statement that is (1) solely in connection with the registration of (a) equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof solely registered on Form S-4, Form S-8 or any successor forms thereto or (b) shares of equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof to be offered solely in connection with an employee benefit or dividend reinvestment plan or (2) pursuant to a demand registration, the Company will give written notice as promptly as practicable to all holders of registrable shares of its intention to effect such registration and will include in such registration all registrable shares with respect to which the Company has received timely written notice from such persons for inclusion therein.

If the securities that the Company proposes to register are to be sold in an underwritten primary offering on behalf of the Company, the holders of registrable shares are entitled to include all of their registrable shares on the same terms and conditions as provided to any securities other than registrable shares that are included therein. However, if the proposed offering includes a firm commitment underwritten offering, and the managing underwriter advises the Company and the holders of registrable shares that, in its good faith opinion, the number or dollar amount of registrable shares exceeds the largest number or dollar amount of securities that can be sold without adversely affecting the marketability of the offering, the Company will include in the registration or prospectus only the number of securities that, in the good faith opinion of the managing underwriter, will not adversely affect such marketability, in the following order of priority: (i) the securities other than registrable shares that the Company proposes to sell, (ii) the registrable shares requested to be included by all holders of registrable shares, *pro rata* (if applicable) on the basis of the aggregate number of shares held by each such holder, and (iii) any securities other than registrable shares requested to be included by any other person (other than the Company), allocated among such persons as determined by the Company.

If the securities proposed to be registered by the Company are to be sold in an underwritten secondary offering on behalf of holders of securities other than registrable shares, the holders of registrable shares are entitled to include all of their registrable shares on the same terms and conditions as provided to any securities other than registrable shares that are included therein. However, if the managing underwriter advises the Company and the holders of registrable

shares that, in its good faith opinion, the number or dollar amount of registrable shares proposed to be included exceeds the largest number or dollar amount of securities that can be sold without adversely affecting the marketability of the offering, the Company will include in the registration only the number of securities that, in the reasonable opinion of the managing underwriter, will not adversely affect such marketability, in the following order of priority: (i) (x) the securities other than registrable shares requested to be included pursuant to contractual rights of the holders of such securities and (y) the registrable shares, each *pro rata* (if applicable) on the basis of the aggregate number of securities requested to be

Table of Contents

included by each holder; and (ii) any securities other than registrable shares requested to be included by the Company or any other person not exercising a contractual right, allocated as determined by the Company.

Shelf Underwritten Offering

At any time that a shelf registration statement covering registrable shares is effective, if the CD&R Fund delivers a take-down notice to the Company stating that it or the CD&R Investors intend to effect an underwritten offering of all or part of its or the CD&R Investors' registrable shares, in each case included by it or them on the shelf registration statement, the Company will amend or supplement the shelf registration statement or related prospectus as may be necessary in order to enable such registrable shares to be distributed pursuant to the underwritten offering included in the shelf registration statement. The CD&R Fund is not entitled to deliver more than three take-down notices in any 12-month period and the CD&R Fund may not deliver any take-down notice within 30 days after the effective date of any registration statement of the Company.

In connection with any underwritten offerings included on a shelf registration statement, in the event that the managing underwriter advises the Company in its good faith opinion that marketing factors require a limitation on the number of shares which would otherwise be included in such take-down, the managing underwriter may limit the number of shares which would otherwise be included in such take-down offering in the same manner as is described under Demand Registration above with respect to a limitation of shares to be included in a registration.

Expenses

Each holder of registrable shares will bear the *pro rata* cost of underwriting discounts, selling commissions and transfer taxes associated with any sale of registrable shares.

All expenses incidental to the Company's obligations under the registration rights agreement, including registration and filing fees, fees and expenses with respect to compliance with securities and blue sky laws, certain expenses of counsel to holders of registrable shares, expenses associated with listing the securities to be registered, fees and disbursements of experts, counsel to and advisors engaged by the Company, and other internal expenses of the Company will be paid by the Company, other than expenses incurred in connection with certain withdrawn demands and shelf registrations and the underwriting discounts, selling commissions and transfer taxes associated with any sale of registrable shares.

Termination

The registration rights agreement will terminate when no registrable shares remain outstanding. Certain of the Company's obligations survive termination, as do the parties' indemnification obligations.

Lock-up and Holdback

The initial CD&R Investors may not transfer shares of Series B convertible preferred stock and their ability to transfer shares of common stock is limited (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Transfer Restrictions). All holders of registrable shares are subject to holdback restrictions that are applicable to offerings in which they participate. The Company is also subject to holdback restrictions with regards to the public sale or distribution or the filing of any registration statement covering any equity securities, subject to limited exceptions, or securities convertible into equity.

Limitations on Other Registration Rights

Until such time as the initial CD&R Investors own less than 25% of the voting power of the Company, the Company may not grant registration rights to any other holder or prospective holder of securities without the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund. For the term of the registration rights agreement, the Company will not take any action or permit any change to occur with respect to its securities which would adversely affect the right of any holder of registrable shares to participate in a registration undertaken pursuant to the registration rights agreement.

Table of Contents

Indemnification Agreement

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the form of indemnification agreement. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the form of indemnification agreement, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The form of indemnification agreement is included as Annex J hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the form of indemnification agreement in its entirety.

In connection with, and as a condition to, the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement, at the closing, we and our wholly owned subsidiaries, NCI Group, Inc., and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, which we collectively refer to as the NCI entities, will enter into an indemnification agreement substantially in the form of the form of indemnification agreement attached hereto as Annex J, which indemnification agreement to be entered into at the closing we refer to as the indemnification agreement, with the initial CD&R Investors and CD&R.

Pursuant to the indemnification agreement, and subject to the terms and conditions contained therein, each of the NCI entities will agree, jointly and severally, to indemnify, defend and hold harmless CD&R, the initial CD&R Investors and their general partners, the special limited partner of the CD&R Fund and any other investment vehicle that is a stockholder of the Company and is managed by CD&R or CD&R's affiliates, their respective affiliates, their respective successors and assigns, and the respective directors, officers, partners, members, employees, agents, advisors, consultants, representatives and controlling persons of each of them, or of their partners, members and controlling persons, and each other person who is or becomes a director or an officer of any of the Company or its subsidiaries, in each case irrespective of the capacity in which such person acts, from and against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, damages expenses or obligations:

resulting from third-party claims resulting from, arising out of or in connection with, based upon or relating to the Securities Act, the Exchange Act or any other applicable securities or other laws, in connection with any future securities offering of the Company, the term loan refinancing, the ABL financing, this exchange offer or any documents relating to any of these actions;

whether incurred with respect to third parties or otherwise, resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with, based upon or relating to the performance by CD&R or its affiliates of certain transaction services;

resulting from third-party claims against an indemnitee in its capacity as an affiliate (within the meaning of the Exchange Act) or controlling person (within the meaning of the Exchange Act) of the Company or any of our subsidiaries, resulting from, arising out of or in connection with, based upon or relating to any action or inaction by the Company or any of our subsidiaries, provided that such action or inaction was not proximately caused by such indemnitee;

whether incurred with respect to third parties or otherwise, resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with, based upon or relating to any payment or reimbursement by an indemnitee pursuant to indemnification arrangements to an indemnitee acting as a director or an officer of the Company or any of our subsidiaries or having served at the request of or for the benefit of the Company or any of our subsidiaries as a director, officer, member, employee or agent of or advisor or consultant to another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including with respect to any breach or alleged breach by an indemnitee of his or her fiduciary duty as a director or an officer of the Company or any of our subsidiaries; or

in each case including but not limited to any and all fees, costs and expenses (including without limitation fees and disbursements of attorneys and other professional advisers) incurred by or on behalf of any indemnitee in asserting, exercising or enforcing any of its rights, powers, privileges or remedies in respect of the indemnification agreement. The foregoing notwithstanding, none of the NCI entities are obligated to indemnify and hold harmless any indemnitee in respect of (1) any claim made against the indemnitee by any of its related persons, including its own directors, officers, shareholders, partners, members, employees, agents, advisors, consultants, representatives and controlling persons to the extent arising from any obligation of such indemnitee to such related person (whether arising from contract, by law or otherwise), other than to the extent such claim arises out of any indemnification obligation by such indemnitee to such

Table of Contents

related person as a result of such related person's service as a director or an officer of the Company or any of our subsidiaries or (2) any fraud or intentional misconduct by such indemnitee.

Retirement of Convertible Notes

We are proposing to effect the retirement of the convertible notes through the recapitalization plan, or, in the alternative, through the prepackaged plan.

Retirement of Convertible Notes in the Recapitalization Plan

As part of the recapitalization plan, in this exchange offer, we are offering to acquire any and all of the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock, in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the letter of transmittal.

For each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes that you tender and that we accept in this exchange offer, you will, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and the letter of transmittal, receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock. The cash payment and the shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be in full satisfaction of the principal amount of, and any accrued but unpaid interest through the consummation of this exchange offer on, the convertible notes so tendered and accepted.

The closing of the exchange offer is conditioned on the satisfaction or, with the consent of the CD&R Fund, waiver of the minimum tender condition, which requires that at least 95% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes are validly tendered and not withdrawn in this exchange offer. We intend, but are not required, to retire any convertible notes outstanding after the consummation of this exchange offer by exercising our redemption right under the convertible notes indenture on or after November 20, 2009; if we do not so exercise our redemption right such remaining convertible notes will otherwise be retired pursuant to the terms of the convertible notes indenture.

For a more detailed description of this exchange offer, see [The Exchange Offer](#).

Retirement of Convertible Notes in the Prepackaged Plan

As an alternative to the recapitalization plan, we have prepared the prepackaged plan for accomplishing the restructuring, including the retirement of the convertible notes. If the conditions to completion of the recapitalization plan are not satisfied or waived, including, for example, the minimum tender condition, not satisfied or waived, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 proceeding to effect the retirement of the convertible notes.

Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims as they would in this exchange offer. See [The Prepackaged Plan](#).

Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing

The debt financing arrangements described below with respect to the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing are subject to change (whether as a result of market conditions or otherwise), and the debt financings described below (or any other debt financings that may be obtained if one or both of the debt financings described below are not available

to us) remain subject to negotiation and completion of definitive documentation.

There can be no assurances as to when, or if, we will be successful with respect to the consummation of any transactions contemplated by the restructuring and no assurances as to the exact terms and conditions of each of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing.

Table of Contents

The Term Loan Refinancing

Overview

As part of the restructuring, we expect to enter into an amendment to our existing credit agreement under which we would repay approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and modify the terms and maturity of the remaining \$150.0 million balance.

Pursuant to the investment agreement, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use reasonable best efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts) to take all reasonable actions and to do all things reasonably necessary, proper or advisable, to enter into an amended credit agreement under the term loan refinancing, which will amend our existing credit agreement on the terms and conditions provided in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L and described below or otherwise contemplated thereby.

CD&R Fund may make such additions, modifications, alterations, corrections or other changes to the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L as it deems advisable in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) to:

add, provide or complete any schedule, annex, exhibit, numerical amount or other information that is omitted, missing or incomplete, or modify, alter, correct or change (including without limitation by deleting or replacing) any wording that is in brackets;

cure any ambiguity, mistake, omission or defect;

cure any inconsistency, including with any other provision of the same agreement or of the ABL agreement or any other transaction document or other agreement entered into in connection therewith;

address a material risk that (1) we will be unable to comply with the terms or conditions of the agreement or (2) by complying with the terms and conditions of the agreement we will be subject to a material risk of not complying with the terms and conditions of the ABL agreement or any other transaction document or other agreement entered into in connection therewith;

effect the intent evidenced by the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L; or

avoid adverse tax consequences to us or any of our subsidiaries.

If, for whatever reason, we cannot amend our existing credit agreement under the term loan refinancing on the terms and conditions contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, (with such changes thereto deemed advisable by the CD&R Fund in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts, including by actively assisting us in negotiation of related definitive documentation) to amend the terms of our existing credit agreement (1) on terms and conditions that are, in the CD&R Fund's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions contemplated in the form of the amended credit agreement attached

hereto as Annex K, or (y) otherwise acceptable to the CD&R Fund, and (2) to extend the maturity of \$150.0 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit agreement, as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than the outside date (which is described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement).

The closing of the term loan refinancing through the recapitalization plan requires the approval of all of the lenders under our existing credit agreement. We have not yet obtained such approval and it is uncertain if such approval will be obtained.

As an alternative, in the event that the conditions to completion of the recapitalization plan are not satisfied, including, for example, if we do not get the approval of all of the lenders under our existing credit agreement to

Table of Contents

amend our existing credit agreement, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 proceeding to effect the term loan refinancing (see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization Case in Connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant*). Under the prepackaged plan, the lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims as they would receive in the recapitalization plan (see *The Prepackaged Plan*).

Pursuant to the lock-up agreements, holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed a lock-up agreement have agreed, subject to the terms contained in the applicable lock-up agreement, (1) to support the term loan refinancing by accepting a portion of the repayment contemplated thereby and by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L and (2) to vote all their obligations under the existing credit agreement in favor of the prepackaged plan, among other things. In addition, pursuant to the lock-up agreements, we have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions of the lock-up agreements, that certain holders of outstanding obligations that execute an amendment and restatement of the existing credit agreement substantially in the form of the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L to give effect to the term loan refinancing will receive a consent fee equal to 2.0% of the aggregate principal amount of term loans held by such lender prior to giving effect to such term loan refinancing. See *The Restructuring The Lock-Up Agreements*. Including the holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement, we have commitments or consents from 100% of lenders under our existing credit agreement to consummate the term loan refinancing by executing the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L.

Form of Amended Credit Agreement

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L if it is executed at the closing of the restructuring. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We incorporate by reference into this document the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K and the matters set forth on Annex L. We encourage you to read carefully the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K and the matters set forth in Annex L in their entirety.

For reasons noted above, these terms and conditions may be subject to change. The form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L described below also remains subject to final negotiation of various items and completion of definitive ancillary documentation.

Maturity; Prepayments. The term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L would (i) if the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan, mature on the date that is four years and six months from the closing date thereof, or (ii) if the restructuring is accomplished through the prepackaged plan, mature on the fifth anniversary of the closing date thereof and, in either case, and, prior to such date, would amortize in nominal quarterly installments equal to one percent of the aggregate principal amount thereof *per annum*.

The term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K would be prepayable at our option at any time without premium or penalty (other than customary breakage costs). We would also have the

ability to repurchase a portion of the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L.

Table of Contents

Subject to certain exceptions, the term loans under form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L would be subject to mandatory prepayment and reduction in an amount equal to:

the net cash proceeds of (1) certain asset sales, (2) certain debt offerings and (3) certain insurance recovery and condemnation events;

50% of annual excess cash flow (as defined in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L) for any fiscal year ending on or after October 31, 2010, unless a specified leverage ratio target is met; and

the greater of \$10.0 million and 50% of certain 2009 tax refunds (as defined in the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters specified in Annex L) received by the Company.

Guarantees; Security. Our obligations under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L and any interest rate protection agreements or other permitted hedging agreement entered into with any lender under the amended credit agreement would be irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed on a joint and several basis by substantially the same guarantors as under our existing credit agreement.

In addition, the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, the permitted hedging agreements and the guarantees thereof would be secured by security interests on substantially all of the tangible and intangible assets of NCI and the guarantors, including liens on material real property and pledges of all the capital stock of all direct domestic subsidiaries owned by NCI and the guarantors and of up to 65% of the capital stock of certain direct foreign subsidiaries owned by NCI or any guarantor. The security and pledges would be subject to certain exceptions.

The liens securing the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L the permitted hedging agreements and the guarantees thereof would be first in priority (as between the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing) with respect to stock, material real property and assets other than accounts receivable, inventory and associated intangibles of the Company and the guarantors, subject to certain exceptions. Such liens would be second in priority (as between the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing) with respect to accounts receivable, inventory and associated intangibles of NCI and the guarantors, subject to certain exceptions. The details of the respective collateral rights between lenders under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L and lenders under the ABL agreement would be governed by an intercreditor agreement which has not yet been negotiated.

Pricing. At our election, the interest rates *per annum* applicable to the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement would be based on a fluctuating rate of interest measured by reference to either (1) an adjusted London inter-bank offered rate, or LIBOR, or (2) an alternate base rate, in each case, plus a borrowing margin.

Covenants. The form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L contains a number of covenants that, among other things, would limit or restrict the ability of NCI and its subsidiaries to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, prepay other indebtedness, make dividends and other restricted payments, create liens, make investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers, change the nature of their business and engage in certain transactions with affiliates.

In addition, under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L, NCI and its consolidated subsidiaries would be subject to a financial covenant that would require us to maintain a specified consolidated debt to EBITDA leverage ratio for specified periods (the requirement for this ratio would vary throughout the term of the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L) beginning with the four fiscal quarter period ending October 30, 2011. We would, however, not be subject to this financial covenant if certain prepayments or repurchases of the term loans under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L are made in the specified period.

Table of Contents

Events of Default. The form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L would contain customary events of default, including non-payment of principal, interest or fees, violation of covenants, material inaccuracy of representations or warranties, cross default and cross acceleration to certain other material indebtedness (including the ABL financing), certain bankruptcy events, certain ERISA events, material invalidity of guarantees or security interest, material judgments and change of control.

Incremental Commitments. The form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K also would provide that NCI has the right at any time to request up to \$50.0 million of incremental commitments in the aggregate under one or more incremental term loan facilities. The lenders under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L would not be under any obligation to provide any such incremental commitments, and any such addition of or increase in commitments would be subject to pro forma compliance with an incurrence-based financial covenant and customary conditions precedent. Our ability to obtain extensions of credit under these incremental commitments would be subject to the same conditions as extensions of credit would be under the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L.

The ABL Financing

Overview

As part of the restructuring, we also expect to enter into an ABL agreement for a \$125.0 million asset-based loan facility.

Pursuant to the investment agreement, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to take (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts) all reasonable actions and to do all things reasonably necessary, proper or advisable, to arrange and obtain revolving credit commitments for general corporate purposes from lenders under the ABL financing on terms and conditions that reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet attached hereto as Annex Q and described below and otherwise (1) are consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to us and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, as determined by the CD&R Fund in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or (2) are acceptable to the CD&R Fund in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith).

If, for whatever reason, we cannot arrange and obtain revolving credit commitments from lenders under the ABL financing on terms and conditions that reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet, we have agreed to use our reasonable best efforts (and the CD&R Fund has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with us in such efforts, including by actively assisting us in negotiation of related definitive documentation) to obtain alternative financing from alternative sources that (1) is on terms and conditions that (A) are no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to us and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL term sheet, as determined by the CD&R Fund in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) and (B) otherwise (x) are consistent with and no less favorable to us and the CD&R Fund (as a prospective stockholder of the Company) than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, as determined by the CD&R Fund in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) are acceptable to the CD&R Fund in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), and (2) provides revolving credit commitments in an aggregate principal amount that is not less than \$125.0 million, as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than the outside date.

Whether the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, the closing of the ABL financing requires the approval and execution of the ABL agreement by all lenders providing revolving credit commitments thereunder. We have been in discussions with prospective lenders regarding the terms of the ABL agreement to give effect to the ABL financing. While the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R has been agreed to in principle with such prospective lenders, and the prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter into the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, no loan commitment letter from any such prospective lender has been received by the Company.

Table of Contents

ABL Term Sheet

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the ABL financing if the ABL financing were consummated as set forth in the ABL term sheet attached hereto as Annex Q. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the ABL term sheet, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The ABL term sheet is included as Annex Q hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the ABL term sheet attached hereto as Annex Q in its entirety.

Availability. The ABL term sheet provides for an asset-based revolving credit facility which would allow aggregate maximum borrowings by us of up to \$125.0 million. As set forth in the ABL term sheet, extensions of credit under the ABL financing would be limited by a borrowing base calculated periodically based on specified percentages of the value of qualified cash, eligible inventory and eligible accounts receivable, less certain reserves and subject to certain other adjustments. Based on its discussions with prospective lenders under the ABL agreement, the Company expects that because of borrowing base constraints, initial availability under the ABL agreement will be substantially less than the \$125.0 million commitment described above and may be as low as \$45 million. Availability will be reduced by issuance of letters of credit as well as by borrowings.

Borrowers. NCI's domestic subsidiaries, NCI Group Inc. and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, would be borrowers under the ABL financing as set forth in the ABL term sheet, along with any other domestic operating subsidiary of NCI that has assets that may be included in the borrowing base. The borrowers under the ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, would be jointly and severally liable for all loans outstanding thereunder.

Maturity. The loans under the ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, would mature on the earlier of the fifth anniversary of the closing date thereof and the scheduled maturity of the term loans under the amended credit agreement.

Guarantees; Security. The obligations of the borrowers under the ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, would be guaranteed by us and each of our material domestic subsidiaries that is not a borrower under the ABL agreement.

In addition, the ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, and the guarantees thereof would be secured by a first priority lien on accounts receivable, inventory and associated intangibles of the Company and the guarantors, subject to certain exceptions, and a second priority lien on the assets securing the term loans under the amended credit agreement on a first-lien basis.

Pricing

As set forth in the ABL term sheet, the interest rates *per annum* applicable to borrowings under the ABL agreement would be based on a fluctuating rate of interest measured by reference to either (1) an adjusted London inter-bank offered rate or LIBOR or (2) an alternate base rate that, in each case, is expected to vary depending on the quarterly average excess availability under such facility.

Fees. As set forth in the ABL term sheet, the borrowers would pay (1) fees on the unused commitments of the lenders under the ABL agreement ranging from 0.75% to 1.00%, depending on the proportion of the loans that have been drawn under the ABL agreement and (2) other customary fees in respect of the ABL financing.

Covenants. The ABL financing as set forth in the ABL term sheet would include a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of one to one, which would apply if the borrowers fail to maintain a specified minimum level of borrowing capacity.

Incremental Commitments. The ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, would also provide that NCI has the right to request up to \$50.0 million of incremental commitments in the aggregate, although the lenders under the ABL financing, as set forth in the ABL term sheet, would not be expected to be under any obligation to provide any incremental commitments.

Table of Contents

Form of ABL Agreement

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R if it is executed at the closing of the restructuring. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We incorporate by reference into this document the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R. We encourage you to read carefully the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in its entirety.

For the reasons noted above, the terms and conditions of the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R may be subject to change. The form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R described below also remains subject to finalization of certain items and completion of definitive ancillary documentation. The prospective lenders have indicated their willingness to enter into the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R in connection with the consummation of the CD&R investment and have confirmed participation for the full availability under the ABL financing.

Availability. The form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R provides for an asset-based revolving credit facility which would allow aggregate maximum borrowings by us of up to \$125.0 million. As set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, extensions of credit under the ABL financing would be limited by a borrowing base calculated periodically based on specified percentages of the value of qualified cash, eligible inventory and eligible accounts receivable, less certain reserves and subject to certain other adjustments. Based on its discussions with prospective lenders under the ABL agreement, the Company expects that because of borrowing base constraints, initial availability under the ABL financing, if it were consummated in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, will be substantially less than the \$125.0 million commitment described above and may be as low as \$45.0 million. Availability will be reduced by issuance of letters of credit as well as by borrowings.

Borrowers. NCI's domestic subsidiaries, NCI Group Inc. and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, would be borrowers under the ABL financing as set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R. The form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R does not, unlike the ABL term sheet, contemplate that any other subsidiary of NCI will be a borrower at the closing of the ABL financing. The borrowers under the ABL financing, as set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, would be jointly and severally liable for all loans outstanding thereunder.

Maturity. The loans under the ABL financing, as set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, would mature on the earlier of the fifth anniversary of the closing date thereof and the scheduled maturity of the term loans under the amended credit agreement.

Guarantees; Security. The obligations of the borrowers under the ABL financing, as set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, would be guaranteed by us and each of our material domestic subsidiaries that is not a borrower under the ABL agreement.

In addition, the ABL financing, as set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, and the guarantees thereof would be secured by a first priority lien on accounts receivable, inventory and associated intangibles of NCI, the borrowers and the guarantors, subject to certain exceptions, and a second priority lien on the assets securing the term loans under the amended credit agreement on a first-lien basis.

Pricing. As set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, the interest rates *per annum* applicable to borrowings under the ABL agreement would be based on a fluctuating rate of interest measured by reference to either (1) an adjusted London inter-bank offered rate or LIBOR or (2) an alternate base rate, in each case, plus a borrowing margin that will vary depending on the quarterly average excess availability under such facility.

Fees. As set forth in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, the borrowers would pay (1) fees on the unused commitments of the lenders under the ABL agreement ranging from 0.75% to 1.00%, depending on the proportion of the loans that have been drawn under the ABL agreement and (2) other customary fees in respect of the ABL financing.

Table of Contents

Covenants. The ABL financing, as set forth in form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, would include a number of covenants that, among other things, would limit or restrict the ability of NCI, the borrowers and the other subsidiaries of NCI to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, engage in sale and leaseback transactions, prepay other indebtedness, modify organizational documents and certain other agreements, create restrictions affecting subsidiaries, make dividends and other restricted payments, create liens, make investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers, change the nature of their business and engage in certain transactions with affiliates.

In addition, under the form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R, the ABL financing would include a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of one to one, which would apply if the borrowers fail to maintain a specified minimum level of borrowing capacity. The borrowing capacity at which the financial covenant would apply is lower in the form of ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R than in the ABL term sheet.

Events of Default. The ABL financing, as set forth in the form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R would contain customary events of default, including non-payment of principal, interest or fees, violation of covenants, material inaccuracy of representations or warranties, cross default and cross acceleration to certain other material indebtedness (including the term loan financing), certain bankruptcy events, certain ERISA events, material invalidity of guarantees, security interests or financing agreements, material suspension or discontinuation of business, certain material governmental orders, material judgments and change of control.

Incremental Commitments. The form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R also would provide that the borrowers have the right at any time to request up to \$50.0 million of incremental commitments in the aggregate under one or more incremental term loan facilities. The lenders under the form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R would not be under any obligation to provide any such incremental commitments, and any such addition of or increase in commitments would be subject to customary conditions precedent. Our ability to obtain extensions of credit under these incremental commitments would be subject to the same conditions as extensions of credit would be under the form of the ABL agreement attached hereto as Annex R.

The Lock-Up Agreements

The following are summaries of the material terms and provisions of each of the lock-up agreements. While we believe these summaries cover the material terms and provisions of each of the lock-up agreements, they may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The lock-up agreements (including the amendment to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) is included as Annexes N, O, and P hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document. We encourage you to read carefully the lock-up agreements in their entirety (including the amendment to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009).

Lock-Up Agreement (dated August 13, 2009)

We entered into a lock-up and voting agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, which, as amended, we refer to as the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009), with certain holders of convertible notes, pursuant to which such holders, who hold more than 79% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding convertible notes, have agreed to support the restructuring.

Agreement to Tender. Unless this exchange offer is terminated in accordance with its terms, each holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) has irrevocably agreed to tender in this exchange offer, and not withdraw from this exchange offer, all convertible notes held by or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof so long as:

certain economic terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner adverse to such holder;
the consideration (and mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is not altered or amended; and
certain other terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to such holder.

Table of Contents

Agreement to Support the Term Loan Refinancing. Each holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) that is also a lender under our existing credit agreement has agreed, contemporaneously with the closing of the restructuring, (1) to support the term loan refinancing by accepting its portion of the repayment contemplated thereby with respect to the term loans and other obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof, and (2) with respect to the remaining obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof, by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L (with the completion of items currently blank as agreed upon by Wachovia Bank, National Association (or any successor thereto), as administrative agent under our existing credit agreement) so long as:

- certain economic terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner adverse to such holder;
- the consideration (and mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is not altered or amended; and
- certain other terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to such holder.

Agreement to Vote. So long as the prepackaged plan attached hereto as Annex A is not altered or amended and such holder has received this prospectus/disclosure statement and related documents in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code, each holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) has agreed to vote (and not change or revoke such vote) all convertible notes and all obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote thereof, to accept the prepackaged plan.

Additional Agreements of the Lock-Up Agreement (dated August 31, 2009) Parties; Agreement with Respect to Other Transactions. Each holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) has agreed that, from and after August 31, 2009:

it will not solicit, support or encourage any other plan, proposal or offer of reorganization, merger, restructuring or recapitalization or otherwise delay or impede the consummation of the restructuring; and

it will not:

object to, or otherwise commence any proceeding opposing, any of the terms of the transactions contemplated by the restructuring;

take any action, including, but not limited to, objecting to the prepackaged plan, which is inconsistent with, or that would delay approval, consummation or confirmation of any of the transactions contemplated by the restructuring; or

take any action that would make any representation or warranty of such holder untrue or incorrect in any material respect, or have the effect of preventing or disabling such holder from performing its obligations hereunder in any material respect.

Restrictions on Transfer of Convertible Notes and Term Loans. Each holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) has agreed, from and after the date of the lock-up agreement (dated

August 31, 2009), not to directly or indirectly transfer or dispose of or enter into an agreement or arrangement to transfer or dispose of (other than ordinary course pledges in a prime brokerage account) any convertible note or term loans under our existing credit agreement or interest therein other than a transfer that does not require registration under the Securities Act and in accordance with the terms of our existing credit agreement and the convertible notes indenture, as applicable, to (1) a transferee that is already a party to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) or any of such person's or entity's affiliates or (2) a transferee that represents that it is a Qualified Institutional Buyer within the meaning of Rule 144A promulgated under the Securities Act.

Unless a transfer is being made to a person or party that is already a party to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009), such transfer must be pursuant to a privately negotiated transaction and the transferee must

Table of Contents

execute and deliver to the Company a joinder agreement pursuant to which the transferee agrees to be bound by the terms of the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009).

A holder of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) may acquire additional convertible notes or term loans under our existing credit agreement so long as such convertible notes or term loans become subject to the terms the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009).

Registration Rights. Unless the shares of common stock issuable in respect of the convertible notes subject to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) are registered (which they will be upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part), we have agreed to enter into a registration rights agreement containing customary indemnification provisions for selling stockholders that will provide registration rights to the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) in the event that the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan or, if the restructuring is accomplished through the prepackaged plan and the common stock received by them is not freely tradable pursuant to the provisions of section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code. We will be obligated, under such registration statement, if any, subject to customary blackout periods in connection with earnings releases and material corporate developments:

to file with the SEC a shelf registration statement no later than five business days following the closing of the restructuring covering resales of the common stock received by each such holder on a delayed or continuous basis; and

to use our best efforts to maintain the effectiveness of such registration until the earlier of (a) six months after the closing of the restructuring and (b) the date on which all such common stock held by the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) can be resold pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act without limitation as to volume or compliance with any manner of sale requirements.

However, if, during the six months after the completion of the restructuring, there is not adequate current public information with respect to the Company for purposes of resales of common stock under Rule 144(c) under the Securities Act, then we will use our best efforts to maintain the effectiveness of the registration until the earlier of (a) 12 months after the closing of the restructuring and (b) the date on which all such common stock held by the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) can be resold pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act without limitation as to volume or compliance with any manner of sale requirements.

Covenants of the Company. Pursuant to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009), we have agreed that we will not, among other things:

publish or disclose the identity of any of the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) without such holder's consent (except the Company may disclose the aggregate amount of convertible notes and/or existing term loans held by such holders without reference to the convertible notes and/or term loans held by any such individual holder and the nature of such holder's obligations under the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009), subject to the right of such holder to review and comment on any such disclosure prior to publication, disclosure or filing); or

enter into any agreement or other arrangement with any holder of convertible notes or term loans under our existing credit agreement with respect to or relating in any way to the restructuring if such agreement or other arrangement contains any term or provision relating to the consideration in respect of such convertible notes or term loans (including any agreement to pay any fee or other consideration (whether or not in cash), and any conditions relating to such payments) that is more favorable to such holder than those contained in agreements

and arrangements with the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) parties without also providing such term, provision or condition for the benefit of the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009).

Agreements Related to our Board of Directors. Pursuant to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009), we have agreed that the directors who are members of our board of directors effective as of the closing of the restructuring will include two directors, who are independent from both the Company, on the one hand, and the

Table of Contents

CD&R Fund and its affiliates, on the other hand, who are unaffiliated shareholder directors (as described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters).

We have also agreed that for so long as the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) is in effect and there has been no material breach by the holders that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009):

holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes may submit proposed persons to serve as the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, and the Company will consider in good faith any such proposed persons;

prior to the appointment of the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will provide notice prior to the closing of the restructuring of the Company s proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors; and

in the event that holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes provide written notice to the Company within seven business days that they object to the proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will propose (and, if necessary, continue to propose) alternative initial unaffiliated shareholder directors so that at least one of the two initial unaffiliated shareholder directors is acceptable to holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes.

Termination. The lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) may be terminated by a number of holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) holding not less than two-thirds in aggregate principal amount of all convertible notes held by all holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009):

if an event occurs that would provide either the Company or the CD&R Fund with the right to terminate the investment agreement under the terms of the investment agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement);

if the Company materially breaches any of our obligations set forth in the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009);

if the investment agreement terminates in accordance with its terms (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement);

if certain economic terms of the restructuring are altered or amended in a manner adverse to the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) that are lenders under our existing credit agreement;

if the consideration (or mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is altered or amended;

if certain other terms of the restructuring are altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to the holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009);

if the minimum tender condition is decreased or is altered or amended, or the amended credit agreement is executed and in effect and, at such time, the amended credit agreement is not binding on all lenders under our existing credit agreement;

if an event of default under the convertible notes indenture has occurred and is continuing (other than an event of default resulting from the commencement of a filing with respect to the prepackaged plan); or

at any time after 11:59 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

Lock-Up Agreement (dated October 8, 2009)

We entered into a lock-up and voting agreement, dated as of October 8, 2009, which we refer to as the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), with certain holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement, pursuant to which such holders have agreed to support the restructuring.

Table of Contents

Agreement to Tender. Unless this exchange offer is terminated in accordance with its terms, each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that holds convertible notes and that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) has irrevocably agreed to tender in this exchange offer, and not withdraw from this exchange offer, all convertible notes held by or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof so long as:

- certain economic terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner adverse to such holder;
- the consideration (and mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is not altered or amended; and
- certain other terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to such holder.

Agreement to Support the Term Loan Refinancing. Each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) has agreed, contemporaneously with the closing of the restructuring, (1) to support the term loan refinancing by accepting its portion of the repayment contemplated thereby with respect to the term loans and other obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof, and (2) with respect to the remaining obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote or dispose thereof, by executing an amendment to our existing credit agreement in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L (with the completion of items currently blank as agreed upon by Wachovia Bank, National Association (or any successor thereto), as administrative agent under our existing credit agreement) so long as:

- certain economic terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner adverse to such holder;
- the consideration (and mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is not altered or amended; and
- certain other terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to such holder.

Each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement agreed that all the ancillary financing documents entered into or delivered pursuant to or in connection with any of the transactions contemplated by the Amended Credit Agreement will be in form and substance as agreed upon by Wachovia Bank, National Association (or any successor thereto), as administrative agent. However, to the extent draft forms of any such documents have been provided to such holder prior to the execution of the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), the definitive forms of such documents will not be materially altered from the draft forms so provided in a manner adverse to the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement.

Agreement to Vote. So long as the prepackaged plan attached hereto as Annex A is not altered or amended and such holder has received this prospectus/disclosure statement and related documents in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code, each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) has agreed to vote (and not change or revoke such vote) all convertible notes and all obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it or beneficially owned by it, or with respect to which it serves as manager or investment advisor having the unrestricted power to vote thereof, to accept the prepackaged plan.

Additional Agreements of the Lock-Up Agreement (dated October 8, 2009) Parties; Agreement with Respect to Other Transactions. Each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) has agreed that, from and after October 8, 2009:

it will not solicit, support or encourage any other plan, proposal or offer of reorganization, merger, restructuring or recapitalization or otherwise delay or impede the consummation of the restructuring; and

it will not:

object to, or otherwise commence any proceeding opposing, any of the terms of the transactions contemplated by the restructuring;

Table of Contents

take any action, including, but not limited to, objecting to the prepackaged plan, which is inconsistent with, or that would delay approval, consummation or confirmation of any of the transactions contemplated by the restructuring; or

take any action that would make any representation or warranty of such holder untrue or incorrect in any material respect, or have the effect of preventing or disabling such holder from performing its obligations hereunder in any material respect.

so long as:

certain economic terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner adverse to such holder;

the consideration (and mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is not altered or amended; and

certain other terms of the restructuring are not altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to such holder.

Restrictions on Transfer of Convertible Notes and Term Loans. Each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) has agreed, from and after the date of the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), not to directly or indirectly transfer or dispose of or enter into an agreement or arrangement to transfer or dispose of (other than ordinary course pledges in a prime brokerage account) any convertible note or term loans under our existing credit agreement or interest therein other than a transfer that does not require registration under the Securities Act and in accordance with the terms of our existing credit agreement and the convertible notes indenture, as applicable, to (1) a transferee that is already a party to the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) or any of such person's or entity's affiliates, (2) a transferee that is party under the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) or (3) a transferee that represents that it is a Qualified Institutional Buyer within the meaning of Rule 144A promulgated under the Securities Act.

Unless a transfer is being made to a person or party that is already a party to the lock-up agreement (dated August 31, 2009) or lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), such transfer must be pursuant to a privately negotiated transaction and the transferee must execute and deliver to the Company a joinder agreement pursuant to which the transferee agrees to be bound by the terms of the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009).

A holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) may acquire additional convertible notes or term loans under our existing credit agreement so long as such convertible notes or term loans become subject to the terms the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009).

Registration Rights. Unless the shares of common stock issuable in respect of the convertible notes subject to the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), are registered (which they will be upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part), we have agreed to enter into a registration rights agreement containing customary indemnification provisions for selling stockholders that will provide registration rights to the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) in the event that the restructuring is accomplished through the recapitalization plan or, if the restructuring is accomplished through the prepackaged plan and the common stock received by them is not freely tradable pursuant to the provisions of section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code. We will be obligated, under such registration statement, if any, subject to customary blackout periods in connection with earnings releases and material corporate developments:

to file with the SEC a shelf registration statement no later than five business days following the closing of the restructuring covering resales of the common stock received by each such holder on a delayed or continuous basis; and

to use our best efforts to maintain the effectiveness of such registration until the earlier of (a) six months after the closing of the restructuring and (b) the date on which all such common stock held by the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) can be resold pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act without limitation as to volume or compliance with any manner of sale requirements.

Table of Contents

However, if, during the six months after the completion of the restructuring, there is not adequate current public information with respect to the Company for purposes of resales of common stock under Rule 144(c) under the Securities Act, then we will use our best efforts to maintain the effectiveness of the registration until the earlier of (a) 12 months after the closing of the restructuring and (b) the date on which all such common stock held by the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) can be resold pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act without limitation as to volume or compliance with any manner of sale requirements.

Covenants of the Company. Pursuant to the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), we have agreed that we will not, among other things:

publish or disclose the identity of any of the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) without such holder's consent (except the Company may disclose the aggregate amount of convertible notes and/or existing term loans held by such holders without reference to the convertible notes and/or term loans held by any such individual holder and the nature of such holder's obligations under the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), subject to the right of such holder to review and comment on any such disclosure prior to publication, disclosure or filing); or

enter into any agreement or other arrangement with any holder of convertible notes or term loans under our existing credit agreement with respect to or relating in any way to the restructuring if such agreement or other arrangement contains any term or provision relating to the consideration in respect of such convertible notes or term loans (including any agreement to pay any fee or other consideration (whether or not in cash), and any conditions relating to such payments) that is more favorable to such holder than those contained in agreements and arrangements with the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) parties without also providing such term, provision or condition for the benefit of the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009).

Agreements Related to our Board of Directors. Pursuant to the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), we have agreed that the directors who are members of our board of directors effective as of the closing of the restructuring will include two directors, who are independent from both the Company, on the one hand, and the CD&R Fund and its affiliates, on the other hand, who are unaffiliated shareholder directors (as described in *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters*).

We have also agreed that for so long as the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) is in effect and there has been no material breach by the holders that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009):

holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes may submit proposed persons to serve as the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, and the Company will consider in good faith any such proposed persons;

prior to the appointment of the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will provide notice prior to the closing of the restructuring of the Company's proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors; and

in the event that holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes provide written notice to the Company within seven business days that they object to the proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will propose (and, if necessary, continue to propose) alternative initial unaffiliated shareholder directors so that at least one of the two initial unaffiliated shareholder directors is acceptable to holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes.

Agreement Related to Consent Fee. Pursuant to the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009), we have agreed that each holder of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that, prior to the filing of the bankruptcy proceeding contemplated by the prepackaged plan, if applicable, executes an amendment and restatement of the existing credit agreement substantially in the form of the form of amended credit agreement

Table of Contents

attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L to give effect to the term loan refinancing will receive a consent fee equal to 2.0% of the aggregate principal amount of term loans held by such lender prior to giving effect to such term loan refinancing.

Termination. The lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) may be terminated by a number of holders of convertible notes that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009) holding not less than two-thirds in aggregate principal amount of all convertible notes and obligations under our existing credit agreement held by all holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009):

if an event occurs that would provide either the Company or the CD&R Fund with the right to terminate the investment agreement under the terms of the investment agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement);

if the Company materially breaches any of our obligations set forth in the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009);

if the investment agreement terminates in accordance with its terms (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Termination of the Investment Agreement);

if certain economic terms of the restructuring are altered or amended in a manner adverse to the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009);

if the consideration (or mix of consideration) being offered in the restructuring is altered or amended;

if certain other terms of the restructuring are altered or amended in a manner materially adverse to the holders of outstanding obligations under our existing credit agreement that executed the lock-up agreement (dated October 8, 2009);

if the minimum tender condition is decreased or is altered or amended, or the amended credit agreement is executed and in effect and, at such time, the amended credit agreement is not binding on all lenders under our existing credit agreement;

if an event of default under the convertible notes indenture has occurred and is continuing (other than an event of default resulting from the commencement of a filing with respect to the prepackaged plan); or

at any time after 11:59 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

Table of Contents**ACCOUNTING TREATMENT****Accounting for Induced Conversion Charge and Settlement Gain Related to Convertible Notes**

We expect to record the net result of the induced conversion charge (reflected in accordance with SFAS 84, *Induced Conversions of Convertible Debt* an amendment of APB Opinion No. 26) and the gain on settlement of a convertible instrument related to this exchange offer (reflected in accordance with EITF03-07, *Accounting for the Settlement of the Equity-Settled Portion of a Convertible Debt Instrument That Permits or Requires the Conversion Spread to Be Settled in Stock* (Instrument C of Issue No. 90-19)) as a debt extinguishment charge of approximately \$93.2 million. SFAS 84, *Induced Conversions of Convertible Debt* an amendment of APB Opinion No. 26, requires us to recognize an expense equal to the fair value of all securities or other consideration transferred in the exchange of the convertible notes in excess of the fair value of securities issuable pursuant to the original conversion terms. In accordance with the original conversion terms of the convertible notes, the expected fair value of common stock issuable upon conversion is approximately \$273.2 million (based on a \$2.61 closing stock price for common stock as of September 4, 2009) as compared to the expected fair value of common stock issuable pursuant to this exchange offer of approximately \$11.7 million. This would result in an expected induced conversion charge of approximately \$261.5 million. EITF03-07, *Accounting for the Settlement of the Equity-Settled Portion of a Convertible Debt Instrument That Permits or Requires the Conversion Spread to Be Settled in Stock* (Instrument C of Issue No. 90-19), requires us to account for the settlement of the convertible notes as a debt extinguishment. When extinguishment accounting is required, the reacquisition price of the debt would include the cash payment for the accreted value of the debt and the fair value of the equity instruments issued to settle the conversion spread. The original conversion rate is 24.9121 shares per \$1,000 of principal and the exchange of the convertible notes results in 390 shares per \$1,000 of principal. The change in conversion rate based on a \$2.61 closing stock price for common stock as of September 4, 2009 is expected to result in a gain on settlement of \$168.3 million.

Accounting for the Issuance of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock

In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting SFAS 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* the Company expects to classify the Series B convertible preferred stock as an equity host contract. We expect that certain dividend related features of the Series B convertible preferred stock that are not clearly and closely related to an equity host contract will be bifurcated and be recognized at fair value. At the closing of the recapitalization plan, we expect to record a derivative liability of approximately \$7.5 million (\$4.6 million net of tax) related to the issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock. This amount is estimated based on the probability that we would be required to pay dividends at an increased rate due to the occurrence of a default. For a description of the designations, preferences and rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock, see *The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Certain Terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock*.

In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force, EITF Issue 98-5, *Accounting for Convertible Securities with Beneficial Conversion Features or Contingently Adjustable Conversion Ratios* and EITF Issue 00-27, *Application of Issue 98-5 to Certain Convertible Instruments*, the Company expects to recognize approximately \$10.4 million in intrinsic value of the beneficial conversion feature related to the Series B convertible preferred stock shares (that is, the difference between the conversion price and the fair value of the common stock into which the Series B convertible preferred stock is convertible, multiplied by the number of shares into which the Series B convertible preferred stock is convertible) at the closing of the recapitalization plan. This amount representing the intrinsic value of the beneficial conversion feature related to the Series B convertible preferred stock is calculated based on (1) the number of shares of Series B convertible preferred stock that would be immediately convertible into common stock at

the closing of the recapitalization plan, which is approximately 7.8 million and (2) the value of such shares of common stock upon conversion based on the closing stock price for common stock of \$2.61 per share as of September 4, 2009 *less* the equivalent conversion price of \$1.2748 per share.

At the closing of the recapitalization plan, due to the contingency related to the number of authorized common shares, we expect to record the Series B convertible preferred stock on our balance sheet at \$212.6 million, which is calculated based on the proceeds from the CD&R Fund from the CD&R investment *less* the fair value of the

Table of Contents

embedded derivative liability, net of tax, described above and the reimbursement or payment of transaction costs related to the recapitalization plan, including amounts due to the CD&R Fund.

Under the stockholders agreement, we are required to use our best efforts to obtain necessary approvals to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock. Upon receipt of such approvals, we expect to recognize an additional \$259.7 million in intrinsic value of the remaining contingent beneficial conversion feature.

Accounting for Accelerated Vesting of Shares Issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan

In accordance with SFAS 123(R), Share-Based Payment, the Company recognizes compensation costs related to the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan by amortizing the fair value of shares valued on the date of grant over the expected service period related to each stock grant. The shares granted under this program vest ratably over the service period which is typically over a four-year period. The shares granted under this program automatically vest upon a contractually defined change of control. As a result of the recapitalization plan, most of the shares are expected to fully vest resulting in the recognition of approximately \$9.6 million accelerated compensation costs. In addition, the Company expects to have a tax deduction that is less than the accelerated compensation costs, thus resulting in an elimination of the deferred tax asset related to stock compensation and a reduction in the APIC pool of approximately \$6.0 million.

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following unaudited pro forma financial information has been presented to give effect to and show the pro forma impact of the transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan, which include (1) this exchange offer, (2) the CD&R investment, (3) the term loan refinancing and (4) the ABL financing, on NCI's balance sheet as of August 2, 2009, and also describes the impact of the recapitalization plan on NCI's earnings for the fiscal year ended November 2, 2008 and the nine months ended August 2, 2009. The unaudited pro forma financial information is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the financial position or results of operations that would have actually been reported had the transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan occurred at the beginning of the periods presented, nor is it indicative of our future financial position or results of operations. The unaudited pro forma financial information presented in this prospectus/disclosure statement does not give effect to the pro forma impact of the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan. The filing of a prepackaged plan would result in the application of restart accounting which could significantly change to recorded value of asset, liabilities and stockholders equity.

The unaudited pro forma adjustments were prepared based on the assumptions we believe are reasonable. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet as of August 2, 2009, gives effect to the recapitalization plan as if it had occurred on August 2, 2009. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations for the year ended November 2, 2008, and the nine months ended August 2, 2009, give effect to the recapitalization plan as if it had occurred on October 29, 2007.

Due to the fact that the transactions contemplated by the recapitalization plan have not yet been completed, except as indicated, the selected unaudited pro forma financial information assumes that:

100% of the convertible notes are exchanged for a combination of \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of the convertible notes and accrued and unpaid interest thereon;

the conversion price of the Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued in the CD&R investment is \$1.27 per share of common stock;

the restructuring is effected through the consummation of the recapitalization plan as opposed to the prepackaged plan;

the assumed market price for common stock for all computations is \$2.61 per share, which was the closing stock price on September 4, 2009; and

the fair market value of the derivative liability related to default dividend rates is expected to be \$7.5 million in all periods.

If (1) the consideration offered in this exchange offer change, (2) the conversion price of the Series B convertible preferred stock change (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Convertibility and Anti-Dilution Adjustments) and/or (3) we are required to file the prepackaged plan (see The Prepackaged Plan), the unaudited pro forma adjustments could be materially different. These adjustments could result in significant differences in the estimates for the embedded derivative liability of the Series B convertible preferred stock, the estimated beneficial conversion feature of the Series B convertible preferred stock, and the estimated debt extinguishment cost of the convertible notes. See Accounting Treatment Accounting for the Issuance of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock.

The selected unaudited pro forma financial information has been derived from our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009, and our consolidated financial statements for the quarterly period ended May 3, 2009, which are included in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q, each of which is incorporated herein by reference and should be read in conjunction with the sections of this prospectus/disclosure statement titled Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data. Our financial statements and schedules included in this prospectus/disclosure statement have been prepared on the assumption that we have the ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include any adjustments related to the recoverability and classification of asset carrying amounts or the amount and classification of liabilities that might result should we be unable to continue as a going concern.

Table of Contents

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS OF AUGUST 2, 2009**
(In thousands)

	Historical	Net Adjustment	Pro Forma
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 105,376	\$ (45,112)(A)	\$ 60,264
Restricted cash	13,224		13,224
Accounts receivable, net	80,701		80,701
Inventories, net	75,925		75,925
Deferred income taxes	23,585	(4,063)(B)	19,522
Income tax receivable	23,731		23,731
Investments in debt and equity securities, at market	5,583		5,583
Prepaid expenses and other	20,172	(5,302)(C)	14,870
Total current assets	348,297	(54,477)	293,820
Property, plant and equipment, net	240,727		240,727
Goodwill	5,200		5,200
Intangible assets, net	28,885		28,885
Other assets, net	4,526	13,933(D)	18,459
Total assets	\$ 627,635	\$ (40,544)	\$ 587,091
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY			
Current liabilities:			
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 473,710	\$ (473,290)(E)	\$ 420
Note payable	962		962
Accounts payable	68,144		68,144
Accrued compensation and benefits	35,037		35,037
Accrued interest	1,456		1,456
Other accrued expenses	44,921	(4,295)(F)	40,626
Total current liabilities	624,230	(477,585)	146,645
Long-term debt		150,000(G)	150,000
Deferred income taxes	21,626	(1,700)(H)	19,926
Other long-term liabilities		7,500(I)	7,500
Total long-term liabilities	21,626	155,800	177,426
Series B convertible preferred stock		212,579(J)	212,579
Stockholders' equity (deficit):			
Series A Preferred stock			

Edgar Filing: NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS INC - Form 424B3

Common stock	227	702(K)	929
Additional paid-in capital	203,401	177,510(L)	380,911
Retained earnings (deficit)	(103,882)	(111,442)(M)	(215,324)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(917)	1,892(N)	975
Treasury stock, at cost	(117,050)		(117,050)
Total stockholders equity (deficit)	(18,221)	68,662	50,441
Total liabilities and stockholders equity (deficit)	\$ 627,635	\$ (40,544)	\$ 587,091

Table of Contents**NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET**

(In thousands)

(A)	Adjustments to cash and cash equivalents are as follows:	
	Proceeds from issuance of the Series B convertible preferred stock	\$ 250,000
	Payments to redeem convertible notes	(90,000)
	Payments to reduce our existing credit facility	(143,290)
	Change of control payments related to retirement plans	(3,861)
	Payment to CD&R of the deal fee pursuant to the measurement agreement	(8,250)
	Payment to the CD&R Fund for estimated reimbursement of transaction costs of the recapitalization plan, including legal and financial advisory fees	(14,500)
	Payment of remaining unpaid and estimated transaction costs of the recapitalization plan, including legal and financial advisory fees	(35,211)
	Total	\$ (45,112)
(B)	To record impact of accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan	\$ (4,063)
(C)	Balance sheet reclassification of previously paid transaction costs from other current assets to long-term debt issuance cost and equity raising costs, as applicable	(5,302)
(D)	Adjustments to other assets are as follows:	
	Write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs of the convertible notes	\$ (3,539)
	Record additional debt issuance costs paid or to be paid to lenders under our existing credit facility	8,770
	Record debt issuance costs related to \$125 million revolving credit facility under the ABL agreement	8,702
	Total	\$ 13,933
(E)	Balance sheet reclassification of convertible notes and term loan from current to long-term liabilities prior to reflecting pro forma adjustments of the recapitalization plan	(473,290)
(F)	Adjustments to other accrued expenses are as follows:	
	Change of control payments related to retirement plans	(3,861)
	Current tax payable caused by the accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan	(434)
	Total	(4,295)
(G)	Adjustments to long-term debt are as follows:	
	Balance sheet reclassification of convertible notes and term loan from current to long-term liabilities prior to reflecting pro forma adjustments of the recapitalization plan	\$ 473,290
	Repayment of convertible notes with cash and common stock	(180,000)
	Payments to reduce term loans	(143,290)
	Total	\$ 150,000
(H)	Adjustments to deferred tax liabilities are as follows:	
	Record deferred tax asset related to derivative liability	\$ (2,880)
	Reduce non-current deferred income taxes related to the reclassification of accumulated other comprehensive loss of interest rate swap into earnings	1,180

	Total	(1,700)
(I)	Record derivative liability related to default dividends rates in the Series B convertible preferred stock	\$ 7,500
(J)	Adjustments to Series B convertible preferred stock are as follows:	
	Face value of Series B convertible preferred stock	\$ 250,000

Table of Contents

	Transaction costs to be paid to CD&R	(8,250)
	Transaction costs paid and to be paid to non-investors	\$ (24,551)
	Record derivative liability related to default dividends rates, net of tax	(4,620)
	Total	\$ 212,579
(K)	Par value of common stock issued to pay a portion of the convertible notes	702
(L)	Adjustments to additional paid-in capital are as follows:	
	Paid-in capital of common stock issued to pay a portion of the convertible notes	182,520
	To record impact of the accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan, net of income taxes	2,298
	Record equity transaction costs related to stock issued to pay a portion of the convertible notes	(7,308)
	Total	\$ 177,510
(M)	Adjustments to retained earnings (deficit) are as follows:	
	To record compensation expense related to accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan	(5,926)
	Debt settlement costs of the convertible notes	(93,221)
	Reclassification of accumulated other comprehensive loss of interest rate swap into earnings	(3,072)
	Write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs of the convertible notes	(3,539)
	Expense debt issuance costs paid or to be paid to non-creditors on the term loan	(5,684)
	Total	\$ (111,442)
(N)	Reclassification of accumulated other comprehensive loss of interest rate swap into earnings	1,892

Table of Contents

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 2, 2009**

(In thousands, except per share data)

	Historical	Net Adjustment	Pro Forma
Sales	\$ 723,522		\$ 723,522
Cost of sales	568,773	(399)(O)	568,374
Lower of cost or market	39,986		39,986
Asset impairment	5,944		5,944
Gross profit	108,819	399	109,218
Selling, general and administrative expenses	158,564	(3,156)(O)	155,408
Goodwill and other intangible asset impairments	622,564		622,564
Restructuring charge	7,488		7,488
Income (loss) from operations	(679,797)	3,555	(676,242)
Interest income	360		360
Interest expense	(13,029)	(2,326)(P)	(15,355)
Other income, net	757		757
Income (loss) before income taxes	(691,709)	1,229	(690,480)
Benefit for income taxes	(46,863)	(766)(Q)	(47,629)
Net income (loss)	(644,846)	1,995	(642,851)
Dividends and accretion on Series B convertible preferred stock		28,898(R)	28,898
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders	(644,846)	(26,903)	(671,749)
Earnings (loss) per share:			
Basic	(33.12)		(2.15)
Diluted	(33.12)		(2.15)
Weighted average shares outstanding:			
Basic	19,468	70,534(S)	90,002
Diluted	19,468	70,534(T)	90,002

Table of Contents

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 2, 2008**

(In thousands, except per share data)

	Historical	Net Adjustment	Pro Forma
Sales	\$ 1,764,159	\$	\$ 1,764,159
Cost of sales	1,325,624	(992)(O)	1,324,632
Gross profit	438,535	992	439,527
Selling, general and administrative expenses	283,825	(8,201)(O)	275,624
Income from operations	154,710	9,193	163,903
Interest income	1,085		1,085
Interest expense	(23,535)	3,744(P)	(19,791)
Other (expense) income, net	(1,880)		(1,880)
Income before income taxes	130,380	12,937	143,317
Provision for income taxes	51,499	3,418(Q)	54,917
Net income	78,881	9,519	88,400
Dividends and accretion on Series B convertible preferred stock		35,119(R)	35,119
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 78,881	\$ (25,600)	\$ 53,281
Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$ 4.08		\$ 0.18
Diluted	\$ 4.05		\$ 0.18
Weighted average shares outstanding:			
Basic	19,332	70,534(S)	89,866
Diluted	19,486	70,380(T)	89,866

Table of Contents

NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(In thousands)

	Fiscal Nine Months Ended August 2, 2009	Fiscal Year Ended November 2, 2008
(O) To remove the impact of the amortization of stock compensation expense related to shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan		
(P) Adjustments to interest expense are as follows:		
To remove interest related to the convertible notes	\$ 3,049	\$ 3,804
To remove interest related to the term loan prior to the amendment to our existing credit agreement	6,286	15,491
To remove previously recorded amortization of debt issuance costs on the convertible notes	174	230
To record interest expense related to the term loan after the amendment to our existing credit agreement (assuming 8.0% interest)	(9,000)	(12,000)
To record amortization of debt issuance cost related to the term loan and \$125 million revolving credit facility under the ABL agreement (amortized over 5 year contract term)	(2,835)	(3,781)
Total	\$ (2,326)	\$ 3,744
(Q) To reflect income tax impact of items (N) and (O)	(766)	3,418
(R) To record the cumulative dividend accrual of the Series B convertible preferred stock with the assumption that dividends will be paid in kind or the stated 12% rate and accretion	28,898	35,119
(S) Adjustments to basic weighted average shares outstanding are as follows:		
Common stock issued to pay a portion of the convertible notes	70,200	70,200
Common stock issued related to the accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan, net of income taxes	334	334
Total	70,534	70,534
(T) Adjustments to diluted weighted average shares outstanding are as follows:		
Common stock issued to pay a portion of the convertible notes	70,200	70,200
Common stock issued related to the accelerated vesting of shares issued under the 2003 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan, net of income taxes	334	334
Effect of use of two class method		(154)

Total	70,534	70,380
-------	--------	--------

The impact of the potential conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock would be anti-dilutive and thus did not impact the diluted weighted average shares outstanding. If fully converted, the Series B convertible preferred stock would result in an additional 196,109,194 shares of common stock outstanding.

Table of Contents**SOURCE AND USE OF PROCEEDS****The Exchange Offer**

We will not receive any cash proceeds from this exchange offer. We will pay all fees and expenses related to this exchange offer and to the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan, other than any commissions or concessions of any broker or dealer. Excluding fees and expenses related to the CD&R Investment and the other transactions contemplated by that agreement separate from the exchange offer and this consent solicitation, we expect that we will incur fees and expenses of approximately \$7.3 million, based on estimated legal, accounting, exchange agent, voting agent, dealer-manager, trustee, printing and other expenses associated with this exchange offer and the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan.

The convertible notes that are validly tendered and exchanged pursuant to this exchange offer will be retired and canceled.

The Restructuring

The sources and uses of funds for the overall restructuring transaction are shown in the table below. For more information, see Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information.

Sources of Funds:		Uses of Funds: (In millions)	
Cash and other sources	\$ 45.1	Convertible notes(2)	\$ 90.0
Series B convertible preferred stock(1)	250.0	Term loan(3)	143.3
		Change of control payments(4)	3.8
		CD&R deal fee(5)	8.3
		CD&R Fund reimbursement of transaction costs(6)	14.5
		Payment of remaining unpaid and estimated transaction costs(7)	35.2
Total sources of funds	\$ 295.1	Total uses of funds	\$ 295.1

(1) The proceeds from issuance of convertible preferred stock.

(2) Payments to redeem convertible notes.

(3) Payments to reduce existing term loan.

(4) Change of control payments related to retirement plans.

(5) Payment to CD&R for the deal fee of the recapitalization plan.

- (6) Payment to the CD&R Fund for estimated reimbursement of transaction costs of the recapitalization plan including legal and financial advisory fees.
- (7) Payment of remaining unpaid and estimated transaction costs of the recapitalization plan including deal, legal and financial advisory fees.

Table of Contents

THE EXCHANGE OFFER

Purpose of the Exchange Offer

This exchange offer is a critical component to completing the restructuring through the recapitalization plan (see [The Restructuring Overview](#)). Under the recapitalization plan, we are proposing to effect:

the CD&R investment through a private placement of the Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement (see [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment](#));

the retirement of the convertible notes, including the retirement of at least 95% of the convertible notes through this exchange offer to acquire any and all of the convertible notes in exchange for cash and shares of our common stock;

the term loan refinancing through the repayment of approximately \$143.3 million of the \$293.3 million in principal amount of term loans outstanding under our existing credit facility and a modification of the terms and maturity of the \$150.0 million balance by amending our existing credit agreement (see [The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing](#)); and

the ABL financing through our entry into an ABL agreement for a \$125.0 million asset-based revolving credit facility (see [The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The ABL Financing](#)).

Terms of the Exchange Offer

We are offering to acquire any and all convertible notes in exchange for cash and shares of common stock in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the letter of transmittal. You may tender your convertible notes for exchange by following the procedures described under the heading [Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes](#) below.

For each \$1,000 principal amount of convertible notes that you tender and that we accept in this exchange offer, you will, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and the letter of transmittal, receive \$500 in cash and 390 shares of common stock. The cash payment and the shares of common stock to be issued in this exchange offer will be in full satisfaction of the principal amount of, and any accrued but unpaid interest through the consummation of this exchange offer on, the convertible notes so tendered and accepted.

Certain Matters Relating to Non-U.S. Jurisdictions

This prospectus/disclosure statement will not, subject to limited exceptions, be distributed outside the United States and is not an offer to sell or exchange and it is not a solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, sale or exchange is not permitted. Countries outside the United States generally have their own legal requirements that govern securities offerings made into those countries and often impose stringent requirements about the form and content of offers made to the general public. We have not taken any action in any jurisdiction to facilitate a public offer of securities outside the United States or to facilitate the distribution of this prospectus/disclosure statement outside of the United States. This prospectus/disclosure statement does not constitute an invitation to participate in this exchange offer in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful to make such invitation under applicable

securities laws. The distribution of this prospectus/disclosure statement in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus/disclosure statement comes are required by each of the Company and the dealer-manager to inform themselves about, and to observe, any such restrictions. No action has been or will be taken in any jurisdiction other than the United States by the Company or the dealer-manager in relation to this exchange offer described herein that would permit a public offering of securities. Non-U.S. holders should consult their advisors in considering whether they may participate in this exchange offer in accordance with the laws of their home countries and, if they do participate, whether there are any restrictions or limitations on transactions in the convertible notes that may apply in their home countries. We and the dealer-manager cannot provide any assurance about whether such limitations may exist. In those jurisdictions where the securities, blue sky or other laws require this exchange offer to be made by a licensed broker or dealer and

Table of Contents

the dealer-manager or any of its affiliates is such a licensed broker or dealer in such jurisdictions, this exchange offer shall be deemed to be made by the dealer-manager or such affiliate (as the case may be) on our behalf in such jurisdictions.

Financing of the Exchange Offer; Pro Forma Ownership

Assuming that 100% of the convertible notes are tendered and accepted in this exchange offer, approximately \$90.0 million would be required to pay the cash consideration for all of the convertible notes. In addition, assuming that we complete the recapitalization plan and that 100% of the convertible notes are tendered and accepted in this exchange offer, based on the number of shares of common stock authorized, issued and outstanding as of September 4, 2009, at the closing of, after giving effect to, the recapitalization plan:

holders of convertible notes would receive 70,200,000 shares of common stock, or approximately 24.5% of our voting power;

the CD&R Fund would receive 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock convertible into 196,109,194 shares of common stock based on the initial conversion price (assuming that we have sufficient authorized but unissued shares to permit such conversion, which, after giving effect to the restructuring, we do not expect to have (see Summary The Restructuring CD&R Investment)), or approximately 68.5% of our voting power; and

our current stockholders would continue to hold approximately 19,981,585 shares of common stock, or approximately 7.0% of our voting power.

We contemplate that a portion of the proceeds from the CD&R investment will be used to fund the aggregate cash payment in this exchange offer. If we are unable to consummate the CD&R investment, we will not consummate this exchange offer.

Exchange Offer Expiration Date

The expiration date for this exchange offer is 11:59 p.m. on October 19, 2009, unless we extend this exchange offer. We may extend this expiration date for any reason, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement. The last date on which tenders will be accepted, whether on October 19, 2009 or any later date to which this exchange offer may be extended, is referred to as the expiration date.

Extensions; Amendments

Subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement, we expressly reserve the right, in our sole discretion, for any reason, to:

delay the acceptance of the convertible notes tendered for exchange, for example, in order to allow for the rectification of any irregularity or defect in the tender of the convertible notes, provided that in any event we will promptly pay the cash consideration and issue the shares of common stock in this exchange offer or return tendered convertible notes after expiration or withdrawal of this exchange offer;

extend the time period during which this exchange offer is open, by giving notice of an extension to the holders of convertible notes in the manner described below, during which extension all convertible notes previously tendered and not withdrawn will remain subject to this exchange offer;

waive (to the extent waivable by us) or amend any of the terms or conditions of this exchange offer; and/or

terminate this exchange offer, as described under Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer below.

If we consider an amendment to this exchange offer to be material, or if we waive a material condition of this exchange offer, we will promptly disclose the amendment or waiver in a prospectus/disclosure statement supplement or post-effective amendment, as appropriate, and extend this exchange offer to the extent required by applicable law.

Table of Contents

If:

we increase or decrease the price to be paid for convertible notes or decrease the percentage of convertible notes being sought in this exchange offer; and

this exchange offer is scheduled to expire at any time earlier than the expiration of a period ending on the tenth business day from, and including, the date that the notice of an increase or decrease is first published, sent or given to holders of convertible notes in the manner described below,

this exchange offer will be extended until the expiration of such ten business day period. Rules and certain related releases and interpretations of the SEC provide further that the minimum period during which this exchange offer must remain open following material changes in the terms of this exchange offer or information concerning this exchange offer (other than a change in price or a change in percentage of securities sought) will depend on the facts and circumstances, including the relative materiality of the terms or information.

We will promptly give notice of any extension, amendment, non-acceptance or termination of this exchange offer to holders of convertible notes. In the case of any extension, we will issue a press release or other public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the expiration date. In the case of an amendment to any of the terms or conditions of this exchange offer, we will issue a press release or other public announcement.

Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to this exchange offer or making any changes to the terms and conditions to this exchange offer without the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment](#) [The Investment Agreement](#) [The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan](#).

We may extend this exchange offer beyond the initial expiration date without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund for a period of not more than ten business days, if, at such date, any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived and, subject to the termination of the investment agreement, we are required to extend this exchange offer if it expires before the registration statement which includes this prospectus/disclosure statement is declared effective.

Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes

Your tender of convertible notes to us and our acceptance of your tender will constitute a binding agreement between you and us upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus/disclosure statement and in the letter of transmittal.

What to Submit and How

If you, as a holder of convertible notes, wish to tender your convertible notes for exchange in this exchange offer, you must transmit the following prior to 11:59 p.m. on the expiration date to the exchange agent:

if convertible notes are tendered in accordance with the book-entry procedures described under [Book-Entry Transfer](#) below, an agent's message, which means a message, transmitted through ATOP by DTC to, and received by, the exchange agent and forming a part of a book-entry confirmation, that states that DTC has received an express acknowledgement that the tendering holder has received, and agrees to be bound by, makes each of the representations and warranties contained in, the letter of transmittal and that we may enforce the letter of transmittal against such holder; or

a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal, or a facsimile copy thereof, to the exchange agent at its address on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement, including all other documents required by the letter of transmittal.

In addition, prior to 11:59 p.m. on the expiration date:

a timely book-entry confirmation, which means a confirmation of a book-entry transfer of convertible notes into the exchange agent's account at DTC using the procedure for book-entry transfer described under Book-Entry Transfer, along with an agent's message or a letter of transmittal, must be received by the exchange agent; or

Table of Contents

certificates for convertible notes, if any, must be received by the exchange agent along with the letter of transmittal.

The method of delivery of convertible notes, letters of transmittal and all other required documentation, including delivery of convertible notes through DTC and transmission of an agent's messages through DTC's ATOP, is at your election and risk. Delivery will be deemed made when actually received by the exchange agent. Delivery of documents or electronic instructions to DTC in accordance with its procedures does not constitute delivery to the exchange agent. If delivery is by mail, we recommend that registered mail, properly insured, with return receipt requested, be used. In all cases, sufficient time should be allowed to assure timely delivery. Holders tendering convertible notes or transmitting agent's messages through DTC's ATOP must allow sufficient time for completion of the ATOP procedures during DTC's normal business hours. No convertible notes, agent's messages, letters of transmittal or any other required documentation should be sent to the Company.

How to Sign Your Letter of Transmittal and Other Documents

Signatures on a letter of transmittal or a notice of withdrawal, as the case may be, must be guaranteed unless the convertible notes being surrendered for exchange are tendered:

by a registered holder of the convertible notes or by a participant in DTC whose name is shown on a security position listing as the owner of the convertible notes who has not completed the box entitled "Special Issuance Instructions" or "Special Delivery Instructions" on the letter of transmittal; or

for the account of an eligible institution.

If signatures on a letter of transmittal or a notice of withdrawal, as the case may be, are required to be guaranteed, the guarantees must be by any of the following eligible institutions:

a firm which is a member of a registered national securities exchange or a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.;

a commercial bank or trust company having an office or correspondent in the United States; or

another eligible institution within the meaning of Rule 17Ad-15 under the Securities Act.

If the letter of transmittal is signed by a person or persons other than the registered holder or holders of convertible notes, the convertible notes must be endorsed or accompanied by appropriate powers of attorney, in either case, signed exactly as the name or names of the registered holder or holders appear on the convertible notes and with the signatures guaranteed.

If the letter of transmittal or any convertible notes or powers of attorney are signed by trustees, executors, administrators, guardians, attorneys-in-fact, officers or corporations or others acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, the person should so indicate when signing and, unless waived by us, proper evidence satisfactory to the Company of such person's authority to so act must be submitted.

Certain Other Procedural Matters

Any convertible notes not accepted for exchange for any reason will be promptly returned, without expense, to the tendering holder of convertible notes after the expiration or termination of this exchange offer. See "Return of

Convertible Notes Not Accepted for Exchange below.

If, for any reason whatsoever, acceptance for exchange of any convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to this exchange offer is delayed (whether before or after our acceptance for exchange of the convertible notes) or we extend this exchange offer or are unable to accept for exchange the convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to this exchange offer, then, without prejudice to our rights set forth herein, we may instruct the exchange agent to retain validly tendered convertible notes and those convertible notes may not be withdrawn, subject to the limited circumstances described in Withdrawal Rights below.

We will have accepted the validity of tendered convertible notes if and when we give oral or written notice to the exchange agent. If we do not accept any tendered convertible notes for exchange because of an invalid tender or

Table of Contents

the occurrence of any other event, the exchange agent will return those convertible notes to you without expense, promptly after the expiration date. See [Return of Convertible Notes Not Accepted for Exchange](#) below.

Please note that delivery of documents or electronic instructions to DTC in accordance with its procedures does not constitute delivery to the exchange agent and the Company will not be able to accept your tender of convertible notes until the exchange agent receives the information and documentation described under [Acceptance of Convertible Notes for Exchange; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Common Stock](#) below.

Book-Entry Transfer

The exchange agent will make a request to establish an account with respect to the convertible notes at DTC for purposes of this exchange offer promptly after the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement. Any financial institution that is a participant in DTC's systems may make book-entry delivery of convertible notes by causing DTC to transfer such convertible notes into the exchange agent's account at DTC in accordance with DTC's ATOP procedures for transfer. However, the exchange for the convertible notes so tendered will only be made after book-entry confirmation of delivery of such convertible notes, and timely receipt by the exchange agent of an agent's message and all other documents required by the letter of transmittal.

Although delivery of convertible notes may be effected through book-entry transfer into the exchange agent's account at DTC, an agent's message or the letter of transmittal, or a facsimile copy thereof, properly completed and duly executed, with any required signature guarantees, and all other required documentation must in any case be transmitted to and received by the exchange agent at its address set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement on or prior to the expiration date.

Please note that delivery of documents or electronic instructions to DTC in accordance with its procedures does not constitute delivery to the exchange agent and the Company will not be able to accept your tender of convertible notes until the exchange agent receives the information and documentation described under [Acceptance of Convertible Notes for Exchange; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Common Stock](#) below.

Effect of Letter of Transmittal

Subject to and effective upon the acceptance for exchange of convertible notes tendered thereby, by executing and delivering a letter of transmittal, or being deemed to have done so as part of your electronic confirmation of submission pursuant to DTC's ATOP system, you (1) irrevocably sell, assign and transfer to or upon our order all right, title and interest in and to all the convertible notes tendered thereby and (2) irrevocably appoint the exchange agent as your true and lawful agent and attorney-in-fact with respect to the tendered convertible notes (with full knowledge that the exchange agent also acts as our agent), with full power of substitution and resubstitution (such power of attorney being deemed to be an irrevocable power coupled with an interest), to:

transfer ownership of the convertible notes on the DTC book-entry transfer facility, together with all accompanying evidences of transfer and authenticity, to or upon our order;

present and deliver the convertible notes for transfer on the relevant security register; and

receive all benefits or otherwise exercise all rights and incidents of beneficial ownership of the convertible notes, all in accordance with the terms of this exchange offer.

Binding Interpretations

We will determine in our reasonable discretion all questions as to the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance of the convertible notes tendered for exchange. Our determination will be final and binding. We reserve the absolute right to reject any and all invalid tenders of any particular convertible notes or to not accept any particular convertible notes, which acceptance might, in our reasonable judgment or our counsel's judgment, be unlawful. We also reserve the absolute right to waive any defects or irregularities in the tender of the convertible notes. Unless waived, any defects or irregularities in connection with tenders of the convertible notes for exchange must be cured within such reasonable period of time as we shall determine. None of us, the exchange agent or any other person, shall be under any duty to give notification of any defect or irregularity with respect to any tender of the convertible notes for exchange, nor shall we or the exchange agent or any other person incur any liability for failure to give such notification.

Table of Contents**Acceptance of Convertible Notes for Exchange; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Common Stock**

Once all of the conditions to this exchange offer are satisfied or waived, we will accept all convertible notes validly tendered and will cause the issuance of the common stock, and the cash payment will be made, in each case, promptly after the expiration date. The discussion under the heading **Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer** below provides further information regarding the conditions to this exchange offer. For purposes of this exchange offer, we will be deemed to have accepted validly tendered convertible notes for exchange when, as and if we have given oral or written notice to the exchange agent. The cash payment and the common stock will be in full satisfaction of the principal amount of, and any accrued but unpaid interest through the consummation of this exchange offer on, the convertible notes so tendered and accepted.

No fractional shares of common stock will be issued in the exchange offer. In lieu of any fractional shares that otherwise would be issuable, we will pay cash equal to the product of such fraction multiplied by the arithmetic average of the volume weighted average price on each trading day of our common stock on the NYSE (or any other exchange or inter-dealer quotation system where the common stock is listed, traded or quoted), from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., New York City time, as calculated using Bloomberg for the 10 trading days immediately preceding the second trading day before the expiration date.

We expressly reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to delay acceptance for exchange of convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under this exchange offer (subject to Rule 14e-1(c) promulgated under the Exchange Act, which requires that we issue the offered consideration or return the tendered convertible notes promptly after termination or withdrawal of this exchange offer), or to terminate this exchange offer and not accept for exchange any convertible notes not previously accepted, (1) if any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or validly waived by us, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement (see **The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan**) or (2) in order to comply in whole or in part with any applicable law. In all cases, issuance of the common stock and payment of cash for the convertible notes that are accepted for exchange in this exchange offer will be made only after timely receipt by the exchange agent of:

a book-entry confirmation of delivery of such convertible notes into the exchange agent's account at the DTC book-entry transfer facility or certificates for convertible notes, if any, in proper form for transfer;

an electronic confirmation of the submitting holder's acceptance through DTC's ATOP system or a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal; and

all other required documents, if any.

If, for any reason whatsoever, acceptance for exchange of any convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to this exchange offer is delayed (whether before or after our acceptance for exchange of the convertible notes), or we extend this exchange offer or we are unable to accept for exchange the convertible notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to this exchange offer, then, without prejudice to our rights set forth herein, we may instruct the exchange agent to retain validly tendered convertible notes and those convertible notes may not be withdrawn, subject to the limited circumstances described in **Withdrawal Rights** below.

Except as set forth in this paragraph, the Company will pay or cause to be paid any transfer taxes applicable to the exchange of convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer. If, however, a transfer tax is imposed for any reason other than the exchange of convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer, then the amount of such transfer tax (whether imposed on the registered holder or any other persons) will be payable by the tendering holder. If

satisfactory evidence of the payment of such taxes or exemptions therefrom is not submitted with the letter of transmittal, the amount of such transfer taxes will be deducted from the amount to be paid to such tendering holder upon the exchange.

Under no circumstances will any interest be payable because of any delay in the transmission of funds to you with respect to accepted convertible notes or otherwise.

Table of Contents

Withdrawal Rights

Unless otherwise restricted by a lock-up agreement, you may validly withdraw your tender of convertible notes at any time prior to 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date.

For a withdrawal to be valid, the exchange agent must receive a written notice of withdrawal at the address or, in the case of eligible institutions, at the facsimile number, set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement or through DTC's ATOP prior to 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. Any notice of withdrawal must:

specify the name of the person having tendered the convertible notes to be withdrawn;

identify the convertible notes to be withdrawn;

specify the principal amount of the convertible notes to be withdrawn;

contain a statement that the tendering holder is withdrawing its election to have such convertible notes exchanged for cash and shares of common stock;

other than a notice transmitted through DTC's ATOP system, be signed by the holder in the same manner as the original signature on the letter of transmittal by which the convertible notes were tendered, including any required signature guarantees, or be accompanied by documents of transfer to have the trustee with respect to the convertible notes register the transfer of the convertible notes in the name of the person withdrawing the tender;

if certificates for convertible notes have been delivered to the exchange agent, specify the name in which the convertible notes are registered, if different from that of the withdrawing holder;

if certificates for convertible notes have been delivered or otherwise identified to the exchange agent, then, prior to the release of those certificates, specify the serial numbers of the particular certificates to be withdrawn, and, other than a notice transmitted through DTC's ATOP system, include a signed notice of withdrawal with signatures guaranteed by an eligible institution unless you are an eligible institution; and

if the convertible notes have been tendered using the procedure for book-entry transfer described above, specify the name and number of the account at DTC from which the convertible notes were tendered and the name and number of the account at DTC to be credited with the withdrawn convertible notes, and otherwise comply with the procedures of DTC.

Please note that all questions as to the validity, form, eligibility and time of receipt of notices of withdrawal will be determined by the issuers, and their determination shall be final and binding on all parties. Any convertible notes so withdrawn will be considered not to have been validly tendered for exchange for purposes of this exchange offer. Cash and shares of common stock will not be issued in exchange for such withdrawn convertible notes unless the convertible notes so withdrawn are validly re-tendered. Validly withdrawn convertible notes may be re-tendered by following the procedures described under the heading "Procedures for Tendering Convertible Notes" above, at any time prior to 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date.

Any convertible notes that have been tendered for exchange, but that are not exchanged for any reason, will be credited to an account maintained with the book-entry transfer facility for the convertible notes, as soon as practicable after withdrawal, rejection of tender or termination of this exchange offer.

Subject to applicable regulations, including Rule 13e-4(f)(2)(ii) promulgated under the Exchange Act, which requires that we permit convertible notes to be withdrawn if not yet accepted for payment after the expiration of forty business days from the commencement of this exchange offer, if, for any reason whatsoever, acceptance for exchange of, or exchange of, any convertible notes tendered pursuant to this exchange offer is delayed (whether before or after our acceptance for exchange of convertible notes), or we are unable to accept for exchange, or exchange, the convertible notes tendered pursuant to this exchange offer, we may instruct the exchange agent to retain tendered convertible notes, and those convertible notes may not be withdrawn, except to the extent that you are entitled to the withdrawal rights set forth herein.

Table of Contents

Return of Convertible Notes Not Accepted for Exchange

If we do not accept any tendered convertible notes for any reason set forth in the terms and conditions of this exchange offer, the unaccepted or non-exchanged convertible notes will be returned without expense to the tendering holder. Convertible notes tendered by book-entry transfer into the exchange agent's account at the book-entry transfer facility will be returned in accordance with the book-entry procedures described above, and the convertible notes that are not to be exchanged will be credited to an account maintained with DTC, promptly after the expiration or termination of this exchange offer.

Conditions to Completion of the Exchange Offer

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this exchange offer, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement, we will not be required to accept for exchange any convertible notes tendered, and we may terminate or amend this exchange offer, if any of the following conditions precedent to this exchange offer are not satisfied, or are reasonably determined by us not to be satisfied, and, in our reasonable judgment, if the failure of the condition makes it inadvisable to proceed with this exchange offer:

the minimum tender condition is not met or waived;

the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment (which is itself subject to several conditions, including the consummation of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the Austrian Act) (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Conditions to the CD&R Investment);

the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part and the absence of a stop order suspending such effectiveness; and

the absence of any applicable law or order prohibiting consummation of this exchange offer.

The foregoing conditions are for our sole benefit and may be asserted by us or waived by us (to the extent any such condition is waivable by us), in whole or in part. Any determination that we make concerning an event, development or circumstance described or referred to above shall be conclusive and binding.

If any of the foregoing conditions are not satisfied, we may, subject to applicable laws and our obligations under the investment agreement:

modify, extend or otherwise amend this exchange offer and retain all tendered convertible notes until the expiration date, as it may be extended, subject, however, to the withdrawal rights described in Withdrawal Rights above; or

waive the unsatisfied conditions (if waivable by us) and accept all convertible notes tendered and not previously withdrawn.

Except for the requirements of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws, we know of no federal or state regulatory requirements to be complied with or approvals to be obtained by us in connection with this exchange offer which, if not complied with or obtained, would have a material adverse effect on us.

Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to this exchange offer or making any changes to the terms and conditions to this exchange offer without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund. We may extend this exchange offer beyond the initial expiration date without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund for a period of not more than ten business days, if, at such date, any of the conditions to this exchange offer have not been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the CD&R Fund, waived and, subject to the termination of the investment agreement, we are required to extend this exchange offer if it expires before the registration statement which includes this prospectus/disclosure statement is declared effective.

Table of Contents

Resale of the Shares of Common Stock

Other than as described below and except for shares held by our affiliates, as that term is defined under Rule 144 under the Securities Act, the shares of common stock issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be freely transferable and will not be subject to any transfer restrictions.

No Appraisal Rights

Holders of the convertible notes do not have dissenters' rights of appraisal in connection with this exchange offer.

Material Differences in the Rights of Holders of Convertible Notes and Common Stock

Interest

The convertible notes obligate us to pay 2.125% *per annum* on the principal amount of the convertible notes, payable semi-annually in arrears in cash on May 15 and November 15 of each year.

Holders of common stock do not have any rights to interest.

Ranking

The convertible notes are our unsecured senior subordinated obligations and the payment of the principal of, and interest on, the convertible notes is subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of our existing and future senior indebtedness, including obligations under our existing credit agreement. The convertible notes rank equally in express right of payment with our future senior subordinated indebtedness and senior to any of our existing and future subordinated indebtedness. The convertible notes also rank junior to our secured indebtedness to the extent of the underlying collateral. The convertible notes are effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of our subsidiaries.

The common stock is the most junior of all of our securities. As a result, our existing and future indebtedness and other non-equity claims, as well as our preferred stock, including the Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued to the CD&R Fund, will rank senior to the common stock.

Repurchase Option

A holder of convertible notes may require us to repurchase the convertible notes for cash on November 15, 2009, November 15, 2014, and November 15, 2019, at a repurchase price equal to 100% of their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, including additional amounts, if any, to, but excluding, the repurchase date.

Holders of common stock do not have any such right to require us to repurchase their shares of common stock.

Repurchase Upon a Designated Event

If a designated event occurs prior to maturity, including the consummation of the recapitalization plan, a holder of convertible notes has the right to require that we repurchase the convertible notes (1) upon the closing of the exchange offer because such closing would result in a designated event under the convertible notes indenture, at a repurchase price equal to 100% of their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, including additional amounts, if any,

plus under certain circumstances, if the restructuring occurs on or prior to November 15, 2009, a make-whole premium, payable solely in shares of our common stock (other than cash paid in lieu of fractional shares) and (2) after 5, 10 and 15 years from the date of the issuance of the convertible notes at 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, beginning November 15, 2009, and we will be required to repurchase any outstanding convertible notes for which you deliver a written repurchase notice to the paying agent, subject to certain conditions in the convertible notes indenture.

Holders of common stock are not protected against a designated event, such as a change of control, other than as provided in our restated certificate of incorporation. See Description of Capital Stock.

Table of Contents

Fees and Expenses

Greenhill & Co., LLC is acting as the dealer-manager in connection with this exchange offer. We will pay the dealer-manager a fee, which fee is contingent and will be payable upon the earlier of (1) the consummation of this exchange offer or (2) the receipt of acceptances (or agreements to provide such acceptances) to the prepackaged plan from (a) holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding principal amount of the convertible notes and (b) lenders under our existing credit facility holding two-thirds (2/3) of the aggregate amount of outstanding term loans (including any accrued interest and other amounts owed) thereunder. Such services will include assisting in the solicitation of tenders of the convertible notes and communicating with brokers, dealers, banks, trust companies, nominees and other persons with respect to this exchange offer. The obligations of the dealer-manager are subject to certain conditions, including the truth of representations and warranties made by us to the dealer-manager, the performance by us of our obligations in connection with this exchange offer and the receipt of legal opinions and certificates by the dealer-manager. We have agreed to indemnify the dealer-manager against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, or to contribute to payments that the dealer-manager may be required to make in respect thereof. Questions regarding the terms of this exchange offer may be directed to the dealer-manager at the address set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

During the two years preceding the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement, Greenhill has not been engaged by, performed any services for or received any compensation from us or any other parties to the investment agreement (other than any amounts that were paid to Greenhill under the letter agreement pursuant to which it was retained as a financial advisor to the Company in connection with the CD&R investment) and at the date hereof we have no material relationships mutually understood to be contemplated with such parties.

We have retained Morrow & Co., LLC to act as the information agent and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. to act as the exchange agent in connection with this exchange offer. The information agent may contact holders of convertible notes by mail, telephone, facsimile transmission and personal interviews and may request brokers, dealers and other nominee existing holders to forward materials relating to this exchange offer to beneficial owners. The information agent and the exchange agent will receive a fee for their respective services, will be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and will be indemnified against liabilities in connection with their services, including liabilities under the federal securities laws.

We have retained Financial Balloting Group, LLC to act as the voting agent in connection with the solicitation of acceptances to the prepackaged plan. The voting agent may contact holders of convertible notes by mail, telephone, facsimile transmission and personal interviews and may request brokers, dealers and other nominee existing holders to forward materials relating to the solicitation to beneficial owners. The voting agent will receive a fee for its services, will be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and will be indemnified against liabilities in connection with its services, including liabilities under the federal securities laws.

Neither the information agent, the exchange agent nor the voting agent has been retained to make solicitations or recommendations. The fees that they receive will not be based on the aggregate principal amount of the convertible notes tendered under this exchange offer.

We will not pay any fees or commissions to any broker or dealer, or any other person, other than the dealer-manager for soliciting tenders of the convertible notes under this exchange offer. Brokers, dealers, commercial banks and trust companies will, upon request, be reimbursed by us for reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in forwarding materials to their customers.

Exchange Agent

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. has been appointed as the exchange agent for this exchange offer. All executed letters of transmittal should be directed to the exchange agent at its contact information set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement. If you deliver the letter of transmittal to an address or transmit instructions via facsimile other than that of the exchange agent as set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement, then such delivery or transmission does not constitute a valid delivery of such letter of transmittal.

Table of Contents

Information Agent

Morrow & Co. LLC has been appointed as the information agent for this exchange offer. Questions relating to the procedures for tendering of convertible notes and requests for assistance should be directed to the information agent at the address or telephone number set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement. Requests for additional copies of this prospectus/disclosure statement and the letter of transmittal may be directed to the information agent at its address and telephone number set forth on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Interests of Directors and Executive Officers

To our knowledge, none of our directors, executive officers or controlling persons, or any of their affiliates, or any associate or majority-owned subsidiary of such persons, beneficially own any of the convertible notes or will be tendering any convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer. Neither we nor any of our subsidiaries nor, to our knowledge, any of our directors, executive officers or controlling persons, nor any affiliates of the foregoing, have engaged in any transaction in the convertible notes during the 60 days prior to the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Schedule TO

Pursuant to Rule 13e-4 under the Exchange Act, we have filed with the SEC an Issuer Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO that contains additional information with respect to this exchange offer. Such Schedule TO, including the exhibits and any amendment thereto, may be examined, and copies may be obtained, at the same places and in the same manner as is set forth under the caption **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

THE PREPACKAGED PLAN

WE HAVE NOT COMMENCED A CASE UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND HAVE NOT FILED THE PREPACKAGED PLAN IN A PREPACKAGED PLAN PROCEEDING (WHICH MEANS A REORGANIZATION CASE UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY CODE CONTEMPLATED BY THE INVESTMENT AGREEMENT) AT THIS TIME. THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SOLICITS ADVANCE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PREPACKAGED PLAN IN THE EVENT THAT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PROCEEDING IS COMMENCED AND THE PREPACKAGED PLAN IS FILED, AND CONTAINS INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A DECISION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN.

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the prepackaged plan. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the prepackaged plan, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The prepackaged plan is included as Annex A hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document.

To allow us to effect a chapter 11 reorganization in the quickest and most cost efficient manner, we are soliciting acceptances of the prepackaged plan from holders of impaired claims entitled to vote under the prepackaged plan. Under the prepackaged plan, holders of convertible notes (as well as the holders of all other claims and interests other than the lenders under our existing credit agreement) would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan, the CD&R Fund would receive the same 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock contemplated by the CD&R investment and the Company would enter into the ABL agreement. Existing holders of our common stock would continue to hold such common stock. Under the prepackaged plan, lenders under our existing credit agreement would receive the same treatment with respect to their claims (and interests) as they would receive in the recapitalization plan except that the maturity of the term loans that would remain outstanding after giving effect to the term loan refinancing would mature on the date that is five years from the closing of the restructuring, as compared to four years and six months from the closing under the recapitalization plan (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing The Term Loan Refinancing).

We are soliciting acceptances of the prepackaged plan from the holders of our convertible notes and the lenders under our existing credit agreement pursuant to this prospectus/disclosure statement. In the event that the conditions to the recapitalization plan are not satisfied, including, for example, if the minimum tender condition is not met or waived, but we receive acceptances from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, as an alternative to the recapitalization plan, we may elect and, under the terms of the investment agreement, we may be required, to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan in a chapter 11 proceeding. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization case in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant. The Debtors in such cases would be NCI, NCI Group, Inc., Steelbuilding.com, Inc. and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, which we refer to collectively as the debtors).

IF THE PREPACKAGED PLAN IS CONFIRMED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT, IT WILL BIND ALL OF OUR CLAIM AND EQUITY INTEREST HOLDERS, INCLUDING ALL HOLDERS OF CONVERTIBLE NOTES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY VOTED TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PREPACKAGED PLAN, OR DID NOT VOTE AT ALL. THE HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS

WILL RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT AS THEY WOULD RECEIVE IN THE RECAPITALIZATION PLAN.

The prepackaged plan is conditioned on the closing of the CD&R investment. Without the CD&R investment, we do not believe the prepackaged plan would meet the requirement for confirmation contained in section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code that the plan be feasible. Therefore, in the event that the CD&R Fund does not satisfy its obligation to purchase the shares of Series B convertible preferred stock pursuant to the investment agreement, and no suitable alternative new investment is located, we do not plan to seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan and your vote on the prepackaged plan will be disregarded.

Table of Contents

The form of the prepackaged plan is attached to this prospectus/disclosure statement as Annex A. The prepackaged plan and this prospectus/disclosure statement should be read and studied in their entirety prior to voting on the prepackaged plan. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Prepackaged Plan for a discussion of risks associated with the prepackaged plan and the transactions contemplated thereunder. You are urged to consult your counsel about the prepackaged plan and its effect on your legal rights before voting.

Anticipated Events in a Reorganization Case

Chapter 11 is the principal business reorganization chapter of the Bankruptcy Code. Pursuant to chapter 11, a debtor may remain in possession of its assets, continue to manage its business and attempt to reorganize its business for the benefit of the debtor, its creditors and other parties in interest. The commencement of a reorganization case creates an estate comprising all the legal and equitable interests of a debtor in property as of the date the petition is filed. Sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code provide that a debtor may continue to operate its business and remain in possession of its property as a debtor in possession, unless the bankruptcy court orders the appointment of a trustee. The filing of a reorganization case also triggers the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code provides, among other things, for an automatic stay of all attempts to collect prepetition claims from the debtor or otherwise interfere with its property or business. Except as otherwise ordered by the bankruptcy court, the automatic stay generally remains in full force and effect until confirmation of a plan of reorganization.

Pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code, upon the commencement of the chapter 11 case, the Office of the United States Trustee is required to appoint a committee of creditors holding unsecured claims and may appoint additional committees of creditors or of equity security holders as the United States Trustee deems appropriate. However, it is not uncommon for the United States Trustee to not appoint an unsecured creditors committee in cases where solicitation of a prepackaged plan has been conducted prior to the petition date.

Pursuant to section 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code, a committee appointed under section 1102 may:

- consult with the trustee or debtor in possession concerning the administration of the chapter 11 case;
- investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the debtor, the operation of the debtor's business and the desirability of the continuance of such business, and any other matter relevant to the case or to the formulation of a plan;
- participate in the formulation of a plan, advise those represented by such committee of such committee's determinations as to any plan formulated, and collect and file with the court acceptances or rejections of a plan;
- request the appointment of a trustee or examiner under section 1104 of the Bankruptcy Code; and
- perform such other services as are in the interest of those represented by the committee.

Furthermore, pursuant to section 1109(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, upon the commencement of the chapter 11 case, any party in interest, including the debtor, a creditors committee, an equity security holders committee, a creditors, an equity security holder, or any indenture trustee may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in the chapter 11 case.

The formulation and confirmation of a plan of reorganization is the principal objective of a chapter 11 case. The plan sets forth the means for satisfying the claims against and interests in the debtor. The prepackaged plan we propose provides for the reorganization of our capital structure, thereby enabling us to continue as a viable business enterprise.

Solicitations of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan

Usually, a plan of reorganization is filed and votes to accept or reject the plan are solicited after the filing of a reorganization case. Nevertheless, a debtor may solicit votes prior to the commencement of a reorganization case in accordance with section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rule 3018(b). In accordance with such provisions, we are soliciting acceptances from holders of impaired claims in connection with our reorganization case.

Table of Contents

Bankruptcy rule 3018(b) requires that:

the plan of reorganization be transmitted to substantially all creditors and interest holders entitled to vote on the plan;

the time prescribed for voting to reject or accept such plan not be unreasonably short; and

the solicitation of votes be in compliance with any applicable nonbankruptcy law, rule or regulation governing the adequacy of disclosure in such solicitation or, if no such law, rule or regulation exists, votes be solicited only after the disclosure of adequate information.

Section 1125(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code describes adequate information as information of a kind and in sufficient detail as would enable a hypothetical reasonable investor typical of holders of claims and interests to make an informed judgment about the plan. With regard to a solicitation of votes prior to the commencement of a reorganization case, bankruptcy rule 3018(b) specifically provides that acceptances or rejections of the plan by holders of claims or interests prior to the commencement of a reorganization case will not be deemed acceptances or rejections of the plan if the bankruptcy court determines, after notice and a hearing, that the plan was not transmitted to substantially all creditors and equity security holders entitled to vote on the plan, that an unreasonably short time was prescribed for such creditors and equity security holders to vote on the plan, or that the solicitation was not otherwise in compliance with section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If the aforementioned conditions of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rules are met, all acceptances and rejections received prior to the commencement of the reorganization case and within the prescribed solicitation period will be deemed to be acceptances and rejections of the plan for purposes of confirmation of the plan under the Bankruptcy Code.

As further described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Commencement of a Reorganization case in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Covenant, in the event that the conditions to the exchange offer are not satisfied or waived by the date on which acceptances are due and we receive from a sufficient number of holders of impaired claims in an impaired class of claims to allow the prepackaged plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the nonconsensual cram-down provisions of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting impaired claims classes, we are required:

to file chapter 11 petitions in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, which we refer to as the bankruptcy court, and commence the prepackaged plan proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code;

to file certain first day motions and to seek to obtain entry of the orders approving such motions and to schedule a hearing in the bankruptcy court on the earliest date possible to consider confirmation of the prepackaged plan and approve this prospectus/disclosure statement;

to send notices to all persons to whom such notices are required to be sent under the Bankruptcy Code and to such other persons as ordered by the bankruptcy court, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding;

to use our reasonable best efforts to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan by the bankruptcy court;

to use our reasonable best efforts to obtain the dismissal of any and all appeals and motions for reconsideration filed with respect to the prepackaged plan; and

to cause the prepackaged plan to become effective and the distributions provided for under the prepackaged plan to be commenced as promptly as possible on or following the day on which conditions to effectiveness set forth in the prepackaged plan have been satisfied or waived.

However, there can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will conclude that the requirements of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code for confirmation of the prepackaged plan have been met. The bankruptcy court may find that the holders of impaired claims have not properly accepted the prepackaged plan if the bankruptcy court finds that the prepackaged plan solicitation did not comply with all of the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and the bankruptcy rules (including the requirement under section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code that the prepackaged plan solicitation comply with any applicable nonbankruptcy law, rule or regulation governing the adequacy of disclosure or that the prepackaged plan solicitation is made after disclosure of adequate information). In such an event, we may be

Table of Contents

required to resolicit votes on the prepackaged plan before seeking confirmation of the prepackaged plan, in which case confirmation of the prepackaged plan could be delayed and possibly jeopardized.

Bankruptcy Rule 3016(b) provides that either a disclosure statement under section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code or evidence showing compliance with section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code must be filed with the prepackaged plan or within the time fixed by the court. This prospectus/disclosure statement is presented to holders of our impaired claims to satisfy the requirements of section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rule 3016(b) and 3018(b). We believe that this prospectus/disclosure statement and the solicitation process we undertake will meet these requirements.

This prepackaged plan solicitation is being conducted at this time to obtain the acceptance of each impaired class of claims entitled to vote. If we seek relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code by commencing the prepackaged plan proceeding, we will attempt to use such acceptances as are received to obtain confirmation of the prepackaged plan as promptly as practicable. If we commence the prepackaged plan proceeding, we will promptly seek to obtain an order of the bankruptcy court finding that the prepackaged plan solicitation was in compliance with section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy rule 3018(b) and that the acceptance of each class of impaired claims can be used for purposes of confirmation of the prepackaged plan under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Subject to our obligations under the investment agreement, we reserve the right to use the acceptances to seek confirmation of any permitted amendment or modification of the prepackaged plan, provided that we may not make any amendment or modification to the prepackaged plan prohibited by the prepackaged plan. Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to the prepackaged plan or making any changes to the terms and conditions of the prepackaged plan without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement The Exchange Offer; Solicitation of Acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan.

As more fully described below, we are soliciting acceptances of the prepackaged plan from holders of each class of claims in classes 3 and 5.

Summary of Classification and Treatment of Claims and Equity Interest Under the Prepackaged Plan¹

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Treatment	Status	Voting Rights	Estimated Allowed Amount²	Projected Recovery
Class 1	Priority Non-Tax Claims	Payment in full in cash on the effective date	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$5 million	100%

¹ This table is only a summary of the classification and treatment of claims and interests under the prepackaged plan. Reference should be made to the prepackaged plan attached to this prospectus/disclosure statement as Annex A for a complete description of the classification and treatment of claims and interests.

² The estimated allowed amounts shown are as of August 30, 2009. The principal amount of Class 3 Senior Secured Claims as of August 30, 2009 was \$293.3 million and the Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims are outstanding in a principal amount of \$180.0 million, and the amount of claims for each such class will include principal amount and any accrued interest and other ancillary amounts owing as of the petition date. Claims in classes 1, 2, 4 and 6 through 9 represent other third party claims against the NCI and certain of its subsidiaries. The amount of claims in each such class is subject to constant change as NCI and such subsidiaries conduct their regular operations. We intend to continue paying amounts due in the ordinary course of business, even after the petition date. Creditors are referred to

Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data, which should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements contained in Part III, Item 15, (a)(1) and (a)(2) of our annual reports on Form 10-K (except with respect to the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009) and in Part I, Item 1 of our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and with the current reports filed by us with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference herein. See Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference. Creditors are encouraged to read the prospectus/disclosure statement and the prepackaged plan attached to this prospectus/disclosure statement as Annex A, including the summary of the different classes included, for further information, including additional information with respect to the Company's liabilities, before making any decision whether to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Table of Contents

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Treatment	Status	Voting Rights	Estimated Allowed Amount²	Projected Recovery
Class 2	Secured Tax Claims	Receipt in full in (a) cash on the effective date, (b) cash commencing on the effective date and continuing over a period not to exceed five years from the petition date, with interest or (c) regular cash payments in a manner not less favorable than the most favored non-priority unsecured claim provided for in the Prepackaged Plan.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$0	100%
Class 3	Senior Secured Claims	Receipt of (a) pro rata share of: cash in an amount equal to the credit agreement principal repayment amount, plus cash equal to accrued but unpaid interest, fees and expenses on the loans under the senior secured credit agreement up to the effective date and (b) the new term loan.	Impaired	Entitled to Vote	\$293.9 million	100%
Class 4			Unimpaired		\$5.75 million	100%

Edgar Filing: NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS INC - Form 424B3

	Other Secured Claims	Either (a) reinstatement of allowed other secured claim or otherwise rendering such claims unimpaired for the benefit of the holders thereof.		Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)		
Class 5	Convertible Notes Claims	Receipt of (a) cash in an amount equal to \$500 for each \$1,000 of principal amount of convertible notes held by such holder and (b) 390 shares of common stock for each \$1,000 of principal amount of convertible notes held by such holder, issued on the effective date.	Impaired	Entitled to Vote	\$181.1 million	98.75% ³

³ This figure assumes that the conversion to common stock of all Series B preferred stock and an equity value based on the midpoint enterprise valuation of the Company of \$450 million. See The Prepackaged Plan Valuation Analysis and Financial Projections.

Table of Contents

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Treatment	Status	Voting Rights	Estimated Allowed Amount²	Projected Recovery
Class 6	NCI General Unsecured Claims	Each holder of such claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such claim on the latest of (a) the effective date; and (b) the date such claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; <u>provided, however,</u> that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain of such claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$0	100%
Class 7	NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims	Each holder of such claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such claim on the latest of	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$39.5 million	100%

(a) the effective date; and (b) the date such claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain of such claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business.

Table of Contents

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Treatment	Status	Voting Rights	Estimated Allowed Amount²	Projected Recovery
Class 8	Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims	Each holder of such claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such claim on the latest of (a) the effective date; and (b) the date such claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; <u>provided, however,</u> that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain of such claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$0	100%
Class 9	Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims	Each holder of such claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such claim on the latest of	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$8.6 million	100%

(a) the effective date; and (b) the date such claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain of such claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business.

Class 10	Intercompany Claims	All or a portion of the intercompany claims may be reinstated, capitalized or otherwise discharged in any manner as of the effective date at the Debtors' or the Reorganized Debtors' option.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$0	100%
Class 11	Intercompany Interests	In full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each intercompany interest, intercompany interests shall be reinstated for the benefit of the holders thereof.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$0	100%

Table of Contents

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Treatment	Status	Voting Rights	Estimated Allowed Amount²	Projected Recovery
Class 12	Equity Interests in NCI	On the effective date, all equity interests in NCI shall be reinstated for the benefit of the Holders thereof, provided, such equity interests shall be subject to dilution in accordance with the NCI charter on account of the common stock distributed to holders of the convertible notes and the series B preferred stock issued to the CD&R Investors.	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	\$54.75 million	100%
Class 13	Section 510(b) Claims	Holders of section 510(b) claims shall not receive any distribution on account of such section 510(b) claims.	Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Reject)	\$0	100%

Holders of Claims Entitled to Vote; Voting Record Date

Chapter 11 does not require that each holder of a claim against or interest in a debtor vote in favor of a plan of reorganization in order for the bankruptcy court to confirm the plan. At a minimum, however, at least one class of impaired claims under the plan, without including any acceptance of the plan by any insider of the debtor, must accept the plan. An impaired class of claims will be deemed to accept the prepackaged plan if the holders of claims in that class casting votes in favor of acceptance of the prepackaged plan (1) hold at least two-thirds (2/3) in aggregate dollar amount of the claims of the holders in such class who cast votes with respect to the prepackaged plan, and (2) constitute more than one-half (1/2) in number of holders of allowed claims in such class who cast votes with respect to the prepackaged plan.

Classes of claims or interests that are not impaired under a plan of reorganization are conclusively presumed to have accepted the plan of reorganization and are not entitled to vote. By contrast, classes of claims or interests that do not receive or retain any property under a plan on account of such claims or interests are deemed to have rejected the plan and do not vote. Acceptances of the prepackaged plan are being solicited only from those persons who hold claims in a class that is impaired under the prepackaged plan and who are not deemed by the Bankruptcy Code to have rejected the prepackaged plan. A class of claims or interests is impaired if the legal, equitable, or contractual rights to which the claims or interests entitle the holders of claims or interests of that class are altered.

The following classes of claims and interests are impaired under the prepackaged plan, and all holders of claims in such classes as of the voting record date are entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan: Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims (which includes claims in respect of the term loans and other obligations under our existing credit agreement) and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims (which includes the claims in respect of the convertible notes).

CLASSES 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 ARE UNIMPAIRED UNDER THE PREPACKAGED PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1124 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND, ACCORDINGLY, HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS IN SUCH CLASSES ARE DEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE PREPACKAGED PLAN AND ARE NOT ENTITLED TO VOTE ON THE PREPACKAGED PLAN.

CLASS 13 IS IMPAIRED AND EACH HOLDER OF A CLASS 13 CLAIM IS DEEMED TO HAVE REJECTED THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 1126(G) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE.

Table of Contents

To be entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan, a holder of an allowed claim in Class 3 must have been the holder of such claim or interest at the close of business on the voting record date, in accordance with the records of the agent. The holder of the claim can vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating their vote on the ballot, executing the ballot, and returning their ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed postage paid envelope so it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline.

To be entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan, a holder of an allowed claim in Class 5 must have been the beneficial owner of such claim or interest at the close of business on the voting record date, regardless of whether such claim is held of record on the voting record date in such holder's name or in the name of such holder's broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee. If a claim is held in the name of a holder's broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, the beneficial owner will vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, voting and signing the ballot and then providing the ballot to the record holder holding the claim for the beneficial owner's benefit if the ballot has not already been signed by the beneficial owner's nominee or agent. If the ballot has already been signed by the beneficial owner's agent or nominee, the beneficial owner can vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating their vote on the ballot and returning their ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed postage paid envelope so it is actually received by the Voting Agent before the Voting Deadline.

No appraisal rights are available to holders of claims in connection with the prepackaged plan.

Vote Required for Class Acceptance of the Prepackaged Plan

As a condition to confirmation, the Bankruptcy Code requires that, except to the extent the prepackaged plan meets the nonconsensual confirmation standards discussed below under Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan Without Acceptance by All Classes of Impaired Claims, each impaired class of claims accept the prepackaged plan.

For a class of impaired claims to accept the prepackaged plan, section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code requires acceptance by holders of claims that hold at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of holders of allowed claims of such class who vote on the prepackaged plan.

If the prepackaged plan is confirmed, each holder of a claim or interest in a class will receive the same consideration as the other members of the class, and the prepackaged plan will be binding with respect to all holders of claims and interests of each class, including members who did not vote or who voted to reject the prepackaged plan.

Classifications under the Prepackaged Plan

The principal provisions of the prepackaged plan are summarized below. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the prepackaged plan. **WE URGE ALL CLAIM HOLDERS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST TO READ AND STUDY CAREFULLY THE PREPACKAGED PLAN.**

Classification and Allowance of Claims and Interests

Section 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan of reorganization must classify claims against, and interests in, a debtor. Under section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code, a plan of reorganization may classify claims and interests only into classes containing claims and interests which are substantially similar to such claims or interests. The prepackaged plan designates 11 classes of claims and two classes of interests. We believe that we have classified all claims and interests in compliance with the provisions of section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code. However, once our reorganization case has been commenced, a claim holder or interest holder could challenge our classification of claims and interests, and the bankruptcy court could determine that a different classification is required for the prepackaged

plan to be confirmed. In such event, it is our intention to seek to modify the prepackaged plan to provide for whatever classification might be required by the bankruptcy court and to use the acceptances received, to the extent permitted by the bankruptcy court, to demonstrate the acceptance of the class or classes which are affected. Any such reclassification could affect a class's acceptance of the prepackaged plan by

Table of Contents

changing the composition of such class and the required vote for acceptance of the prepackaged plan and could potentially require a resolicitation of votes on the prepackaged plan.

The prepackaged plan provides for the classification and treatment of claims and interests of our creditors and interest holders allowed under section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code. Only the holder of an allowed claim or an allowed interest is entitled to receive a distribution under the prepackaged plan. An allowed claim or allowed interest is a claim or interest:

that is reflected in the Company's books and records as liquidated in an amount and not disputed nor contingent and no objection to the allowance of the claim or interest or request to estimate the claim or interest has been interposed within any time period provided under the prepackaged plan or by order of any bankruptcy court;

that has been adjudicated as an allowed claim or interest; or

that is specified as an allowed claim or allowed interest under the prepackaged plan or the confirmation order.

A disputed claim or disputed interest is a claim or interest that is not an allowed claim or allowed interest and:

is the subject of a timely objection or request for estimation in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code, the bankruptcy rules, any applicable order of the bankruptcy court, the prepackaged plan or applicable nonbankruptcy law, which objection or request for estimation has not been withdrawn or resolved; or

is otherwise specified as disputed or a disputed claim pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

Summary of Distributions under the Prepackaged Plan

The following is a summary of the distributions under the prepackaged plan. While we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions relating to the distributions under the prepackaged plan, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. The prepackaged plan is included as Annex A hereto, which we incorporate by reference into this document.

The following describes the prepackaged plan's classification of claims and interests and the treatment that holders of allowed claims and allowed interests would receive for such allowed claims and allowed interests under the prepackaged plan. Holders of such allowed claims or allowed interests can agree to accept less favorable treatment by settlement or otherwise. If the prepackaged plan is confirmed by the bankruptcy court, each holder of an allowed claim or allowed interest in a particular class will receive the same treatment as the other holders in the same class of claims or interests, whether or not such holder voted to accept the prepackaged plan. Moreover, upon confirmation, the prepackaged plan will be binding on all of our creditors and stockholders regardless of whether such creditors or stockholders voted to accept the prepackaged plan (unless such holder agrees to accept less favorable treatment). Such treatment will be in full satisfaction, release and discharge of and in exchange for such holder's claims against or interests in us, except as otherwise provided in the prepackaged plan.

Treatment of Unclassified Claims

The Bankruptcy Code does not require classification of certain priority claims against a debtor. In this case, these unclassified claims include administrative claims and priority tax claims as set forth below.

Administrative Claims

Under the prepackaged plan, administrative claims includes claims for the costs and expenses of administration of the bankruptcy cases pursuant to sections 503(b), 507(a)(2), or 507(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, including: (1) the actual and necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estates and operating the businesses of the debtors (such as wages, salaries, or commissions for services, and payments for goods and other services and leased premises); (2) all fees and charges assessed against the estates pursuant to section 1930 of chapter 123 of the Judicial Code; (3) requests for compensation of professionals retained in the chapter 11 cases and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by such professionals; and (4) all requests for compensation or expense reimbursement for making a substantial contribution in

Table of Contents

the chapter 11 Cases pursuant to sections 503(b)(3), (4), and (5) of the Bankruptcy Code, which collectively we refer to as the Administrative Claims. To confirm the prepackaged plan, allowed Administrative Claims must be paid in full or in a manner otherwise agreeable to the holders of those claims.

Priority Tax Claims

Under the prepackaged plan, priority tax claims include any claim specified in section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code, which collectively we refer to as the Priority Tax Claims. Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed Priority Tax Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each allowed Priority Tax Claim, each holder of such allowed Priority Tax Claim shall be treated in accordance with the terms set forth in section 1129(a)(9)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code. To the extent any allowed Priority Tax Claim is not due and owing on the effective date of the prepackaged plan, such claim shall be paid in full in cash in accordance with the terms of any agreement between the debtors and such holder, or as may be due and payable under applicable non-bankruptcy law or in the ordinary course of business.

Treatment of Classified Claims

The following describes the prepackaged plan's classification of the claims and interests that are required to be classified under the Bankruptcy Code and the treatment that the holders of allowed claims or allowed interests will receive for such claims or interests:

Class 1 Priority Non-Tax Claims

The claims in Class 1 are of the types identified in section 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code that are entitled to priority treatment (other than Administrative Claims and Priority Tax Claims), which collectively we refer to as Priority Non-Tax Claims. For example, pursuant to section 507(a)(4), such claims include claims for wages, salaries and commissions up to \$10,950. Most of these claims will have already been paid by the debtors pursuant to orders entered by the bankruptcy court by the Petition Date.

Class 1 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Priority Non-Tax Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent a holder of an allowed Priority Non-Tax Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction of and in exchange for each Priority Non-Tax Claim, each holder of such Allowed Priority Non-Tax Claim will be paid in full in cash on the later of the effective date of the prepackaged plan and the date such Priority Non-Tax Claim becomes allowed, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

Class 2 Secured Tax Claims

The claims in Class 2 are the types of claims that, absent their status as a secured claim, would be entitled to priority treatment under section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code, which collectively we refer to as Secured Tax Claims. For example, a secured tax claim in Class 2 would include a claim on account of a tax obligation that is secured by a lien on NCI's property. If a Secured Tax Claim accrues interest under applicable local law and, to the extent the value of the collateral exceeds the amount of the allowed claim, such Secured Tax Claim will include interest.

Class 2 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Secured Tax Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed Secured Tax Claim has been paid by the debtors prior to the effective date of the prepackaged plan or agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each allowed Secured Tax Claim, each holder of such an allowed Secured Tax Claim will receive, at the sole option of the debtors or the reorganized Company and our reorganized subsidiaries, (1) cash on the effective date in an amount equal to such allowed Secured Tax Claim, (2) commencing on the effective date and continuing over a period not exceeding five years from the petition date, equal semi-annual cash payments in an aggregate amount equal to such allowed Secured Tax Claim, together with interest at the applicable rate under non-bankruptcy law, subject to the sole option of the debtors or the reorganized Company and our reorganized subsidiaries

Table of Contents

to prepay the entire amount of the allowed Secured Tax Claim or (3) regular cash payments in a manner not less favorable than the most favored non-priority unsecured claim provided for by the prepackaged plan.

Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims

The claims in Class 3 consist of claims arising under our existing credit facility, which collectively we refer to as Senior Secured Term Loan Claims. On the effective date of the prepackaged plan, each holder of a Senior Secured Term Loan Claim shall (1) receive its *pro rata* share of cash in an amount equal to the difference between the aggregate principal amount and other obligations outstanding under our existing credit agreement as of the Petition Date and \$150.0 million, plus cash equal to accrued but unpaid interest, fees and expenses on the loans under our existing credit agreement up to the effective date of the prepackaged plan; and (2) with respect to the remaining obligations under our existing credit agreement held by it, execute an amendment to our existing credit agreement in the form of the amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K after giving effect to the matters set forth on Annex L (with the completion of items currently blank as agreed upon by Wachovia Bank, National Association (or any successor thereto), as administrative agent under our existing credit agreement).

Class 3 is impaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Senior Secured Term Loan Claim is entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Class 4 Other Secured Claims

The claims in Class 4 consist of all secured claims other than Secured Tax Claims in Class 2 and Senior Secured Claims in Class 3, which collectively we refer to as Other Secured Claims. Based upon the schedules of assets and liabilities and the proofs of claim of the debtors to be filed in the prepackaged plan proceeding, Class 4 claims against the debtors include obligations under equipment leases, mechanics liens, liens on landlords on accounts, general intangibles or inventory related to properties released by them to the debtors.

Class 4 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of an Other Secured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed Other Secured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each allowed Other Secured Claim, on the later of the effective date of the prepackaged plan and the date such Other Secured Claim becomes allowed, or as soon as practicable thereafter, at the sole option of the reorganized Company and our reorganized subsidiaries, each allowed Other Secured Claim will be reinstated and rendered unimpaired in accordance with section 1124(2) of the Bankruptcy Code or otherwise rendered unimpaired.

Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims

The claims in Class 5 consist of all claims of the holders of the convertible notes arising under the convertible notes indenture, which collectively we refer to as Convertible Notes Claims. On the effective date of the prepackaged plan, Convertible Notes Claims shall be allowed in the aggregate amount of \$181.8 million.

Class 5 is impaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Convertible Notes Claim is entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

On the effective date of the prepackaged plan, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each allowed Convertible Notes Claim, each holder of a Convertible Notes Claim shall receive (1) cash in an amount equal to \$500 for each \$1,000 of principal amount of Convertible Notes held by such holder; and 390 shares of common

stock for each \$1,000 of principal amount of Convertible Notes held by such holder, issued on the effective date of the prepackaged plan.

Class 6 NCI General Unsecured Claims

The claims in Class 6 consist of the claims of vendors, landlords with prepetition rent claims and/or claims based on rejection of leases, prepetition personal injury, prepetition litigation, parties to contracts with NCI that are being rejected and other general unsecured claims, which collectively we refer to as the NCI General Unsecured Claims.

Table of Contents

Class 6 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a NCI General Unsecured Claim is deemed to accept the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed NCI General Unsecured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each NCI General Unsecured Claim, each allowed NCI General Unsecured Claim shall be unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each holder of an allowed NCI General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date of the prepackaged plan will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such allowed NCI General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (1) the effective date of the prepackaged plan, (2) the date such allowed NCI General Unsecured Claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business and (3) as otherwise agreed to by the debtors and the holder of such NCI General Unsecured Claim; provided, however, that the debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain NCI General Unsecured Claims in advance of the effective date of the prepackaged plan in the ordinary course of business. The debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any NCI General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the effective date.

Class 7 NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims

The claims in Class 7 consist of the claims of vendors, landlords with prepetition rent claims and/or claims based on rejection of leases, prepetition personal injury, prepetition litigation, parties to contracts with NCI Group, Inc. that are being rejected and other general unsecured claims, which collectively we refer to as the NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

Class 7 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim is deemed to accept the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim, each allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim shall be unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in cash of the unpaid portion of such NCI Group, Inc. Allowed General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the effective date, (b) the date such allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business and (c) as otherwise agreed to by the debtors and the holder of such claim; provided, however, that the debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the effective date.

Class 8 Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims

The claims in Class 8 consist of the claims of vendors, landlords with prepetition rent claims and/or claims based on rejection of leases, prepetition personal injury, prepetition litigation, parties to contracts with Steelbuilding.com, Inc. that are being rejected and other general unsecured claims, which collectively we refer to as Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

Class 8 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim is deemed to accept the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each Steelbuilding.com, Inc.

General Unsecured Claim, each allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim shall be unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Steelbuilding.com, Inc. allowed General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the effective date, (b) the date such allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business and (c) as otherwise agreed to by the Debtors and the Holder of such Claim; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain

Table of Contents

Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the effective date.

Class 9 Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims

The claims in Class 9 consist of the claims of vendors, landlords with prepetition rent claims and/or claims based on rejection of leases, prepetition personal injury, prepetition litigation, parties to contracts with Robertson-Ceco II Corporation that are being rejected and other general unsecured claims, which collectively we refer to as the Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims.

Class 9 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim is deemed to accept the prepackaged plan.

Except to the extent that a holder of an allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim, each allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim shall be unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the effective date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Robertson-Ceco II Corporation allowed General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the effective date, (b) the date such allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business and (c) as otherwise agreed to by the Debtors and the Holder of such Claim; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the bankruptcy court to pay certain Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims in advance of the effective date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the effective date.

Class 10 Intercompany Claims

The claims in Class 10 consist of intercompany claims, which collectively we refer to as the Intercompany Claims.

Class 10 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of an Intercompany Claim is presumed to have accepted the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

At the option of the debtors or the reorganized Company and our reorganized subsidiaries, as applicable, all or a portion of the Intercompany Claims may be reinstated, capitalized or otherwise discharged in any manner as of the effective date.

Class 11 Intercompany Interests

The claims in Class 11 consist of the intercompany equity interests of the Company or any other of its affiliates that is a debtor under the prepackaged plan against another debtor under the prepackaged plan, which collectively we refer to as the Intercompany Interests.

Class 11 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of an Intercompany Interest is presumed to have accepted the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Intercompany Interests shall be reinstated on the effective date.

Class 12 Equity Interests in NCI

The claims in Class 12 consist of the equity interests in NCI, which collectively we refer to as the Equity Interests in NCI.

Class 12 is unimpaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of an equity interest in NCI is presumed to have accepted the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Table of Contents

On the effective date, all Equity Interests in NCI shall be reinstated for the benefits of the holders thereof, provided, such equity interests shall be subject to dilution in accordance with our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, on account of the common stock distributed to holders of the convertible notes and the Series B convertible preferred stock issued to the CD&R Fund.

Class 13 Section 510(b) Claims

The claims in Class 13 are the types of claims which, because they arose in connection with the purchase or sale of a security of NCI, are subordinated to general unsecured claims under section 510(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, which collectively we refer to as the Section 510(b) Claims.

Class 13 is impaired by the prepackaged plan. Each holder of a Section 510(b) Claim is conclusively deemed to have rejected the prepackaged plan and is not entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan.

Holders of Section 510(b) Claims shall not receive any distribution on account of such Section 510(b) Claims. On the effective date, all Section 510(b) Claims shall be discharged.

Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan

If we seek to implement the prepackaged plan by commencing the prepackaged plan proceeding contemplated by the investment agreement, we will promptly request that the bankruptcy court hold a confirmation hearing (including a determination that the prepackaged plan solicitation was in compliance with any applicable nonbankruptcy law, rule or regulation governing the adequacy of disclosure or, if there is not any such law, rule or regulation, was made after disclosure of adequate information as defined in the Bankruptcy Code), upon such notice to parties in interest as is required by the Bankruptcy Code and the bankruptcy court. Bankruptcy rule 2002(b) requires no less than 25 days notice by mail of the time for filing objections to confirmation of the prepackaged plan and of the time and place of the confirmation hearing, unless the bankruptcy court shortens or lengthens this period. Parties in interest, including all holders of impaired claims and interests, will be provided notice by mail, or by publication if required by the bankruptcy court, of the date and time fixed by the bankruptcy court for the confirmation hearing. Section 1128(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that any party in interest may object to confirmation of the prepackaged plan. The bankruptcy court will also establish procedures for the filing and service of objections to confirmation of the prepackaged plan. Such procedures will be described to parties in interest in the notice informing them of the time for filing objections to confirmation of the prepackaged plan.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO CONFIRMATION OF THE PREPACKAGED PLAN MUST BE FILED WITH THE BANKRUPTCY COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE BANKRUPTCY RULES AND ANY PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.

In order for the prepackaged plan to be confirmed, and regardless of whether all impaired classes of claims vote to accept the prepackaged plan, the Bankruptcy Code requires that the bankruptcy court determine that the prepackaged plan complies with the requirements of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code requires for confirmation, among other things, that:

except to the extent the prepackaged plan meets the nonconsensual confirmation standards discussed below under Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan Without Acceptance by All Classes of Impaired Claims, the prepackaged plan be accepted by each impaired class of claims and interests by the requisite votes of holders of claims or interests in such impaired classes;

the prepackaged plan is feasible (that is, there is a reasonable probability that we will be able to perform our obligations under the prepackaged plan and continue to operate our business without the need for further financial reorganization) (see Feasibility of the Prepackaged Plan below); and

the prepackaged plan meets the requirements of section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code, which requires that, with respect to each impaired class, each holder of a claim or interest in such class either (1) accepts the prepackaged plan or (2) receives at least as much pursuant to the prepackaged plan as such holder would receive in our liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code (see Best Interests Test below).

Table of Contents

In addition, we must demonstrate in accordance with section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code that:

the prepackaged plan is proposed in good faith;

the prepackaged plan complies with the Bankruptcy Code;

payments for services or costs and expenses in or in connection with the case, or in connection with the prepackaged plan, have been approved by or are subject to the approval of the bankruptcy court;

the individuals to serve as our officers and directors have been disclosed and their appointment or continuance in such office is consistent with the interests of creditors and interest holders;

the identity of any insider that will be employed or retained by us is disclosed, as well as any compensation to be paid to such insider;

all statutory fees have been or will be paid; and

the prepackaged plan provides for the continued maintenance of retiree benefits, if any, at a certain level.

Acceptance of the Prepackaged Plan

As a condition to confirmation, the Bankruptcy Code requires that each impaired class of claims or interests accept a plan of reorganization, unless the cram-down requirements of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code are met. Classes of claims or interests that are not impaired under a plan are conclusively presumed to have accepted the plan and are not entitled to vote.

Feasibility of the Prepackaged Plan

The Bankruptcy Code requires that, in order to confirm the prepackaged plan, the bankruptcy court find that confirmation of the prepackaged plan will not likely be followed by liquidation or the need for further financial reorganization. For the prepackaged plan to meet the feasibility test, the bankruptcy court must find that we will possess the resources and working capital necessary to fund our operations and that we will be able to meet our obligations under the prepackaged plan.

We have analyzed our ability to meet our obligations under the prepackaged plan. As part of our analysis, we have considered our forecasts of our financial performance after completion of the prepackaged plan proceeding. These projections and the significant assumptions on which they are based are included in this prospectus/disclosure statement. See Unaudited Projected Consolidated Financial Information for Restructuring under the Prepackaged Plan. We believe, based on our analysis, that the prepackaged plan provides a feasible means of reorganization from which there is a reasonable expectation that, following the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan, we will possess the resources and working capital necessary to fund our operations and to meet our obligations under the prepackaged plan.

In connection with confirmation of the prepackaged plan, the bankruptcy court will have to determine that the prepackaged plan is feasible. There can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will agree with our determination. In particular, there can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will accept the projections or the assumptions underlying our determination.

Best Interests Test

Even if the prepackaged plan is accepted by each impaired class of claims, section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that in order to confirm the prepackaged plan, the bankruptcy court must determine that either (1) each member of an impaired class of claims or interests has accepted the prepackaged plan or (2) the prepackaged plan will provide each *non-accepting* member of an impaired class of claims or interests a recovery that has a value at least equal to the value of the distribution that such member would receive if we were liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. If all members of an impaired class of claims or interests accept the prepackaged plan, the best interests test does not apply with respect to that class.

Table of Contents

The first step in meeting the best interests test is to determine the dollar amount that would be generated from the liquidation of our assets and properties in the context of a chapter 7 liquidation case. The total amount available would be the sum of the proceeds from the disposition of our assets and the cash held by us at the time of the commencement of the chapter 7 case. The next step is to reduce that total by the amount of any claims secured by such assets, the costs and expenses of the liquidation, and such additional administrative expenses and priority claims that may result from the termination of our business and the use of chapter 7 for the purposes of liquidation. Finally, the present value of that amount (taking into account the time necessary to accomplish the liquidation) is allocated to creditors and stockholders in the strict order of priority in accordance with section 726 of the Bankruptcy Code which requires that no junior creditor receive any distribution until all senior creditors are paid in full and can be compared to the value of the property that is proposed to be distributed under the prepackaged plan on the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective.

After consideration of the effects that a chapter 7 liquidation would have on the ultimate proceeds available for distribution to creditors in a chapter 11 case, including:

the increased costs and expenses of a liquidation under chapter 7 arising from fees payable to a trustee in bankruptcy and professional advisors to such trustee;

the erosion in value of assets in a chapter 7 case in the context of the expeditious liquidation required under chapter 7 and the forced sale atmosphere that would prevail; and

substantial increases in claims which would be satisfied on a priority basis or on a parity with creditors in a chapter 11 case,

we have determined that confirmation of the prepackaged plan will provide each creditor and equity holder with a recovery that is not less than it would receive pursuant to our liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Moreover, we believe that the value of any distributions from the liquidation proceeds to each class of allowed claims and interests in a chapter 7 case would be less than the value of distributions under the prepackaged plan because such distributions in chapter 7 may not occur for a substantial period of time. In this regard, it is possible that distribution of the proceeds of the liquidation could be delayed for a substantial time after the completion of such liquidation to resolve all objections to claims and prepare for distributions.

Liquidation Analysis

THE FOLLOWING LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS IS AN ESTIMATE OF THE PROCEEDS THAT MAY BE GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE HYPOTHETICAL CHAPTER 7 LIQUIDATION OF OUR ASSETS. THE ANALYSIS IS BASED UPON A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT ASSUMPTIONS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED BELOW. THE LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE A VALUATION OF OUR ASSETS AND IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF THE VALUES THAT MAY BE REALIZED IN AN ACTUAL LIQUIDATION.

Pursuant to section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code (often called the best interests test) (see Best Interests Test above), each holder of an allowed claim or allowed equity interest must either (1) accept the prepackaged plan or (2) receive or retain under the prepackaged plan property of a value, as of the assumed effective date of the prepackaged plan, that is not less than the value such non-accepting holder would receive or retain if the Company were to be liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

In determining whether the best interests test has been met, the first step is to determine the dollar amount that would be generated from a hypothetical liquidation of the Company's assets under chapter 7. The Company, with the

assistance of its restructuring and financial advisors, has prepared this hypothetical liquidation analysis in connection with the prospectus/disclosure statement. The liquidation analysis reflects the estimated cash proceeds, net of liquidation-related costs, that would be available to the Company's creditors if the Company were to be liquidated pursuant to a chapter 7 liquidation as an alternative to continued operation of the Company's business. Accordingly, asset values discussed herein may be different than amounts referred to elsewhere in this prospectus/disclosure statement, including the prepackaged plan. The liquidation analysis is based upon the assumptions discussed herein and in this prospectus/disclosure statement. All capitalized terms not defined in this liquidation analysis have the meanings ascribed to them in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Table of Contents

UNDERLYING THE LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS ARE NUMEROUS ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING LIQUIDATION PROCEEDS THAT, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPED AND CONSIDERED REASONABLE BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT AND ITS ADVISORS, ARE INHERENTLY SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS, ECONOMIC, REGULATORY AND COMPETITIVE UNCERTAINTIES AND CONTINGENCIES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE COMPANY AND ITS MANAGEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE VALUES REFLECTED IN THE LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS WOULD BE REALIZED IF THE COMPANY WERE, IN FACT, TO UNDERGO SUCH A LIQUIDATION, AND ACTUAL RESULTS COULD DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THE RESULTS SET FORTH HEREIN.

Significant Assumptions

Hypothetical recoveries to stakeholders of the Company in a chapter 7 liquidation were determined through multiple steps, as set forth below.

The basis of the liquidation analysis is the Company's projected balance sheet as of November 1, 2009 (except as noted otherwise), and assumes that the Company would commence a chapter 7 liquidation on that date.

The liquidation analysis also assumes that the liquidation of the Company would commence under the direction of a court-appointed chapter 7 trustee. The liquidation analysis reflects the wind-down and liquidation of substantially all of the Company's operations over a 12-month wind-down period, during which time all of the Company's major assets would be sold and the cash proceeds, net of liquidation-related costs, would be distributed to satisfy claims.

Estimate of Net Proceeds

Estimates were made of the cash proceeds that might be received from the liquidation of the Company's assets listed on its balance sheet, giving due consideration to the effects of the chapter 7 liquidation itself, including (1) the increased costs and expenses of a liquidation under chapter 7 arising from fees payable to a trustee in bankruptcy and advisors to such trustee (see below) and (2) the potential erosion in value of assets in a chapter 7 case in the context of the expedited liquidation required under chapter 7.

In this liquidation analysis, each operating facility is assumed to be shut down and marketed for sale separately. Liquidation values were assessed for general classes by estimating percentage recoveries of the gross book value of the asset that a chapter 7 trustee might achieve through the disposition. Proceeds are net of holding costs, including insurance, taxes, utilities, security and maintenance, which are assumed to be incurred until a sale is concluded.

The liquidation analysis does not reflect any potential recoveries that might be realized by the chapter 7 trustee's potential pursuit of any avoidance actions, as the Company believes that any such potential recoveries are highly speculative in light of, among other things, the various defenses that would likely be asserted. Similarly, the liquidation analysis does not reflect any recoveries that might be realized from any current or potential future litigation initiated by the Company.

Estimate of Costs

Proceeds from a chapter 7 liquidation would be reduced by administrative costs incurred during the wind-down of the Company's operations, the disposition of assets and the reconciliation of claims against the Company. These liquidation costs include professional (including attorneys, financial advisors, appraisers and accountants) and trustee fees, commissions, salaries, severance and retention costs, certain occupancy costs, the estimated holding costs for each plant over the relevant period and the estimated costs of shutting down the plants. Actual liquidation costs may

exceed the estimate included in this liquidation analysis, particularly if the wind-down of operations, disposition of assets and reconciliation of claims takes longer than the assumed 12-month wind-down period.

Distribution of Net Proceeds under Absolute Priority

The amount of cash available would be the sum of the proceeds from the disposition of the Company's assets and the cash held by the Company at the commencement of its chapter 7 cases. Under the absolute priority rule, no

Table of Contents

junior creditor would receive any distribution until all senior creditors are paid in full, and no equity holder would receive any distribution until all creditors are paid in full. As such, prior to delivering any proceeds to holders of general unsecured claims and convertible notes claims, available cash and asset liquidation proceeds would first be applied, as applicable, to the liquidation costs (including any incremental administrative expense claims that may result from the termination of the Company's business and the liquidation of the Company's assets), secured claims and other priority claims under section 507 of the Bankruptcy Code as required under section 726 of the Bankruptcy Code. Remaining cash and asset liquidation proceeds after satisfaction of the liquidation costs, secured claims and priority claims, if any, would be available for distribution to holders of general unsecured claims, holders of convertible notes and equity interest holders in accordance with the distribution hierarchy established by section 726 of the Bankruptcy Code.

After consideration of the effects that a chapter 7 liquidation would have on the ultimate proceeds available for distribution to creditors, the Company has determined, as summarized in the charts below and in the section above titled "Best Interests Test," that the Company's proposed prepackaged plan will provide creditors with a recovery that is not less than what creditors would receive pursuant to a liquidation of the Company's assets under chapter 7.

The following liquidation analysis should be reviewed with the accompanying footnotes.

				Assumptions		
Date				11/1/2009		
Wind-Down Period (Years)				1.0		
Proceeds Received (Mid-Year)				0.5		
Discount Rate (5-Year LIBOR Swap)				2.7%		
Chapter 7 Trustee Expenses as a % of Gross Liquidation Value				1.5%		
	Note	Book Value at 11/1/09	Hypothetical Percentage		Estimated	
			Recovery Low	High	Liquidation Value Low	High
(\$ in millions)						
Cash	A	\$ 75.7	100.0%	100.0%	\$ 75.7	\$ 75.7
Accounts receivable	B	81.0	60.0%	70.0%	48.6	56.7
Other receivables	C	2.3	70.0%	75.0%	1.6	1.8
Inventory	D	81.5	30.0%	40.0%	24.4	32.6
Income tax receivable	E	25.2	90.0%	100.0%	22.7	25.2
Prepaid expenses	F	18.5	15.0%	30.0%	2.8	5.6
Investments in debt and equity	G	5.6	80.0%	90.0%	4.5	5.0
Intangible assets, net	H	29.0	15.0%	20.0%	4.4	5.8
Property, Plant & Equipment, net	I	237.5	30.0%	40.0%	71.2	95.0
Total Assets		\$ 556.3			\$ 255.9	\$ 303.4
Corporate Wind-Down Costs	J				(12.0)	(12.0)
Administrative Expenses Professionals and Other	K				(12.0)	(12.0)

Administrative Expenses Chapter 7 Trustee L	(3.8)	(4.6)
Estimated Liquidation Proceeds net of Expenses	\$ 228.1	\$ 274.8
Present Value of Estimated Liquidation Proceeds net of Expenses	\$ 225.0	\$ 271.1

Table of Contents

	Note		
Industrial Revenue Bond	M	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4
Recovery Amount		\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4
<i>% of Claim</i>		<i>100.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Existing Credit Facility	N	\$ 300.8	\$ 300.8
Recovery Amount		\$ 224.6	\$ 270.7
<i>% of Claim</i>		<i>74.7%</i>	<i>90.0%</i>
Priority Claims	O	\$ 50.6	\$ 50.6
Recovery Amount		\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
<i>% of Claim</i>		<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
General Unsecured Claims & Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes	P	\$ 263.4	\$ 263.4
Recovery Amount		\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
<i>% of Claim</i>		<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
Net Estimated Proceeds for Payment of Common Equity Interests		\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0

Footnotes to the Liquidation Analysis

Unless stated otherwise, the book values used in this liquidation analysis are the projected net book values of the Company's assets as of November 1, 2009. Actual results may vary significantly from those projected.

Note A Cash and Cash Equivalents

The liquidation analysis is based on the assumption that operations during the liquidation period would not generate additional cash available for distribution. It is assumed that all cash and cash equivalents held in the Company's accounts are available for distribution except for restricted cash that collateralizes letters of credits. On that basis, the Company projects that on November 1, 2009, the Company will have available cash on hand of approximately \$75.7 million.

Note B Accounts Receivable

The analysis of accounts receivable assumes that a chapter 7 trustee would retain certain existing staff of the Company to handle an aggressive collection effort of outstanding trade accounts receivable from customers. Collections during a liquidation of the Company would likely be significantly compromised as customers may attempt to set off outstanding amounts owed to the Company against alleged damages relating to breach of contract claims. The liquidation value of accounts receivable was estimated by applying a recovery factor consistent with the Company's experience in collecting accounts receivable and the expectation of additional attempts to set off. The estimate also considers the inevitable difficulty a liquidating company has in collecting its receivables and any concessions that might be required to facilitate the collection of certain accounts. Estimated recoveries are between 60% and 70% of accounts receivable.

Note C Other Receivables

Other receivables include rebate receivables from vendors and miscellaneous non-trade receivables. Estimated recoveries are between 70% and 75%.

Note D Inventory

Inventory is primarily comprised of raw materials, work in process and finished goods. Estimated recoveries are between 30% and 40% of the book value of inventory.

171

Table of Contents

Note E Income Tax Receivables

The Company expects to have an income tax receivable of \$25.2 million on November 1, 2009. Estimated recoveries are between approximately 90% and 100% of the income tax receivables.

Note F Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses include equipment and software maintenance contracts, Mexican VAT taxes, insurance, professional fees related to the debt restructuring, deposits and supplies. Estimated recoveries are between approximately 15% and 30%.

Note G Investments in Debt and Equity

Investments in debt and equity are comprised of mutual fund type securities. Estimated recoveries are between approximately 80% and 90%.

Note H Intangible Assets, net

Intangible assets include trade names, backlog, customer lists and relationships, non-competition agreements, and property rights. Estimated recoveries are between approximately 15% and 20%.

Note I Property, Plant and Equipment, net

The estimated net book value of fixed assets owned by the Company at November 1, 2009 is \$237.5 million. The Company's fixed assets consist primarily of land, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, furniture, transportation equipment, and computer software and equipment. Estimated recoveries are between 30% and 40%.

Note J Administrative Expenses Corporate/Plant Wind Down

Administrative expenses include operating costs during a projected one-year wind-down period commencing November 1, 2009, as well as certain liquidation costs and expenses of the chapter 7 estates, but exclude chapter 7 trustee compensation and fees to professionals retained in the chapter 7 cases.

Corporate and plant-level payroll and operating costs during the liquidation are based upon the assumption that certain operating and corporate functions would be retained to assist a trustee with the liquidation process. The remaining staff would also be needed to maintain and close the accounting records and to complete certain administrative tasks including the preparation of payroll and tax returns. Certain minimum plant staff would be required at the Company's operating facilities to complete the closure and mothballing of the facilities, assist with the sale and handling of the inventory and to oversee the removal and sale/disposal of equipment.

Note K Administrative Expenses Professionals and Other

Administrative expenses include chapter 7 professional fees and expenses, including legal, investment banking and accounting fees expected to be incurred during the one-year liquidation period and not already deducted from liquidation values.

Note L Administrative Expenses Chapter 7 Trustee

Chapter 7 trustee fees include compensation for services rendered by a chapter 7 trustee in accordance with section 326 of the Bankruptcy Code. Trustee fees are estimated at 1.5% of the gross liquidation value of the Company's assets.

Note M Industrial Revenue Bond

Our industrial revenue bond is estimated to have a balance of \$0.4 million on November 1, 2009. It is assumed that the balance owed is paid using proceeds from the Elizabethton, Tennessee facility to which the bonds are

Table of Contents

related, with excess proceeds from the sale of the facility, if any, to be made available to other creditors in accordance with their priority.

Note N Existing Credit Facility

The balance owed under our existing credit facility is assumed to be paid from the net liquidation proceeds of the liquidated assets after satisfaction of the liquidation costs and our industrial revenue bond. The obligations owing under our existing credit facility on November 1, 2009 are estimated to be \$300.8 million (including pre-petition accrued and unpaid interest and a liability for a related interest-rate swap).

Note O Priority Claims

Priority Claims include claims entitled to priority status as set out in section 507 of the Bankruptcy Code. Estimated Priority Claims of approximately \$50.6 million include certain obligations to employees and are assumed to be paid on from the net proceeds, if any, remaining after the payment of the liquidation costs and obligations under the existing credit facility and our industrial revenue bonds.

Note P General Unsecured Claims and Convertible Notes

The liquidation analysis assumes that general unsecured claims will consist of pre-petition unpaid, unsecured obligations owed to vendors, employees (other than priority claims of employees) and litigation parties. The liquidation analysis does not attempt to estimate additional general unsecured claims that would arise as a result of the rejection of executory contracts and leases that would otherwise be assumed under the prepackaged plan, and the failure of the Company to perform under existing contracts. The amount of such additional claims would likely be substantial in amount. For purposes of this liquidation analysis, general unsecured claims in the aggregate are estimated to be \$81.7 million.

The liquidation analysis assumes that the convertible notes are *pari passu* to general unsecured claims. The convertible notes claims are estimated to be \$181.8 million (including pre-petition accrued and unpaid interest).

General unsecured claims and the convertible notes claims are assumed to be paid on a *pro rata* basis from the net liquidation proceeds available, if any, after the payment of all other claims.

THESE ESTIMATED LIQUIDATION VALUES ARE SPECULATIVE AND COULD VARY DRAMATICALLY FROM THE AMOUNTS THAT MAY BE RECOVERED IN AN ACTUAL LIQUIDATION UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE. IN MANY CASES, OUR ASSETS MIGHT NOT COMMAND SIGNIFICANT PRICES IF PURCHASED FOR USES OTHER THAN THAT FOR WHICH THEY WERE DESIGNED.

As described above, to estimate the liquidation proceeds we assumed that our assets are disposed of in a straight liquidation during a the 12-month wind-down period. Our belief that confirmation of the prepackaged plan will provide each holder of a claim in an impaired class with a recovery at least equal to the recovery that such holder would receive pursuant to a liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code is based on a comparison of the liquidation values set forth in the liquidation analysis with our estimate of the value of the distributions to the holders of claims pursuant to the prepackaged plan. In preparing these analyses, we were assisted by Greenhill, our financial advisor in connection with the restructuring.

Alternatives to Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan

If the prepackaged plan is not confirmed, we or, subject to further determination by the bankruptcy court as to extensions of our exclusive period within which to propose a plan of reorganization (which is the first 120 days after the commencement of reorganization case, subject to reduction or extension by the bankruptcy court), any other party in interest in our reorganization case could attempt to formulate and propose a different plan or plans of reorganization. Such plans could involve a reorganization and continuation of our businesses, a sale of our business as a going concern, an orderly liquidation of our assets, or any combination thereof. If no plan of reorganization is confirmed by the bankruptcy court, our reorganization case may be converted to a liquidation case under chapter 7

Table of Contents

of the Bankruptcy Code. In that event, the bankruptcy court may grant holders of secured claims relief from the automatic stay to foreclose on their collateral and, accordingly, our valuable assets may be lost.

In a chapter 7 case, a trustee would be appointed or elected with the primary duty of liquidating our assets. Typically, in a liquidation, assets are sold for less than their going concern value and, accordingly, the return to creditors would be reduced. Proceeds from liquidation would be distributed to our creditors in accordance with the priorities set forth in the Bankruptcy Code.

Because of the difficulties in estimating what our assets would bring in a liquidation and the uncertainties concerning the aggregate claims to be paid and their priority in liquidation, it is not possible to predict with certainty what return, if any, each class of claims or interests might receive in a liquidation. Nevertheless, we believe that the most likely result would be the sale of our assets at a price which is significantly less than needed to pay our debts in full. We believe that holders of impaired claims and interests would realize a greater recovery under the prepackaged plan than would be realized under a chapter 7 liquidation.

Solicitation and Voting Procedures

The following summarizes briefly the procedures to accept or reject the prepackaged plan. Holders of claims are encouraged to review the relevant provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and/or to consult their own attorneys.

The Solicitation Package

The following materials constitute the solicitation package:

the appropriate ballots and applicable voting instructions;

a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid return envelope; and

the prospectus/disclosure statement with all exhibits, including the prepackaged plan and any other supplements or amendments to these documents.

The two voting classes, Classes 3 and 5, entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan shall be sent paper copies of the prospectus/disclosure statement with all exhibits, including the prepackaged plan. Any party who desires additional paper copies of these documents may request copies from the voting agent by writing to Financial Balloting Group LLC, 757 Third Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017, or calling (646) 282-1800. The solicitation package (except the ballots) can also be obtained by accessing the Company's website, <http://www.ncilp.com>. All parties entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan shall receive a paper copy of each appropriate ballot.

The plan supplement will be filed with the bankruptcy court no later than five days prior to the confirmation hearing or such later date as may be approved by the bankruptcy court. The plan supplement will include the following: (1) our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws as of the effective date of the prepackaged plan; (2) the list (as may be amended), as determined by us, of executory contracts and unexpired leases (including any amendments or modifications thereto) that will be rejected by us pursuant to the provisions of the prepackaged plan; (3) a list of retained causes of action; (4) the stockholders agreement; (5) the ABL agreement; and (6) the amended credit agreement. The Company may subsequently add additional items to the plan supplement, which will also be filed with the bankruptcy court.

Voting Deadline

The period during which ballots with respect to the prepackaged plan will be accepted by the voting agent will terminate on the voting deadline, or 11:59 p.m, New York City Time, on October 19, 2009, unless the Company extends the date until which ballots will be accepted. Except to the extent the Company so determines or as permitted by the bankruptcy court, ballots that are received after the voting deadline will not be counted or otherwise used by the Company in connection with the Company's request for confirmation of the prepackaged plan (or any permitted modification thereof).

Table of Contents

The Company reserves the absolute right, at any time or from time to time, to extend the period of time (on a daily basis, if necessary) during which ballots will be accepted for any reason, including determining whether or not the requisite number of acceptances have been received, by making a public announcement of such extension no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the voting deadline. The Company will give notice of any such extension in a manner deemed reasonable to the Company in its discretion. As of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement, we have no intention of extending such date.

Voting and Revocation Instructions

Only the holders of allowed Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims are entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan, and they may do so by following the instructions below and the voting instructions attached to the ballot. The failure of a holder to deliver a duly executed ballot will be deemed to constitute an abstention by such holder with respect to voting on the prepackaged plan, and such abstentions will not be counted as votes for or against the prepackaged plan.

The Company is providing the solicitation package to holders of Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims whose names (or the names of their nominees) appear as of the voting record date, which was August 28, 2009, in the records maintained by the Company.

If you hold Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims that are registered in your own name, including by a participant in DTC whose name appears on a security position listing as the owner of convertible notes, you can vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the appropriate ballot, signing, dating and indicating your vote on the ballot, and returning the completed original ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline, 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on October 19, 2009 (unless the voting deadline is extended, in which case the ballots must be received by the voting agent by any subsequent time or date to which the voting deadline is extended).

If you are a beneficial owner holding securities as a record holder in your own name you should complete the information requested on the ballot, indicate your vote on the ballot, and return the completed original ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline.

If you are a beneficial owner holding securities through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, or your nominee, you can vote on the prepackaged plan in one of the two following ways:

If your ballot has already been signed (or prevalidated) by your nominee (as described below), you can vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating your vote on the ballot, and returning the completed original ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline.

If your ballot has not been signed (or prevalidated) by your nominee, you can vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating your vote on the ballot, and returning the completed original ballot to your nominee in sufficient time for your nominee then to process the ballot and return it to the voting agent so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline. If no self-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope was enclosed for this purpose, the nominee must be contacted for instructions.

Any ballot returned to a nominee by a beneficial owner will not be counted for purposes of acceptance or rejection of the prepackaged plan until such nominee properly completes and delivers to Financial Balloting Group that ballot (properly validated) or a master ballot that reflects the vote of such beneficial owner.

If you are a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee that is the registered holder of securities, please forward a copy of this prospectus/disclosure statement, the appropriate ballot, and any other

Table of Contents

enclosed materials to each beneficial owner as of the voting record date and arrange for beneficial owners to vote in accordance with the voting procedures described herein and:

If you have signed (or prevalidated) a ballot by: (1) signing the ballot; (2) indicating on the ballot the name of the registered holder and the amount of securities held by the nominee; and (3) forwarding such ballot together with the solicitation package and other materials requested to be forwarded, to the beneficial owner for voting; then the beneficial owner must vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating its vote on the ballot, and returning the completed original ballot in the enclosed, pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline. A list of the beneficial owners to whom pre-validated ballots were delivered should be maintained by the nominee for inspection for at least one year from the voting deadline.

If you have not signed (or prevalidated) the appropriate ballot, then you, as nominee, may obtain the votes of beneficial owners by forwarding to the beneficial owners the unsigned ballots, together with this prospectus/disclosure statement, a return envelope provided by, and addressed to, the nominee, and other materials requested to be forwarded. Each such beneficial owner may vote on the prepackaged plan by completing the information requested on the ballot, indicating its vote on the ballot, and returning the completed original ballot to you, as nominee. After collecting the ballots, you, as nominee, should, in turn, complete a master ballot compiling the votes and other information from the ballot, execute the master ballot, and deliver the master ballot to the voting agent so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline. All ballots returned by beneficial owners should either be forwarded to the voting agent (along with the master ballot) or be retained by nominees for inspection for at least one year from the voting deadline.

Each nominee should advise its beneficial owners to return their ballots to the nominee by a date calculated by the nominee to allow it to prepare and return the master ballot to the voting agent so that it is actually received by the voting agent before the voting deadline.

The Company expects that The Depository Trust Company, as a nominee holder of convertible notes, will arrange for its participants to vote by executing a letter of authorization in favor of such participants. As a result of such letter, each such participant will be authorized to vote its voting record date positions held in the name of such securities clearing agencies, and the Company shall, in any event, rely on the listing of participants provided by the Depository Trust Company as of the voting record date.

Any beneficial owner of eligible Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims that has not received a ballot should contact its nominee or the Financial Balloting Group LLC at its address and telephone number on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

The Company has engaged Financial Balloting Group LLC as the voting agent to assist in the balloting and tabulation process. The voting agent will process and tabulate ballots for each class entitled to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan and will file the voting report as soon as practicable on or after the petition date.

Any ballot that is properly executed by the holder of a claim, but which does not clearly indicate an acceptance or rejection of the prepackaged plan or which indicates both an acceptance and a rejection of the prepackaged plan, shall not be counted.

Each holder of a Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims must vote all of their claims within a particular class either to accept or reject the prepackaged plan and may not split their votes.

All ballots are accompanied by a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope. It is important to follow the specific instructions provided on each ballot.

Acceptances or rejections may be withdrawn or revoked at any time prior to the voting deadline by the beneficial owner on the voting record date who completed the original master ballot or ballot, or by the nominee who completed the master ballot in such beneficial owner's name, as the case may be. However, after commencement of a reorganization case in connection with the prepackaged plan, withdrawal or revocation of votes accepting or rejecting the prepackaged plan may be effected only with the approval of the bankruptcy court.

Table of Contents

Acceptances or rejections in regard to the prepackaged plan may be withdrawn or revoked prior to commencement of a reorganization case in connection with the prepackaged plan by complying with the following procedures: (1) a beneficial owner of convertible notes should deliver a written notice of withdrawal or revocation to the record holder for endorsement and delivery to the voting agent and (2) a record holder of convertible notes who voted securities held for their own account should deliver a written notice of withdrawal or revocation to the voting agent.

To be effective, a notice of revocation and withdrawal must:

be timely received by the ballot agent at its address specified on the back cover of this prospectus/disclosure statement,

specify the name and/or customer account number of the beneficial owner whose vote on the prepackaged plan of reorganization is being withdrawn or revoked,

contain the description of the claim as to which a vote on the prepackaged plan of reorganization is withdrawn or revoked, and

be signed by the beneficial owner of the claim who executed the ballot reflecting the vote being withdrawn or revoked, or by the nominee who executed the master ballot reflecting the vote being withdrawn or revoked, as applicable, in each case in the same manner as the original signature on the ballot or master ballot, as the case may be.

After the commencement of a reorganization case in connection the prepackaged plan, a notice of withdrawal of a previously furnished ballot or master ballot will not be effective without the approval of the bankruptcy court.

Note to Holders of Class 3 Second Secured Term Loan Claims and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims

By signing and returning a ballot, each holder of a Class 3 Second Secured Term Loan Claim or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claim will be certifying to the bankruptcy court and the Company that, among other things:

the holder has received and reviewed a copy of the prospectus/disclosure statement and solicitation package and acknowledges that the solicitation is being made pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth therein;

the holder has cast the same vote with respect to all claims in the same respective class; and

no other ballots with respect to the same claim have been cast, or, if any other ballots have been cast with respect to such claim, then any such ballots are thereby revoked.

Voting Tabulation

The ballot does not constitute, and shall not be deemed to be, a proof of claim or an assertion or admission of a claim. Only holders of claims in the voting classes shall be entitled to vote with regard to such claims.

Unless the Company decides otherwise, ballots received after the voting deadline may not be counted. The method of delivery of the ballots to be sent to the voting agent is at the election and risk of each holder of a Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claim and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claim. Except as otherwise provided in the solicitation procedures, a ballot will be deemed delivered only when the voting agent actually receives the original executed ballot. **No ballot should be sent to the Company, the Company's agents (other than the voting agent), or the Company's financial or legal advisors.**

Subject to our obligations under the investment agreement, we reserve the right to use the acceptances to seek confirmation of any permitted amendment or modification of the prepackaged plan, provided that we may not make any amendment or modification to the prepackaged plan prohibited by the prepackaged plan. Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to the prepackaged plan or making any changes to the terms and conditions of the prepackaged plan without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund.

The Bankruptcy Code may require the Company to disseminate additional solicitation materials if the Company makes material changes to the terms of the prepackaged plan or if the Company waives a material

Table of Contents

condition to confirmation of the prepackaged plan. In that event, the solicitation will be extended to the extent directed by the bankruptcy court.

If multiple ballots are received from the same holder with respect to the same Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claim or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claim prior to the voting deadline, the last ballot timely received will be deemed to reflect that voter's intent and will supersede and revoke any prior ballot. Holders must vote all of their Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims within a particular prepackaged plan class either to accept or reject the prepackaged plan and may not split their vote. Accordingly, a ballot that partially rejects and partially accepts the prepackaged plan will not be counted. Further, to the extent there are multiple Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims in the same class, the Company may, in their discretion, and to the extent possible, aggregate the Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims or Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims of any particular holder within the particular class for the purpose of counting votes.

In the event a designation of lack of good faith is requested by a party in interest under section 1126(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, the bankruptcy court will determine whether any vote to accept and/or reject the prepackaged plan cast with respect to that claim will be counted for purposes of determining whether the prepackaged plan has been accepted and/or rejected.

The Company will file with the bankruptcy court, on the petition date, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the voting report prepared by the voting agent. The voting report shall, among other things, delineate every ballot that does not conform to the voting instructions or that contains any form of irregularity, including, but not limited to, those ballots that are late or (in whole or in material part) illegible, unidentifiable, lacking signatures or lacking necessary information, received via facsimile or e-mail or damaged. The voting report also shall indicate the Company's intentions with regard to such irregular ballots. Neither the Company nor any other person or entity will be under any duty to provide notification of defects or irregularities with respect to delivered ballots other than as provided in the voting report, nor will any of them incur any liability for failure to provide such notification.

Holders of claims not a party to a lock-up agreement may elect to withhold their consent to the releases set forth in article VIII of the prepackaged plan by checking the applicable box on the ballot if such holders vote to reject the prepackaged plan.

Means for Implementing the Prepackaged Plan

Management

On the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective, our management, control and operation will become the general responsibility of our board of directors in accordance with Delaware law. Our board of directors on the effective date is described in the section titled Directors and Management. The prepackaged plan also authorizes us to assume, as may be modified, employment agreements with our executive officers, which will become effective on the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective. For a description of the directors' and officers' backgrounds, affiliations, salary compensation and whether or not such persons are also insiders, see Directors and Management.

We will disclose, prior to the hearing on the confirmation of the prepackaged plan, such additional information as is necessary to satisfy section 1129(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code including (1) the identity and affiliation of any other individual who is proposed to serve as one of our officers or directors, to the extent it is different than disclosed herein, and (2) the identity of any other insider that will be employed or retained by us and said insider's compensation.

Cancellation of Existing Securities and Indebtedness

As a general matter, on the effective date, all notes, indentures, instruments and other documents evidencing the claims or interests classified in Classes 3 and 5 of the prepackaged plan will be cancelled and any collateral security with respect to such claims will be released. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, on the effective date of the prepackaged plan, the convertible notes will be cancelled.

Table of Contents

The CD&R Investment

As a condition to the effective date of the prepackaged plan, the CD&R investment must be consummated in order to make any distributions pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

Issuance of Common Stock

On the effective date of the prepackaged plan, we will issue, in accordance with the terms of the prepackaged plan, an aggregate of 250,000 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock and, as permitted by our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, 70,200,000 newly issued shares of common stock. All shares to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan will be, upon issuance, fully paid and non-assessable. The holders of common stock do not have preemptive or other rights to subscribe for additional shares. The CD&R Fund will be granted subscription rights under the terms and conditions of the stockholders agreement. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement.

We expect that the confirmation order of the bankruptcy court will provide that the issuance of the common stock in respect of the convertible notes shall be exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act in accordance with section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan Without Acceptance by All Classes of Impaired Claims

We may seek confirmation of the prepackaged plan even if the plan is not accepted by all impaired classes pursuant to the cram-down provisions set forth in section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Under the cram-down provisions, upon the request of a plan proponent, the bankruptcy court will confirm a plan despite the lack of acceptance by an impaired class or classes if the bankruptcy court finds that:

the plan does not discriminate unfairly with respect to each non-accepting impaired class; and

the plan is fair and equitable with respect to each non-accepting impaired class.

These standards ensure that holders of junior interests, such as common stockholders, cannot retain any interest in the debtor under a plan that has been rejected by a senior class of impaired claims or interests unless such impaired claims or interests are paid in full.

As used by the Bankruptcy Code, the phrases *discriminate unfairly* and *fair and equitable* have narrow and specific meanings unique to bankruptcy law. A plan does not *discriminate unfairly* if claims or interests in different classes but with similar priorities and characteristics receive or retain property of similar value under a plan. By establishing separate classes for the holders of each type of claim or interest and by treating each holder of a claim or interest in each class identically, the prepackaged plan has been structured so as to meet the *unfair discrimination* test of section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

The Bankruptcy Code sets forth different standards for establishing that a plan is *fair and equitable* with respect to a dissenting class, depending on whether the class is comprised of secured or unsecured claims or interests. In general, section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code permits confirmation notwithstanding non-acceptance by an impaired class if that class and all junior classes are treated in accordance with the *absolute priority* rule, which requires that the dissenting class be paid in full before a junior class may receive any distributions under the plan. In addition, case law surrounding section 1129(b) requires that no class senior to a non-accepting impaired class receives more than payment in full on its claims.

With respect to a class of unsecured claims that does not accept the prepackaged plan, we must demonstrate to the bankruptcy court that either:

each holder of an unsecured claim in the dissenting class receives or retains under such plan property of a value equal to the allowed amount of its unsecured claim; or

the holders of claims or holders of interests that are junior to the claims of the holders of such unsecured claims will not receive or retain any property under the prepackaged plan.

Table of Contents

Additionally, we must demonstrate that the holders of claims or interests that are senior to the claims or interests of the dissenting class of unsecured claims or interests receive no more than payment in full on their claims or interests under the prepackaged plan.

To the extent necessary, we will demonstrate that the prepackaged plan satisfies the standards set forth in section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code at the confirmation hearing.

Valuation Analysis and Financial Projections

Valuation of the Company Post Restructuring

At the Company's request, Greenhill has prepared an estimated going concern value for the Company after giving effect to the restructuring.

In preparing the Company's estimated enterprise value after giving effect to the restructuring, Greenhill:

reviewed certain historical financial information of the Company for recent years and interim periods;

reviewed certain internal financial and operating data of the Company, including the financial projections developed by the Company's management relating to their businesses and prospects;

met with certain members of senior management of the Company to discuss the Company's operations and future prospects;

reviewed publicly available financial data and considered the market values of public companies deemed generally comparable to the operating businesses of the Company;

considered certain economic and industry information relevant to the Company's operating businesses; and

conducted such other analyses as Greenhill deemed appropriate.

Although Greenhill conducted a review and analysis of the Company's businesses, operating assets and liabilities, and business plans, Greenhill assumed and relied on, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all: (1) historical financial and other information furnished to it by or on behalf of the Company and (2) publicly available information. Greenhill further assumed that the financial projections were prepared reasonably and in good faith on a basis reflecting the Company's best estimates and judgment as to future operating and financial performance. Greenhill did not conduct an independent evaluation or appraisal of the Company's assets, and no independent evaluations or appraisals of the Company's assets were sought or were obtained in connection therewith.

Greenhill estimated the Company's enterprise value after giving effect to the restructuring to be between approximately \$375 million and \$525 million, with a midpoint of \$450 million as of an assumed effective date of the prepackaged plan of November 2, 2009, which may not be the actual effective date of the prepackaged plan. This reorganization enterprise value (ascribed as of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement) reflects, among other factors discussed below, current financial market conditions and the inherent uncertainty today as to the achievement of the Company's financial projections, which are set forth under Unaudited Projected Consolidated Financial Information for Restructuring under the Prepackaged Plan. Greenhill's estimate of a range of enterprise values does not constitute an opinion as to the fairness from a financial point of view of the consideration to be received under the terms of the prepackaged plan or of the terms and conditions of the prepackaged plan.

The range of the Company's estimated enterprise value, as of an assumed effective date of November 2, 2009, and after giving effect to the restructuring, reflects work performed by Greenhill on the basis of information available to, and analyses undertaken by, Greenhill as of August 26, 2009. It should be understood that, although subsequent developments may affect Greenhill's conclusions, Greenhill does not have any obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its estimate.

In performing its analysis, Greenhill used various valuation techniques, including:

a comparable company analysis, in which Greenhill analyzed the enterprise values of public companies that Greenhill deemed generally comparable to all or parts of the Company's operating business as a multiple of

Table of Contents

certain financial measures, including EBITDA and then applied selected multiples derived from such analysis to the projected EBITDA of the Company;

a precedent transactions analysis, in which Greenhill analyzed the financial terms of certain acquisitions of companies that Greenhill believed were comparable to all or parts of the Company's business, and then applied certain financial performance and other metrics provided by such analysis to the relevant metrics of the Company; and

a discounted cash flow analysis, in which Greenhill, using a weighted average cost of capital, computed the present value of free cash flows from the Company and the terminal value of the Company.

The summary set forth above does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Greenhill. An estimate of total enterprise value is not entirely mathematical, but rather it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning various factors that could affect the value of an operating business. The preparation of an estimate involves various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of these methods in the particular circumstances and, therefore, such an estimate is not readily susceptible to summary description. The value of an operating business is subject to uncertainties and contingencies that are difficult to predict and will fluctuate with changes in factors affecting the financial conditions and prospects of such a business. As a result, the estimate of implied reorganized equity value set forth herein is not necessarily indicative of actual outcomes, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those set forth herein. The estimates are inherently subject to uncertainties and contingencies beyond the control of the Company. Greenhill does not assume responsibility for their accuracy. Depending on the results of the Company's operations or changes in the financial markets, Greenhill's valuation analysis as of the effective date may differ from that disclosed herein. In addition, estimates of implied reorganized equity value do not purport to be appraisals, nor do they necessarily reflect the values that might be realized if assets were sold.

The foregoing valuation reflects a number of assumptions, including a successful reorganization of the Company's businesses and finances in a timely manner, achieving the forecasts reflected in the financial projections, the amount of available cash, market conditions, the availability of certain tax attributes and the prepackaged plan becoming effective in accordance with its terms on a basis consistent with the estimates and other assumptions discussed herein. The estimates of value represent hypothetical enterprise values of the Company after giving effect to the restructuring as the continuing operator of its business and assets and assume that such assets are operated in accordance with the Company's business plan. They do not purport to reflect or constitute appraisals, liquidation values or estimates of the actual market value that may be realized through the trading value or sale of any securities to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan, which may be significantly different than the amounts set forth herein. Such estimates were developed solely for purposes of formulation and negotiation of the prepackaged plan and analysis of implied relative recoveries to creditors thereunder. Moreover, to the extent that the estimated range of enterprise value is dependent upon the Company's achievement of the financial projections, it is inherently speculative.

In addition, the valuation of newly issued securities is subject to additional uncertainties and contingencies, all of which are difficult to predict. Actual market prices of such securities at issuance will depend upon, among other things, prevailing interest rates; conditions in the financial markets; the anticipated initial securities holdings of prepetition creditors, some of which may prefer to liquidate their investment rather than hold it on a long term basis; and other factors that generally influence the prices of securities. If the Company seeks confirmation of the prepackaged plan in the prepackaged plan proceeding, actual market prices of such securities also may be affected by the prepackaged plan proceeding or by other factors not possible to predict. Accordingly, the reorganization enterprise value estimated by Greenhill does not necessarily reflect, and should not be construed as reflecting, values of the common stock that will be attained in the public or private markets. The enterprise value ascribed in the analysis does not purport to be an estimate of the post reorganization market trading value of the common stock. Such trading value

may be materially different from the reorganization enterprise value ranges associated with Greenhill's valuation analysis.

THE FOREGOING VALUATION IS BASED UPON A NUMBER OF ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS THAT ARE INHERENTLY SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTIES AND CONTINGENCIES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE COMPANY. ACCORDINGLY, THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE

Table of Contents

THAT THE RANGES REFLECTED IN THE VALUATION WOULD BE REALIZED IF THE PLAN WERE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE, AND ACTUAL RESULTS COULD VARY MATERIALLY FROM THOSE SHOWN HERE.

THE ESTIMATED CALCULATION OF ENTERPRISE VALUE IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT UPON ACHIEVING THE FUTURE FINANCIAL RESULTS AS SET FORTH IN THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS, AS WELL AS THE REALIZATION OF CERTAIN OTHER ASSUMPTIONS, NONE OF WHICH ARE GUARANTEED AND MANY OF WHICH ARE OUTSIDE OF THE COMPANY'S CONTROL, AS FURTHER DISCUSSED IN THE RISK FACTORS AND ELSEWHERE IN THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

THE CALCULATIONS OF VALUE SET FORTH HEREIN REPRESENT ESTIMATED REORGANIZATION VALUES AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT VALUES THAT COULD BE ATTAINABLE IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MARKETS. THE ENTERPRISE VALUE STATED HEREIN DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE AN ESTIMATE OF THE POST-RESTRUCTURING MARKET VALUE. SUCH VALUE, IF ANY, MAY BE MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ENTERPRISE VALUE RANGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS VALUATION ANALYSIS. NO RESPONSIBILITY IS TAKEN BY GREENHILL FOR CHANGES IN MARKET CONDITIONS AND NO OBLIGATIONS ARE ASSUMED TO REVISE THIS CALCULATION OF THE COMPANY'S VALUE TO REFLECT EVENTS OR CONDITIONS THAT SUBSEQUENTLY OCCUR. THE CALCULATIONS OF VALUE DO NOT CONFORM TO THE UNIFORM STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE OF THE APPRAISAL FOUNDATION.

Distributions

All distributions required under the prepackaged plan to holders of allowed claims and interests shall be made by a disbursing agent pursuant to a disbursing agreement. The disbursing agent may designate, employ or contract with other entities to assist in or perform the distributions. The disbursing agent and such other entities will serve without bond.

The distribution date will mean the date, occurring on or as soon as practicable after the later of (1) the effective date and (2) the date when a claim becomes an allowed claim or an interest becomes an allowed interest. Only holders of record of Class 3 Senior Secured Term Loan Claims and Class 5 Convertible Notes Claim as of the distribution record date shall be entitled to receive the distributions provided for in the prepackaged plan. As of the close of business on the distribution record date, the respective transfer ledgers in respect of the convertible notes and term loans under our existing credit facility will be closed, for purposes of making the distributions required in accordance with the provisions of the prepackaged plan. We and the disbursing agent will have no obligation to recognize any transfer of convertible notes or terms loans under our existing credit facility occurring after the distribution record date for purposes of such distributions. We and the disbursing agent will recognize and, for purposes of making such distributions under the prepackaged plan, deal only with those holders of record reflected on the transfer ledgers maintained by the registrars for the convertible notes and terms loans under our existing credit facility as of the close of business on the distribution record date, provided that nothing contained in the prepackaged plan will be deemed to prohibit or otherwise restrict the right of any such holder to transfer such securities at any time.

Distributions to holders of allowed claims and allowed interests will be made at the address of each such holder as set forth in our books and records, or in the case of holders of convertible notes or existing term loans, claims may be made at the addresses of the registered holders contained in the records of the registrar as of the distribution record date, except as provided below. If any holder's distribution is returned as undeliverable, no further distributions to such holder will be made, unless and until we or the disbursing agent are notified of such holder's then current address, at

which time all missed distributions will be made to such holder together with any interest or dividends earned thereon. Amounts in respect of undeliverable distributions made through a disbursing agent will be returned to such disbursing agent making such distribution until such distributions are claimed. All claims for undeliverable distributions must be made on or before the later of the first anniversary of the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective and the date 90 days after such claim is allowed. After such date all unclaimed property held

Table of Contents

by a disbursing agent for distribution to holders will be returned to us and the claim of any holder with respect to such property will be discharged and forever barred.

Conditions to the Effective Date of the Prepackaged Plan

The effective date of the prepackaged plan will not occur until the conditions set forth below have been satisfied or waived:

the confirmation order (a) has been entered in form and substance satisfactory to the debtors and the CD&R Fund and (b) no stay of such order is in effect;

the plan supplement and all schedules, documents and exhibits contained therein have been filed in form and substance acceptable to the debtors and the CD&R Fund;

the effectiveness, execution and delivery, as the case may be, of all actions, documents, certificates, and agreements necessary to implement the prepackaged plan, including documents contained in the plan supplement, and, to the extent required, the filing with the applicable governmental authorities in accordance with applicable law of the same;

the satisfaction or waiver of all conditions precedent to the obligations of the parties to the investment agreement thereunder;

the receipt of all authorizations, consents, regulatory approvals, rulings, or documents that are necessary to implement and effectuate the prepackaged plan;

the receipt of proceeds from the CD&R investment (which is itself subject to several conditions, including the consummation of the term loan refinancing and the ABL financing and the expiration or termination of any waiting period required to consummate the CD&R investment under the HSR Act and the Austrian Act see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Conditions to the CD&R Investment);

the consummation of the term loan refinancing (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing the Term Loan Refinancing); and

the consummation of the ABL financing (see The Restructuring Description of the Term Loan Refinancing and the ABL Financing the ABL Financing); and

the occurrence of the effective date on or before the deadline set forth in the investment agreement.

We retain the right to waive any condition in our sole and absolute discretion, subject to the investment agreement.

Modification of the Prepackaged Plan

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the prepackaged plan, we reserve the right to modify the prepackaged plan, whether such modification is material or immaterial, and seek confirmation consistent with the Bankruptcy Code. Subject to certain restrictions and requirements set forth in section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3019 and those restrictions on modifications set forth in the prepackaged plan, we expressly reserve our rights to revoke, withdraw, alter, amend or modify the prepackaged plan, one or more times, after confirmation, and, to the extent necessary may initiate proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court to so alter, amend, or modify the

prepackaged plan, or remedy any defect or omission, or reconcile any inconsistencies in the prepackaged plan, the prospectus/disclosure statement, or the confirmation order, in such matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of the prepackaged plan.

Under the investment agreement, we are prohibited from waiving any condition to the prepackaged plan or making any changes to the terms and conditions of the prepackaged plan without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund.

Table of Contents

Withdrawal of Prepackaged Plan

We reserve the right to revoke or withdraw the prepackaged plan prior to the effective date of the prepackaged plan and to file subsequent plans of reorganization. If we revoke or withdraw the prepackaged plan, or if confirmation does not occur, then: (1) the prepackaged plan will be null and void in all respects; (2) any settlement or compromise embodied in the prepackaged plan (including the fixing or limiting to an amount certain of any claim or interest or class of claims or interests), assumption or rejection of executory contracts or unexpired leases effected by the prepackaged plan, and any document or agreement executed pursuant to the prepackaged plan, will be null and void; and (3) nothing contained in the prepackaged plan will: (a) constitute a waiver or release of any claims or interests; (b) prejudice in any manner the rights of such debtor or any other entity; or (c) constitute an admission, acknowledgement, offer, or undertaking of any sort by us.

Effect of Prepackaged Plan Confirmation

Discharge

The rights afforded in the plan and the treatment of all claims and interests therein shall be in exchange for and in complete satisfaction, discharge and release of all claims and interests of any nature, whatsoever, including any interest accrued on such claims from and after the petition date.

Except as otherwise provided in the plan or the confirmation order, on or after the effective date: (i) we will be discharged and released to the fullest extent permitted by section 1141 of the Bankruptcy Code from all claims and interests, including claims and interests that arose before the effective date and all debts of the kind specified in sections 502(g), 502(h) or 502(i) of the Bankruptcy Code whether or not: (a) a proof of claim or proof of interest based on such debt or interest is filed or deemed filed pursuant to section 501 of the Bankruptcy Code, (b) a claim or interest based on such debt or interest is allowed pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code, or (c) the holder of a claim or interest based on such debt or interest has accepted the plan; and (ii) all persons will be precluded from asserting against us, our successors or our assets or properties any other or future claims or interests based upon any act or omission, transaction or other activity of any kind or nature that occurred before the effective date.

Except as otherwise provided in the plan or the confirmation order and in addition the injunction provided under sections 524(a) and 1141 of the Bankruptcy Code, on and after the effective date of the prepackaged plan, all persons who have held, currently hold or may hold a debt, claim or interest discharged under the plan are permanently enjoined from taking any of the following actions on account of any such discharge, debt, claim or interest:

commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding against our successors or our respective properties;

enforcing, attaching, collecting or recovering in any manner any judgment, award, decree or order against us, our successors or our properties;

creating, perfecting or enforcing any lien or encumbrance against us, our successors or our properties;

asserting any setoff, right of subrogation or recoupment of any kind against any obligation due us, our successors or our properties; and

commencing or continuing any action in any manner, in any place that does not comply with or is inconsistent with the provisions of the plan or the confirmation order.

Any person injured by any willful violation of such injunction may recover actual damages, including costs and attorneys' fees and, in appropriate circumstances, may recover punitive damages from the willful violator.

Revesting of Assets and Operations of Property

As of the effective date, all property of the estate shall revest in us free and clear of all claims, liens, encumbrances and other interests of the holders of claims and interests. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all rights, privileges, entitlements, the authorizations, grants, permits, licenses, easements, franchises, and other similar items which constitute part of, or are necessary or useful in the operation of our property or

Table of Contents

business now conducted by us, will be vested in us on the effective date, of the prepackaged plan and will thereafter be exercisable and usable by us to the same and fullest extent they would have been exercisable and usable by us before the petition date. From and after the effective date, we may operate our business and use, acquire and dispose of property and settle and compromise claims or interests without supervision by the bankruptcy court and free of any restrictions of the Bankruptcy Code or bankruptcy rules, other than those restrictions expressly imposed by the plan and the confirmation order.

Settlement, Release, Injunction and Related Provisions

Discharges of Claims and Termination of Equity Interests

Pursuant to section 1141(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the prepackaged plan or in any contract, instrument, or other agreement or document created pursuant to the prepackaged plan, the distributions, rights, and treatment that are provided in the prepackaged plan shall be in complete satisfaction, discharge, and release, effective as of the effective date, of claims (including any Intercompany Claims resolved or compromised after the effective date by the reorganized debtors), equity interests, and causes of action of any nature whatsoever, including any interest accrued on Claims or Equity Interests from and after the petition date, whether known or unknown, against, liabilities of, liens on, obligations of, rights against, and equity interests in, the Company or any of its assets or properties, regardless of whether any property shall have been distributed or retained pursuant to the prepackaged plan on account of such claims and equity interests, including demands, liabilities, and causes of action that arose before the effective date, any liability (including withdrawal liability) to the extent such claims or equity interests relate to services performed by employees of the Debtors prior to the effective date and that arise from a termination of employment, any contingent or non-contingent liability on account of representations or warranties issued on or before the effective date, and all debts of the kind specified in sections 502(g), 502(h), or 502(i) of the Bankruptcy Code, in each case whether or not: (1) a proof of claim or equity interest based upon such debt, right, or equity interest is filed or deemed filed pursuant to section 501 of the Bankruptcy Code; (2) a claim or equity interest based upon such debt, right, or equity interest is allowed pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code; or (3) the holder of such a claim or Equity Interest has accepted the prepackaged plan. Any default by the Debtors or their Affiliates with respect to any claim or equity interest that existed immediately prior to or on account of the filing of the chapter 11 cases shall be deemed cured on the effective date. The confirmation order shall be a judicial determination of the discharge of all claims and equity Interests subject to the effective date occurring.

Releases of Liens

Except as otherwise provided in the prepackaged plan or in any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or assumed pursuant to the prepackaged plan, on the effective date and concurrently with the applicable distributions made pursuant to the prepackaged plan and, in the case of a secured claim, satisfaction in full of the portion of the secured claim that is allowed as of the effective date, all mortgages, deeds of trust, liens, pledges, or other security interests against any property of the estates shall be fully released and discharged, and all of the right, title, and interest of any holder of such mortgages, deeds of trust, liens, pledges, or other security interests shall revert to the reorganized debtor and its successors and assigns.

Releases by the Debtors

Pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the prepackaged plan, for good and valuable consideration, including the service of the following released parties, which shall include:

Wachovia Bank, as administrative agent under our existing credit agreement;

the convertible notes indenture trustee, in its capacity as such;

CD&R, the CD&R Investors and their affiliates;

holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement;

Table of Contents

with respect to each of the foregoing entities in the preceding four bullet points, such entities current and former affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such; and

the debtors and the reorganized debtors current and former officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such,

to facilitate the expeditious reorganization of the debtors and the implementation of the restructuring contemplated by the prepackaged plan, on and after the effective date of the prepackaged plan, the released parties will be deemed released and discharged by the debtors, the reorganized debtors, and the estates from any and all claims, obligations, rights, suits, damages, causes of action, remedies, and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative claims asserted on behalf of the debtors, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereinafter arising, in law, equity, or otherwise, that the debtors, the reorganized debtors, the estates, or their affiliates would have been legally entitled to assert in their own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the holder of any claim or equity interest or other entity, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the debtors, the chapter 11 cases, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any security of the debtors or the reorganized debtors, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any claim or equity interest that is treated in the prepackaged plan, the business or contractual arrangements between any debtor and any released party, the restructuring of claims and equity interests prior to or in the chapter 11 cases, the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the prepackaged plan, the plan supplement, the disclosure statement, or related agreements, instruments, or other documents, upon any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before the effective date of the prepackaged plan, other than claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a released party that constitutes willful misconduct or gross negligence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above will not release any post-effective date obligations of any party under the plan or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the plan supplement) executed to implement the of the prepackaged plan, including the investment agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, the amended credit agreement and the ABL agreement.

Releases by Holders of Claims and Equity Interests

As of the effective date of the prepackaged plan, each holder of a claim or an equity interest shall be deemed to have conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever, released and discharged the debtors, the reorganized debtors, and the released parties from any and all claims, equity interests, obligations, rights, suits, damages, causes of action, remedies, and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative claims asserted on behalf of a debtor, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereafter arising, in law, equity or otherwise, that such entity would have been legally entitled to assert (whether individually or collectively), based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the debtors, the debtors restructuring, the chapter 11 cases, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any security of the debtors or the reorganized debtors, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any claim or equity interest that is treated in the prepackaged plan, the business or contractual arrangements between any debtor and any released party, the restructuring of claims and equity interests prior to or in the chapter 11 cases, the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the prepackaged plan, the related disclosure statement, the related plan supplement, or related agreements, instruments, or other documents (including, without limitation, the investment agreement and related agreements, instruments, or other documents), upon any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before the confirmation date of the prepackaged plan, other than claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a released party that constitutes willful misconduct or gross

negligence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above will not release any claims of an impaired creditor that rejects the plan and opts out of the releases on the ballot or any post-effective date obligations of any party under the prepackaged plan or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the plan supplement) executed to implement the prepackaged plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above will not release the personal liability of any of

Table of Contents

the aforementioned released parties if any holder of a claim that votes to reject the prepackaged plan and opts out of such releases by a timely written election and in article VIII of the prepackaged plan for any statutory violation of applicable tax laws or bar any right of action asserted by a governmental taxing authority against the aforementioned released parties for any statutory violation of applicable tax laws.

Exculpation

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the prepackaged plan or plan supplement, none of (a) the debtors, the reorganized debtors, and their affiliates; (b) Wachovia Bank, as administrative agent under our existing credit agreement, in its capacity as such; (c) CD&R and the CD&R Investors; (d) the convertible notes indenture trustee, in its capacity as such; (e) the holders of obligations under our existing credit agreement and (e) with respect to each of the foregoing Entities in clauses (a) through (e), such entities current or former subsidiaries, affiliates, managed accounts or funds, officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such, which we collectively refer to as the exculpated parties, shall have or incur, and each exculpated party is hereby released and exculpated from any claim related to any act or omission in connection with, relating to, or arising out of the debtors out-of-court restructuring efforts, the chapter 11 cases, the formulation, preparation, dissemination, negotiation, or filing of the prospectus/disclosure statement, the prepackaged plan, or any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the prospectus/disclosure, the prepackaged plan, the filing of the chapter 11 cases, the pursuit of confirmation, the pursuit of consummation, the administration and implementation of the prepackaged plan, including the issuance of common stock or the distribution of property under the prepackaged plan, or any other agreement, which we collectively refer to as the exculpated claims, obligation, cause of action, or liability for any exculpated claim, except for gross negligence or willful misconduct, but in all respects such entities shall be entitled to reasonably rely upon the advice of counsel with respect to their duties and responsibilities pursuant to the prepackaged plan. The debtors and the reorganized debtors (and each of their respective affiliates, agents, directors, officers, employees, advisors, and attorneys) have participated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code with regard to the solicitation and distribution of the securities pursuant to the prepackaged plan, and, therefore, are not, and on account of such distributions shall not be, liable at any time for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of the prepackaged plan or such distributions made pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

Injunction

Except as otherwise expressly provided in the prepackaged plan or for obligations issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan, all entities who have held, hold, or may hold claims or equity interests that have been released pursuant to article VIII.C of the prepackaged plan or article VIII.D of the prepackaged plan, discharged pursuant to article VIII.A of the of the prepackaged plan, or are subject to exculpation pursuant to article VIII.E of the prepackaged plan will be permanently enjoined, from and after the effective date, from taking any of the following actions against, as applicable, the debtors, the reorganized debtors, the released parties, or the exculpated parties: (1) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such claims or equity interests; (2) enforcing, attaching, collecting, or recovering by any manner or means any judgment, award, decree, or order against such entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such claims or equity interests; (3) creating, perfecting, or enforcing any encumbrance of any kind against such entities or the property or estates of such entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such claims or equity interests; (4) asserting any right of setoff, subrogation, or recoupment of any kind against any obligation due from such Entities or against the property or estates of such entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such claims or equity interests unless such holder has filed a motion requesting the right to perform such setoff on or before the confirmation date, and notwithstanding an indication in a proof of claim or equity interest or otherwise that such holder asserts, has, or intends to preserve any right of setoff pursuant to section 553 of

the Bankruptcy Code or otherwise; and (5) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such claims or equity interests released or settled pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

Table of Contents

Subordination Rights

Any distributions under the prepackaged plan to holders of Convertible Notes Claims shall be received and retained free from any obligations to hold or transfer the same to any other creditor, and shall not be subject to levy, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process by any holder by reason of claimed contractual subordination rights. The confirmation order shall constitute an injunction enjoining any person from enforcing or attempting to enforce any contractual, legal, or equitable subordination rights to property distributed under the of the prepackaged plan to holders of Convertible Notes Claims, in each case other than as provided in the prepackaged plan.

Rights of Internal Revenue Service

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the prepackaged plan, the confirmation order or the implementing of the prepackaged plan documents: (1) the rights of the IRS to setoff and recoupment shall be preserved; and (2) nothing in Article VIII.D of the prepackaged plan shall constitute a release of the IRS's claims, if any, against the released parties and nothing shall affect the ability of the IRS to pursue, to the extent allowed by non-bankruptcy law, any non-debtors for any liabilities that may be related to any federal tax liabilities owed by the debtors and the reorganized debtors.

Retention of Causes of Action

Except to the extent such rights, claims, causes of action, defenses, and counterclaims are expressly and specifically released in connection with the prepackaged plan, or in any settlement agreement approved during our reorganization case:

all rights, claims, causes of action, defenses, and counterclaims of or accruing to us will remain our assets, whether or not litigation relating thereto is pending on the effective date of the prepackaged plan, and whether or not any such rights, claims, causes of action, defenses, and counterclaims have been listed or referred to in the prepackaged plan, the schedules, or any other document filed with the bankruptcy court, and

we do not waive, relinquish, or abandon (nor will we be estopped or otherwise precluded from asserting) any right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim: (1) whether or not such right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim has been listed or referred to in the prepackaged plan or the schedules, or any other document filed with the bankruptcy court, (2) whether or not such right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim is currently known to us, and (3) whether or not a defendant in any litigation relating to such right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim filed a proof of claim in the reorganization case, filed a notice of appearance or any other pleading or notice in the reorganization case, voted for or against the prepackaged plan, or received or retained any consideration under the prepackaged plan. Without in any manner limiting the generality of the foregoing, notwithstanding any otherwise applicable principle of law or equity, including, without limitation, any principles of judicial estoppel, *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, or any similar doctrine, the failure to list, disclose, describe, identify, or refer to a right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim, or potential right, claim, cause of action, defense, or counterclaim, in the prepackaged plan, the schedules, or any other document filed with the bankruptcy court will in no manner waive, eliminate, modify, release, or alter our right to commence, prosecute, defend against, settle, and realize upon any rights, claims, causes of action, defenses, or counterclaims that we have or may have, as of the confirmation date. We may commence, prosecute, defend against, settle, and realize upon any rights, claims, causes of action, defenses, and counterclaims in our sole discretion, in accordance with what is in our best interests.

Objections to Claims and Interest/Distributions

The prepackaged plan provides that we may object to the allowance of claims or interests filed with the bankruptcy court and that after the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective only we may object to the allowance of claims and interests. Such objections may be resolved by a final order or by compromise or settlement. We, on the one hand, or the holder of any disputed claim, on the other hand, may seek resolution and/or enforcement of an unimpaired disputed claim (other than a claim arising from the rejection of an unexpired lease or executory contract), if a proof of the claim is timely filed, in the bankruptcy court, or, if no proof of claim is timely filed, in any

Table of Contents

other court of competent jurisdiction, either before or after the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective. Rejection claims may be resolved only in the bankruptcy court pursuant to the provisions of the prepackaged plan.

At such time as a disputed claim or disputed interest becomes an allowed claim or allowed interest, in whole or in part, the prepackaged plan provides that the holder of such claim or interest will receive on the distribution date the property that would have been distributed to such holder on the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective if such allowed claim or allowed interest was an allowed claim or allowed interest on the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective.

Limitation of Liability

Except as otherwise provided in the investment agreement, prepackaged plan or the confirmation order, to the extent permitted by law (including section 14 of the Securities Act), neither us nor CD&R, nor any of our officers, directors, members or employees (acting in such capacity), nor any professional persons employed by us shall have or incur any liability to any entity or person for any action taken or omitted to be taken in connection with or related to our reorganization case, the formulation, preparation, dissemination, solicitation, confirmation or consummation of the prepackaged plan, or any other action taken or omitted to be taken in connection with the prepackaged plan or the prepetition restructuring efforts; provided that the foregoing will have no effect on the liability of any entity that would otherwise result from any such act or omission to the extent that such act or omission is determined in a final order to have constituted gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Retention of Jurisdiction

The prepackaged plan provides that the bankruptcy court will retain and have jurisdiction of all matters arising in, arising under, and related to our reorganization case and the prepackaged plan pursuant to, and for the purposes of, sections 105(a) and 1142 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

On the effective date of the prepackaged plan, and to the extent permitted by applicable law, all of our executory contracts and unexpired leases will be assumed in accordance with the provisions of sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, excluding:

any and all executory contracts or unexpired leases which are the subject of separate motions filed pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code by us prior to the commencement of the hearing on confirmation of the prepackaged plan; and

all executory contracts or unexpired leases rejected prior to the entry of the confirmation order of the bankruptcy court. Contracts or leases entered into after the date of commencement of our reorganization case will be performed by us in the ordinary course of business. In order to assume an executory contract or unexpired lease, we must, if there has been a default in such executory contract or unexpired lease, other than a default caused solely by the filing of our reorganization case, at the time of assumption (1) cure, or provide adequate assurance that we will cure such default, (2) compensate or provide adequate assurance that we will promptly compensate, a party to such contract or lease, for any actual pecuniary loss to such party resulting from such default, and (3) provide adequate assurance of future performance under such contract or lease.

Any claims arising out of the rejection of contracts or leases must be filed with the bankruptcy court within 30 days after the later of (1) the entry of a final order authorizing such rejection and (2) the confirmation date of the prepackaged plan, or be forever barred. Each such claim will constitute a Class 6 claim, to the extent such claim is

allowed by the bankruptcy court.

We currently intend to assume all or substantially all executory contracts and unexpired leases.

Treatment of Trade Creditors and Employees During Our Reorganization Case

WE INTEND PROMPTLY FOLLOWING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PROCEEDING TO SEEK BANKRUPTCY COURT APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MEASURES

Table of Contents

DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT OUR TRADE CREDITORS AND EMPLOYEES ARE UNAFFECTED BY THE FILING.

We intend to seek the approval of the bankruptcy court, promptly following the commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding, to make payments in the ordinary course of business in respect of claims of trade creditors. There can be no assurance, however, that the bankruptcy court will permit the payment of the claims of trade creditors in the ordinary course. **IN ANY EVENT, THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PROVIDES THAT VALID CLAIMS OF TRADE CREDITORS ARE TO BE PAID IN FULL AND THAT THE HOLDERS OF SUCH CLAIMS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM OR TAKE ANY OTHER FORMAL ACTION TO OBTAIN SUCH PAYMENT.**

Salaries, wages, expense reimbursements, accrued paid vacations, health-related benefits, severance benefits and similar benefits of our employees will be unaffected by the prepackaged plan. To ensure the continuity of our work force and to further accommodate the unimpaired treatment of employee benefits, we intend to seek the approval of the bankruptcy court, promptly following the commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding, to pay all accrued prepetition salaries or wages, and expense reimbursements, to permit employees to utilize their paid vacation time which accrued prior to the commencement of our reorganization case (so long as they remain our employees) and to continue paying medical benefits under our health plans. There can be no assurance that the bankruptcy court will permit the payment of employee claims and health benefits in the ordinary course. **IN ANY EVENT, THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PROVIDES FOR ALL EMPLOYEE CLAIMS AND BENEFITS TO BE PAID OR HONORED NO LATER THAN THE DATE ON OR AFTER THE DATE THE PREPACKAGED PLAN BECOMES EFFECTIVE WHEN SUCH PAYMENT OR OTHER OBLIGATION BECOMES DUE AND PERFORMABLE. EMPLOYEES SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM OR TAKE ANY OTHER FORMAL ACTION TO OBTAIN SUCH PAYMENT.**

We intend to seek the approval of the bankruptcy court, promptly following the commencement of the prepackaged plan proceeding, to continue to honor our customer programs in the ordinary course of business. There can be no assurance, however, that the bankruptcy court will permit the payment of claims associated with the customer programs. **IN ANY EVENT, THE PREPACKAGED PLAN PROVIDES THAT VALID OBLIGATIONS ARISING UNDER OUR CUSTOMER PROGRAMS ARE TO BE HONORED AND THAT HOLDERS OF CLAIMS THAT ARISE OUT OF THE CUSTOMER PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM OR TAKE ANY OTHER FORMAL ACTION ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH CLAIMS.**

We estimate that payments to trade creditors and employees will total approximately \$107 million over 30 days.

Other First Day Relief

In addition to any orders relating to the payment of prepetition claims of trade creditors and employees, we intend to seek certain orders very shortly after commencement of our reorganization case, including the following (if necessary):

an order authorizing us to obtain debtor-in-possession financing or to use cash collateral;

an order authorizing the retention of professionals (including accountants, attorneys and financial advisors) in connection with our reorganization case;

an order authorizing the retention of ordinary course professionals without the filing of individual retention applications and affidavits;

an order authorizing us (a) to continue our current cash management system, (b) to maintain prepetition bank accounts and (c) to continue use of existing business forms and existing books and records;

an order to relieve us from the filing of certain forms and schedules otherwise required by the U.S. Trustee Operating Guidelines and Reporting Requirements ;

Table of Contents

an order authorizing us to continue our current investment guidelines and invest our available cash in the customary manner and consistent with past practices;

an order authorizing us to pay the CD&R Fund fees and expenses pursuant to the investment agreement;

an order fixing the dates for the hearings on approval of this prospectus/disclosure statement and the prepackaged plan solicitation and confirmation of the prepackaged plan; and

such other orders as are typical in reorganization cases or that may be necessary for the preservation of our assets or for confirmation of the prepackaged plan.

The orders will be sought pursuant to accompanying motions and, if appropriate, memoranda of law. The foregoing list is subject to change depending upon our needs in connection with our operations during our reorganization case. Failure of the bankruptcy court to enter one or more of these orders, or a delay in doing so, could result in our reorganization case becoming protracted and could delay, perhaps materially, the hearing on, and the ultimate confirmation of, the prepackaged plan.

Restriction on Transfer of Securities

Except as noted below, the securities to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan may be freely transferred by most recipients thereof, and all resales and subsequent transactions in the new securities will be exempt from registration under federal and state securities laws, unless the holder is an underwriter with respect to such securities.

Section 1145(b) of the Bankruptcy Code defines four types of underwriters :

(1) persons who purchase a claim against, an interest in, or a claim for administrative expense against the debtor with a view to distributing any security received in exchange for such a claim or interest;

(2) persons who offer to sell securities offered under a plan for the holders of such securities;

(3) persons who offer to buy such securities for the holders of such securities, if the offer to buy is (a) with a view to distributing such securities or (b) made under a distribution agreement; and

(4) a person who is an issuer with respect to the securities, as the term issuer is defined in section 2(11) of the Securities Act.

Under section 2(11) of the Securities Act, an issuer includes any person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by the issuer, or any person under direct or indirect common control with the issuer. To the extent that persons deemed to be underwriters receive securities pursuant to the prepackaged plan, resales by such persons would not be exempted by section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code from registration under the Securities Act or other applicable law. Persons deemed to be underwriters, however, may be able to sell such securities without registration, subject to the provisions of Rule 144 or Rule 148 under the Securities Act, both of which permit the public sale of securities received pursuant to the prepackaged plan by underwriters, subject to the availability to the public of current information regarding the issuer, volume limitations and certain other conditions.

Whether or not any particular person would be deemed to be an underwriter with respect to any security to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan would depend upon various facts and circumstances applicable to that person. Accordingly, we express no view as to whether any person would be an underwriter with respect to any security to be issued pursuant to the prepackaged plan.

GIVEN THE COMPLEX, SUBJECTIVE NATURE OF THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A PARTICULAR PERSON MAY BE AN UNDERWRITER, WE MAKE NO REPRESENTATION CONCERNING THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON TO TRADE IN THE COMMON STOCK TO BE DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO THE PREPACKAGED PLAN. WE RECOMMEND THAT POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS OF SECURITIES CONSULT THEIR OWN COUNSEL CONCERNING WHETHER THEY MAY TRADE SUCH SECURITIES FREELY.

We expect that the confirmation order of the bankruptcy court will provide that the issuance of the shares of common stock distributed under the prepackaged plan in respect of the convertible notes that are subject to a lock-up

Table of Contents

agreement shall be exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act in accordance with section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code. See Securities Laws Matters.

Securities Laws Matters

To the extent that the issuance, transfer or exchange of the securities to be issued under the prepackaged plan are not exempt under section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, the issuance, transfer and exchange of the common stock to be issued under the prepackaged plan to holders of convertible notes will be made by us in a registered offering pursuant to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 of which this prospectus/disclosure statement forms a part. The issuance and sale of the Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued under the prepackaged plan to the CD&R Fund will be made upon the exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, afforded by section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

Certain Transactions by Stockbrokers

Under section 1145(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, stockbrokers are required to deliver a copy of this prospectus/disclosure statement (and supplements hereto, if any, if ordered by the bankruptcy court) at or before the time of delivery of securities issued under the prepackaged plan to their customers for the first 40 days after the date the prepackaged plan becomes effective. This requirement specifically applies to trading and other aftermarket transactions in such securities.

Table of Contents

**UNAUDITED PROJECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR
RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE PREPACKAGED PLAN**

Set forth below are financial projections with respect to the estimated effect of the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan on our results of operations, financial position, and cash flows for the fiscal years ending in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. We prepared these projections to analyze our ability to meet our obligations if we effect the restructuring through the prepackaged plan and to assist each holder of a claim in determining whether to vote to accept or reject the prepackaged plan. These projections are contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement in connection with the filing of the prepackaged plan in order to demonstrate feasibility of the prepackaged plan as required in a bankruptcy proceeding and, accordingly, should not be taken into account in making your decision to tender your convertible notes in this exchange offer. We do not, as a matter of course, publicly disclose projections as to our future revenues, earnings or cash flow. The financial projections should be read in conjunction with the sections titled Selected Consolidated Financial and Other Data, Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information, Risk Factors Relating to the Prepackaged Plan Our future operational and financial performance may vary materially from the financial projections contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement and Capitalization as well as Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements contained in the annual (see Part III, Item 15 of our annual reports on Form 10-K, except with respect to the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended in 2008, which are attached as Exhibit 99.1 to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 10, 2009), quarterly (see Part I, Item 1 of our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q) and current reports filed by us with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference herein.

While presented with numerical specificity, these projections are based upon a variety of assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but are subject to significant business, economic, and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. Consequently, the inclusion of the projections should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the projections will be realized, and actual results may vary materially from those presented below. See Risk Factors. Holders are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these financial projections.

THE PROJECTIONS SET FORTH BELOW WERE PREPARED BY AND ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMPANY AND WERE NOT PREPARED TO CONFORM WITH PUBLISHED GUIDELINES OF THE SEC, ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS REGARDING PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF PROSPECTIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION. IN ADDITION, THE PROJECTIONS WERE NEITHER COMPILED NOR EXAMINED BY ERNST & YOUNG, LLP AND, ACCORDINGLY, ERNST & YOUNG, LLP DOES NOT EXPRESS AN OPINION OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ASSURANCE WITH RESPECT THERETO. THE ERNST & YOUNG, LLP CONSENT INCLUDED IN THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT RELATES TO THE COMPANY'S HISTORICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION. THE ERNST & YOUNG, LLP OPINION DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE PROSPECTIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND SHOULD NOT BE READ TO DO SO. THE PROJECTIONS REFLECT NUMEROUS ASSUMPTIONS, ALL MADE BY MANAGEMENT OF NCI, WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE, GENERAL BUSINESS, ECONOMIC, MARKET AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND OTHER MATTERS, ALL OF WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT AND MANY OF WHICH ARE BEYOND NCI'S CONTROL. THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE IN PREPARING THE PROJECTIONS SET FORTH BELOW WILL PROVE ACCURATE, AND ACTUAL RESULTS MAY BE MATERIALLY GREATER OR LESS IN MANY RESPECTS THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THE PROJECTIONS SET FORTH BELOW.

THE INCLUSION OF THE PROJECTIONS IN THIS PROSPECTUS/DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION THAT NCI, OR ANY OF ITS RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES, OR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, CONSIDER SUCH INFORMATION TO BE AN ACCURATE PREDICTION OF FUTURE EVENTS OR NECESSARILY ACHIEVABLE. IN LIGHT OF THE UNCERTAINTIES INHERENT IN FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION OF ANY KIND, THE COMPANY CAUTIONS AGAINST RELIANCE ON SUCH INFORMATION. THE COMPANY DOES NOT INTEND TO UPDATE OR REVISE THE PROJECTIONS TO REFLECT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING AFTER THE DATE WHEN PREPARED OR TO REFLECT THE OCCURRENCE OF FUTURE EVENTS, EXCEPT TO THE

Table of Contents

EXTENT REQUIRED BY LAW. SEE RISK FACTORS AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS.

Summary of Significant Assumptions. The projections are based upon a number of significant assumptions described below.

Effective Date. The projections have been prepared based on the assumption that the effective date of the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan is November 2, 2009, the last day of the Company's 2009 fiscal year. Although the Company presently intends to cause the effective date to occur as soon as practical following the confirmation of the prepackaged plan, there can be no assurance as to when the effective date will actually occur given the conditions for the effective date to occur pursuant to the terms of the prepackaged plan (including the conditions in the investment agreement (see The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Conditions to the CD&R Investment)).

Revenues. Revenues were calculated for each business segment based on the forecasted volume of product shipped, multiplied by expected sales prices. Sales volumes for each business segment were determined based on the expected level of non-residential construction activity and each segment's current and projected market share. Our forecast of non-residential construction activity is similar to the McGraw-Hill 3Q 2009 non-residential construction forecast as measured in square feet, which projects construction starts measured in square feet to change by -34.8%, -3.3%, +18.4% and +29.4% in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. Expected sales prices are based on the historical mark-ups over raw material costs.

Gross Profit. Gross profit is calculated based on estimated raw material input costs, expected levels of plant capacity utilization, and expected mark-ups over material cost inputs. The primary raw material cost input is steel, which is expected to remain consistent with the average cost incurred in the last half of 2009 through the end of 2010. Steel costs for the periods subsequent to 2010 are projected to be moderately higher than those experienced in 2010 based on expected steel demand increases. During the last six years, steel prices have been exceptionally volatile. The Company's average cost of steel has fluctuated in a manner similar to the fluctuations reported in the CRU North American Steel Price Index published by the CRU Group. Historically, the Company has been able to pass the majority of raw material price increases on to customers, however, there can be no assurance that the Company will continue to be able to pass on steel price fluctuations.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses. Operating expenses are based on the historical expense structures, after giving effect to cost reduction initiatives that were completed during 2009. The cost reduction initiatives included reductions in workforce as well as idling or closure of certain manufacturing plants. We believe that the increased operating leverage resulting from these initiatives will enable us to reduce our ratio of selling, general and administrative expenses to revenues as sales volumes increase.

Interest and Other Expense, Net. Interest expense is calculated based on the terms of the amended credit agreement and ABL credit agreement as presented in the prepackaged plan and the projected underlying borrowings.

Effects of Completion. In determining the projections, the Company estimated the pro forma effects of completing the transactions contemplated by the prepackaged plan. These pro forma effects included estimating the debt extinguishment accounting treatment that would be accorded the transactions, as well as the accounting treatment that would be accorded the issuance of the Series B preferred stock. These transactions are highly complex and require significant estimations and judgment in application. The ultimate accounting for these transactions will be dependent in part on the value of the Company's common stock on the day the transactions close, which may be significantly different than the estimates, which are based on the stock price near the time of this filing. The actual entries recorded upon the close of the transactions may vary significantly from the estimates included in the projections.

Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA is calculated based on the terms of the amended credit agreement contemplated by the prepackaged plan, which are provided in the form of amended credit agreement attached hereto as Annex K (with the completion of items currently blank as agreed upon by Wachovia Bank, National Association (or any successor thereto)), and excludes the effects of the significant charges incurred in 2009 for lower of cost or

Table of Contents

market adjustments, asset impairments, goodwill and intangible asset impairments, and debt extinguishment and refinancing costs.

Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as set forth in the table below. Adjusted EBITDA excludes non-cash charges for goodwill and other asset impairments, restructuring charges, lower of cost or market adjustment and stock compensation expense. Adjusted EBITDA is calculated based on the terms contained in our existing credit agreement. Adjusted EBITDA is used by management and provided to investors to provide comparability between periods of underlying operational results. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered in isolation or as substitutes for operating income (loss), net income (loss), debt or earnings (loss) per share determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

A reconciliation of net loss attributable to the Company to adjusted EBITDA is as follows (in millions):

	FY2009 (P)	FY2010 (P)	FY2011 (P)	FY2012 (P)
Net income (loss)	\$ (759)	\$ (9)	\$ 15	\$ 50
Depreciation/Amortization	33	29	31	29
Stock Compensation	15	5	5	5
Interest and Taxes	70	11	22	43
Restructuring Charges	14			
Goodwill Impairment	623			
LCM Inventory Reserve	40			
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 73	\$ 127

Net Income (Loss) Applicable to Common Shares. Dividends and accretion on the prospective Series B convertible preferred stock are deducted from net income to determine net income applicable to common shares. The Company has the option to pay the dividends on the Series B convertible preferred stock in cash or in-kind with shares of Series B convertible preferred stock. Further, the dividends are eliminated if, at any time after the 30-month anniversary of the initial investment, our common stock trades at or above two times a specified target price (which is equal to \$1.2748 at the closing of the restructuring, but is subject to adjustments thereafter) for each trading day during any period of 20 consecutive trading days. The projections assume that the Company will pay the required dividends for the first two and a half years in-kind and that no dividends would be required thereafter. There can be no assurance that the price of the Company's common stock will exceed the 200% threshold and that no dividends will be required after the 30-month anniversary of the initial investment.

In addition, the Company expects to incur a non-cash beneficial conversion charge related to the Series B convertible preferred stock that will be deducted from net income applicable to the shares of common stock. The amount of the charge is based on the excess of the price of common stock on the closing date of the transaction contemplated by the prepackaged plan over the \$1.2748 conversion price. The charge will be recognized on the date that the shares are immediately convertible into shares of our common stock. The Series B preferred shares are not immediately convertible but will become convertible on the date that we have sufficient authorized shares of common stock available, which date is projected to be at the completion of the March 2010 shareholders meeting.

Cash Flow from Operating Activities. Cash flows from operating activities result from the Company's earnings, adjusted for non-cash charges and changes in working capital. The non-cash charges in 2009 include significant adjustments for asset impairments, goodwill and intangible asset impairments and lower of cost or market inventory charges. Other non-cash charges include share-based compensation expenses and deferred income taxes. Investments in working capital are based on historical asset turn ratios and projected pricing for raw materials.

Cash Flow from Investing Activities. The primary investing activity is capital expenditures. Capital expenditures are based on minimum maintenance and refurbishment activities in 2010 followed by specific capital projects planned thereafter. The capital projects are derived from the Company's strategic plan and include software development and implementation for engineering and drafting software, common ERP systems, and investments in insulated panel manufacturing capacity.

Table of Contents

Cash Flow from Financing Activities. Cash flows from financing activities are based on the debt repayments called for in the recapitalization plan.

PROJECTED INCOME STATEMENT

	Fiscal Year			
	2009	2010	2011 (P)	2012 (P)
	(P)	(P)	(P)	(P)
	(In millions)			
Sales (External)	\$ 961	\$ 861	\$ 1,084	\$ 1,331
Cost of sales	754	671	832	996
Lower of cost or market adjustment	40			
Impairment charge	6			
Gross Profit	\$ 161	\$ 190	\$ 252	\$ 335
<i>GP %</i>	<i>16.8%</i>	<i>22.1%</i>	<i>23.2%</i>	<i>25.2%</i>
Selling, general and administrative expenses	\$ 219	\$ 189	\$ 215	\$ 242
Goodwill and other intangible asset impairment	623			
Restructuring charge	8			
Income from operations	\$ (689)	\$ 1	\$ 37	\$ 93
Interest income (expense), net	\$ (22)	\$ (17)	\$ (14)	\$ (13)
Debt extinguishment and refinancing costs	(102)			
Other income (expense)	1	1	1	1
Earnings before tax	\$ (812)	\$ (15)	\$ 24	\$ 81
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	53	6	(9)	(31)
Net income (loss)	\$ (759)	\$ (9)	\$ 15	\$ 50
Preferred stock dividends and accretion		35	39	23
Preferred stock beneficial conversion charge	10	284	37	20
Net income (loss) applicable to common shares	\$ (769)	\$ (328)	\$ (61)	\$ 7
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 73	\$ 127

Table of Contents**PROJECTED BALANCE SHEET**

	Fiscal Year			
	2009	2010	2011 (P)	2012 (P)
	(P)	(P)	(P)	(P)
	(In millions)			
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 57	\$ 79	\$ 60	\$ 70
Accounts receivable, net	81	79	100	123
Inventories	82	85	105	126
Deferred income taxes	21	21	21	21
Income taxes receivable	26	9		
Prepaid expenses and other	21	21	21	21
Total current assets	\$ 288	\$ 294	\$ 307	\$ 361
Property, Plant and Equipment	503	505	555	595
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(265)	(294)	(325)	(354)
Net property	\$ 238	\$ 211	\$ 230	\$ 241
Goodwill	5	5	5	5
Other assets	47	47	47	47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 578	\$ 557	\$ 589	\$ 654
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Current Liabilities:				
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2
Accounts payable	61	58	73	87
Accrued expenses	73	76	92	103
Total current liabilities	\$ 136	\$ 136	\$ 167	\$ 192
Long-term debt	149	136	117	102
Deferred income taxes	20	20	20	20
Other long-term liabilities	11	8	8	8
Convertible preferred Stock	213	248	287	310
Shareholders' equity (deficit)	49	9	(10)	22
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 578	\$ 557	\$ 589	\$ 654

Table of Contents**PROJECTED CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

	Fiscal Year			
	2009	2010	2011 (P)	2012 (P)
	(P)	(P)	(P)	(P)
	(In millions)			
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net Income	\$ (759)	\$ (9)	\$ 15	\$ 50
Depreciation and amortization	33	29	31	29
Other non-cash adjustments	763	5	4	3
Changes to working capital	24	11		(17)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	61	36	50	65
Investing Activities:				
Capital expenditures	\$ (23)	\$ (9)	\$ (50)	\$ (40)
Other	1	7		
Net Cash used in investing activities	(22)	(2)	(50)	(40)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Repayment of convertible notes	(90)			
Payments on long term debt	(146)	(12)	(19)	(15)
Payment of refinancing costs	(32)			
Net proceeds from preferred stock	218			
Net cash from financing activities	\$ (50)	\$ (12)	\$ (19)	\$ (15)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(11)	22	(19)	10
Cash at beginning of period	68	57	79	60
Cash at end of period	\$ 57	\$ 79	\$ 60	\$ 70

Table of Contents**DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT****Existing Board of Directors**

Our board of directors currently consists of ten members. We have a majority of independent directors on our board of directors as required by the listing standards of the NYSE. Our board of directors has determined, after considering all of the relevant facts and circumstances, that Messrs. Breedlove, Edwards, Forbes, Hawk, Lukens, Martinez, Phipps, Pieper and Sterling are independent from our management, as independence is defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC and the listing standards of the NYSE.

Set forth below are our directors, as of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Name	Position
Norman C. Chambers	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
William D. Breedlove	Director
Philip J. Hawk	Director
Larry D. Edwards	Director
Ed L. Phipps	Director
W. Bernard Pieper	Director
John K. Sterling	Director
Gary L. Forbes	Director
Max L. Lukens	Director
George Martinez	Director

Board of Directors from and after the Closing of the Restructuring

Under the stockholders agreement, from and after the closing of the restructuring and for so long as the CD&R Investors hold voting power of the Company equal in the aggregate to at least 10% of the aggregate voting power held by the CD&R Investors immediately following the closing of the restructuring, the CD&R Investors will be entitled to nominate or designate to serve on the Company's board of directors a number of individuals proportionate to their percentage of aggregate voting power of the Company at the relevant time, subject to any applicable legal and regulatory limitations.

In addition, upon the occurrence of certain events relating to our failure to cause the CD&R Investors' nominees or designees to be elected to our board of directors or the removal of such persons without cause other than by action or request from the CD&R Investors, the CD&R Investors will have the right to designate a board observer to attend (without voting rights) each meeting of our board of directors or any committee thereof (and to receive from us, copies of all notices, information and other material we provide to our board of directors and committees) until such time as such event is cured.

Furthermore, for so long as the CD&R Investors hold in the aggregate at least 20% of the voting power of the Company, the CD&R Investors will be entitled to appoint one of its designees to our board of directors as Lead Director or Chairman of the Executive Committee of our board of directors.

However, for so long as stockholders unaffiliated with the CD&R Investors own in the aggregate at least 5% of the voting power of the Company, the Company's board of directors will include (1) at least two unaffiliated shareholder directors (as described in The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters) and (2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Board Representation and Other Related Matters and The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Governance Matters.

Table of Contents

We have also agreed that for so long as either of the lock-up agreements is in effect and there has been no material breach by the holders that executed each lock-up agreement:

holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes may submit proposed persons to serve as the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, and the Company will consider in good faith any such proposed persons;

prior to the appointment of the initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will provide notice prior to the closing of the restructuring of the Company's proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors; and

in the event that holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes provide written notice to the Company within seven business days that they object to the proposed initial unaffiliated shareholder directors, the Company will propose (and, if necessary, continue to propose) alternative initial unaffiliated shareholder directors so that at least one of the two initial unaffiliated shareholder directors is acceptable to holders of convertible notes representing at least a majority of the outstanding convertible notes.

At this time, no individuals have been proposed by the CD&R Investors or by the Company to serve on our board of directors from and after the closing of the restructuring.

In accordance with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, we will disclose the identity and affiliations of those individuals proposed to serve as members of our board of directors following the restructuring prior to confirmation of the prepackaged plan.

Pursuant to the investment agreement, we have also agreed to take all actions necessary to elect, effective as of the closing of the restructuring, to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual (which exemptions would exempt us from compliance with the NYSE's requirements for companies listed on the NYSE to have (1) a majority of independent directors, (2) a nominating/corporate governance committee and a compensation committee, in each case, composed entirely of independent directors, and (3) charters for the nominating/corporate governance committee and the compensation committee, in each case, addressing certain specified matters) and to ensure that the by-laws, the charters of the committees of our board of directors and any of our corporate guidelines, effective as of the closing, are consistent with the provisions of the stockholders agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement. See [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Governance Matters](#) and [The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement with Respect to Controlled Company Status](#).

Table of Contents**Executive Officers**

Set forth below are our senior executive officers, as of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement, elected by our board of directors and each officer's position within our company. We expect that some or all of these senior executive officers shall maintain their current positions following the restructuring.

Name	Position
Norman C. Chambers	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
Mark E. Johnson	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Mark W. Dobbins	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Charles W. Dickinson	President of Metal Components Division
Bradley D. Robeson	President of NCI Buildings Division
John L. Kuzdal	President of Metal Coil Coating Division
Keith E. Fischer	President of Robertson-Ceco Division
Todd R. Moore	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Eric J. Brown	Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Mark T. Golladay	Vice President, Corporate Development
Richard Allen	Vice President, Finance and Corporate Controller

The address and telephone number of each director and executive officer is: c/o NCI Building Systems, Inc., 10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, Texas 77064, (281) 897-7788.

See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Employee Benefit Matters for a description of amendments to employment agreements with our executive officers to be entered into in connection with the CD&R investment.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND CONVERTIBLE NOTES**

The following table lists the high and low sale prices for our common stock during the past three fiscal years as reported on the NYSE Composite Tape. We did not pay any dividends during such periods. Our common stock is listed on the NYSE (Ticker Symbol: NCS).

	Price	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended October 29, 2006		
First Quarter	\$ 50.54	\$ 40.08
Second Quarter	68.10	48.65
Third Quarter	70.00	47.31
Fourth Quarter	62.50	45.80
Fiscal Year Ended October 28, 2007		
First Quarter	\$ 61.12	\$ 49.74
Second Quarter	60.61	45.38
Third Quarter	52.93	47.81
Fourth Quarter	52.07	36.35
Fiscal Year Ended November 2, 2008		
First Quarter	\$ 39.90	\$ 23.06
Second Quarter	34.13	19.99
Third Quarter	39.81	23.20
Fourth Quarter	40.95	14.25
Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2009		
First Quarter	\$ 19.12	\$ 11.59
Second Quarter	13.03	2.22
Third Quarter	7.50	1.76
Fourth Quarter (through October 16, 2009)	5.12	2.10

On October 16, 2009, the sale price for our common stock as reported by the NYSE was \$3.12 per share.

We had approximately 79 common stockholders of record as of October 1, 2009.

At August 2, 2009, the book value per share for our common stock was \$(0.91).

Table of Contents

The following table lists the high and low bid prices per \$100 in principal amount of convertible notes for each quarter during the past two fiscal years as reported on Bloomberg.

	Bid Quotation	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended October 28, 2007		
First Quarter	\$ 157.66	\$ 137.46
Second Quarter	155.28	127.49
Third Quarter	139.59	134.27
Fourth Quarter	129.27	107.49
Fiscal Year Ended November 2, 2008		
First Quarter	\$ 108.33	\$ 94.10
Second Quarter	102.37	90.75
Third Quarter	110.51	95.71
Fourth Quarter	108.74	83.00
Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2009		
First Quarter	\$ 82.00	\$ 65.00
Second Quarter	85.75	57.50
Third Quarter	85.38	53.50
Fourth Quarter (through October 16, 2009)	148.00	69.00

DIVIDEND POLICY

Historically, we have not paid dividends on our common stock and have no current plans to do so in the future. Furthermore, the terms of our existing credit agreement restrict our ability to do so, and we expect that, if the term loan refinancing is consummated, the amended credit agreement will have similar restrictions. In addition, under the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock, the holders of such shares would participate in any declared common stock dividends and also receive preferred dividends, reducing the cash available to holders of common stock. Our other future indebtedness, if any, may also restrict payment of dividends on our common stock. Also, assuming the consummation of the CD&R investment, we may not declare or pay any extraordinary dividend or distribution without the prior consent of the CD&R Fund pursuant to the stockholders agreement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share.

At September 4, 2009, we had outstanding:

19,981,585 shares of common stock, excluding shares held by the Company as treasury stock;

1,814,854 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance in respect of outstanding options and warrants;

no shares of preferred stock; and

an aggregate of \$180,000,000 principal amount of convertible notes that would be convertible into a maximum of 10,851,687 shares of our common stock.

Pursuant to the stockholders agreement, if the restructuring is completed, we will seek, at a later date, approval to amend our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock so that there are sufficient shares for issuance upon conversion of the Series B convertible preferred stock. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

Preferred Stock

As of the date of this prospectus/disclosure statement, no shares of our preferred stock are outstanding. The authorized shares of our preferred stock are issuable, without further stockholder approval, in one or more series as determined by our board of directors. Our board of directors also determines the voting rights, designations, powers, preferences and the relative participating, optional or other special rights of each series of our preferred stock, as well as any qualifications, limitations or restrictions. Our board may designate:

the title of the series of preferred stock;

any limit upon the number of shares of the series of preferred stock which may be issued;

the preference, if any, to which holders of the series of preferred stock will be entitled upon our liquidation;

the date or dates on which we will be required or permitted to redeem the preferred stock;

the terms, if any, on which we or holders of the preferred stock will have the option to cause the preferred stock to be redeemed or purchased;

the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the preferred stock;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the dividends, if any, which will be payable with regard to the series of preferred stock, which may be fixed dividends or participating dividends and may be cumulative or non-cumulative;

the rights, if any, of holders of preferred stock to convert the preferred stock into another class of our stock or securities, including provisions intended to prevent dilution of those conversion rights;

any provisions by which we will be required or permitted to make any payments to a sinking fund to be used to redeem preferred stock or a purchase fund to be used to purchase preferred stock;

any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock; and

any other material terms of the preferred stock.

The material preferences, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of the Series B convertible preferred stock to be issued pursuant to the investment agreement are set forth in the certificate of designations which is

Table of Contents

included as Annex H and which we incorporate by reference into this document. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment Certain Terms of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock for a description of the terms of the Series B convertible preferred stock.

Effect of New Issuance of Preferred Stock

If our board were to issue a new series of preferred stock, the issuance of such preferred stock could:

- decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to existing common stockholders;
- make removal of the present management more difficult;
- result in restrictions upon the payment of dividends and other distributions to existing common stockholders;
- delay or prevent a change in control of the Company; and
- limit the price that investors are willing to pay in the future for our existing common stock.

Possible Anti-Takeover Effects of Delaware Law and Relevant Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation

Provisions of Delaware law and our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws may make more difficult the acquisition of the company by tender offer, a proxy contest or otherwise or the removal of our officers and directors. For example:

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law prohibits certain publicly-held Delaware corporations from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time such person became an interested stockholder unless the business combination is approved in a specified manner. Generally, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with its affiliates and associates, owns 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock, or is affiliated with the corporation and owns or owned 15% of the corporation's voting stock within three years before the business combination.

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides for a classified board of directors, approximately one-third of which is elected annually for a three-year term. Our restated certificate of incorporation also requires a vote of holders of at least 80% of our voting stock to approve a merger, sale, lease or exchange of any of our assets having an aggregate fair market value of \$5.0 million or more or certain other transactions between us and any other person or corporation holding directly or indirectly more than 10% of our voting stock, unless the merger, sale or other transaction was approved by a majority of the disinterested members of our board of directors or certain price and procedure requirements are met. The above provisions cannot be changed unless the change is approved by the affirmative vote of at least 80% of our voting stock. Further, our restated certificate of incorporation also requires a vote of holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) of our voting stock to adopt, alter, amend or repeal our by-laws.

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that stockholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders. Special meetings of stockholders may be called by the chairman of our board of directors, the chief executive officer or the secretary at the request in writing or by electronic transmission of a majority of our board of directors.

Our by-laws provide time limitations for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at stockholders' meetings.

Pursuant to the investment agreement, we have agreed to take all actions necessary to ensure that the by-laws, the charters of the committees of our board of directors and any of our corporate guidelines, effective as of the closing, are consistent with the provisions of the stockholders agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement. See

The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Investment Agreement Governance Matters. In addition, we have agreed to amend our restated certificate of incorporation. See The Restructuring Description of the CD&R Investment The Stockholders Agreement Agreement to Seek Amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

Copies of our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws, each as amended, have been filed with and are publicly available at or from the SEC. See Where You Can Find More Information.

Table of Contents**MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations to U.S. holders and non-U.S. holders (each term as described below and which we collectively refer to as holders) and to the Company and its subsidiaries, relating to the exchange of the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the treatment of claims with respect to the convertible notes under the prepackaged plan and to the ownership and disposition of the common stock received in respect of the convertible notes and, where indicated, represents the opinion of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. This discussion is based on U.S. federal income tax law, including the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code (which we refer to as the Treasury Regulations), administrative rulings and judicial authority, all as in effect as of the date of this prospectus. Subsequent developments in U.S. federal income tax law, including changes in law or differing interpretations, which may be applied retroactively, could have a material effect on the U.S. federal income tax consequences of participating in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan and of owning and disposing of the common stock received in respect of the convertible notes described in this discussion. No assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, will not challenge one or more of the tax results described in this discussion, and no ruling from the IRS has been, or is expected to be, sought with respect to the U.S. federal tax consequences of this exchange offer or the prepackaged plan or the ownership and disposition of the common stock received in respect of the convertible notes. **This discussion is not tax advice, and holders are urged to consult their independent tax advisors regarding the tax consequences to them of this exchange offer or the prepackaged plan and of the ownership and disposition of the common stock received in respect of the convertible notes.**

This discussion addresses only the U.S. federal income tax considerations that are relevant to holders that hold convertible notes, and that will hold common stock received in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, as capital assets within the meaning of section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code. This discussion does not address all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular holder or the Company and its subsidiaries. In particular, it does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift or alternative minimum tax consequences, or any state, local or foreign tax consequences, of participating in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, upon the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan or of owning or disposing of common stock. Additionally, this discussion does not address any of the tax consequences to holders that may be subject to special tax treatment with respect to their participation in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, upon the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan or their ownership or disposition of common stock, including banks, thrift institutions, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships or other pass-through entities, personal holding companies, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, persons who elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, persons who hold the convertible notes or will hold the common stock in a straddle or as part of a hedging, conversion or constructive sale transaction, U.S. holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, certain former citizens or residents of the United States, brokers, traders or dealers in securities or currencies, any person owning convertible notes in denominations other than \$1000 or any integral multiple thereof, or any person owning directly, indirectly or constructively 5% or more of the total voting power or total value of our stock or any affiliate of such person. Further, this discussion does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences to stockholders in, or partners or beneficiaries of, an entity that participates in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, upon the effectiveness of the prepackaged plan. If the holder acquired different blocks of convertible notes at different times or at different prices, the holder should consult with its independent tax advisor regarding the manner in which the below rules would apply to such holder.

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a convertible note or a share of common stock, as applicable, that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other business entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia;

Table of Contents

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

a trust, if (i) a U.S. court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons (within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code) have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a convertible note or a share of common stock, as applicable, that is neither a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) nor a U.S. holder.

If a partnership or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds a convertible note and participates in this exchange offer, or in the alternative, the prepackaged plan is effected, the tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and on the activities of the partnership. Partners of partnerships holding convertible notes are encouraged to consult their independent tax advisors regarding the tax consequences to them of this exchange offer or the prepackaged plan and of the ownership and disposition of the common stock received in respect of the convertible notes.

This discussion assumes that the convertible notes are treated as debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Consequences to U.S. Holders

Exchange of Convertible Notes for Common Stock and Cash

The tax treatment of the exchange of convertible notes for common stock and cash pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan depends on whether the convertible notes are treated as securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The term "security" is not defined in the Internal Revenue Code or in the Treasury Regulations and has not been clearly defined by judicial decisions. The determination of whether a particular debt obligation constitutes a security depends on an evaluation of the overall nature of the debt obligation. One of the most significant factors considered in determining whether a particular debt obligation is a security is its original term. In general, debt obligations issued with a maturity at issuance of less than five years do not constitute securities, whereas debt obligations with a maturity at issuance of ten years or more constitute securities. Whether the convertible notes constitute securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes is unclear because holders have the option to require the Company to redeem the convertible notes after five years of their issuance.

If the convertible notes are treated as securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, counsel is of the opinion that the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. holder of the exchange of a convertible note for common stock and cash will be as follows:

Gain (but not loss) will be recognized on the exchange in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the amount of gain realized (measured by the amount by which the sum of the fair market value of the shares of common stock and the amount of cash received exceeds the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the convertible note) and (ii) the amount of cash received, excluding in each case cash and common stock attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

Subject to the discussion of market discount below, any such gain will be capital gain and will be long-term capital gain if the U.S. holder's holding period for the convertible note is more than one year at the time of the exchange.

The holding period of the shares of common stock (excluding common stock attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any) will include the holding period of the convertible note exchanged for the shares of common stock.

The adjusted tax basis of the shares of common stock (excluding common stock attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any) will be equal to the adjusted tax basis of the convertible note decreased by the amount

Table of Contents

of cash received (excluding cash attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any) and increased by the amount of gain recognized, if any.

If the convertible notes do not constitute securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the exchange of a convertible note for common stock and cash will be a taxable transaction, and the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the exchange to a U.S. holder will be as follows:

Gain or loss will be recognized in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the sum of the fair market value of the shares of common stock and the amount of cash received (excluding cash and common stock attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any) and (ii) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the convertible note.

Subject to the discussion of market discount below, any such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for the convertible note is more than one year at the time of the exchange. The deduction of capital losses for U.S. federal income tax purposes is subject to limitations.

The holding period of the shares of common stock will start on the day following the exchange.

The adjusted tax basis of the shares of common stock will equal their fair market value on the day of the exchange.

Due to the inherently factual nature of the determination, U.S. holders are urged to consult their independent tax advisors regarding the classification of the convertible notes as securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the U.S. federal income tax consequences of such classification.

Market Discount

A U.S. holder that purchased its convertible notes at a market discount (defined as the excess, subject to a *de minimis* threshold, of the stated redemption price of the convertible note at maturity over the U.S. holder's basis in such convertible note immediately after its acquisition) may be subject to the market discount rules of the Internal Revenue Code. Under those rules, any gain recognized on the exchange of such convertible notes generally would be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the market discount accrued during the U.S. holder's period of ownership, unless the U.S. holder elected to include the market discount in income as it accrued. If the convertible notes are treated as securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as discussed above, then any accrued market discount not recognized on the exchange may carry over to the shares of common stock (excluding common stock attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, if any) such that any gain recognized by the U.S. holder upon a subsequent disposition of such shares of common stock would be treated as ordinary income to the extent of any such accrued market discount not previously included in income. U.S. holders who acquired their convertible notes other than at original issuance should consult their independent tax advisors regarding the possible application of the market discount rules of the Internal Revenue Code to an exchange of the convertible notes pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan.

Accrued and Unpaid Interest

The extent to which the consideration received by a U.S. holder of a convertible note in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan will be attributable to accrued and unpaid interest is unclear. Treasury Regulations generally treat a payment under a debt instrument first as a payment of accrued and unpaid interest and then as a payment of principal. To the extent that any amount of the consideration received by a U.S. holder of a convertible note is attributable to accrued and unpaid interest, (i) if not previously included in income, such amount

should be taxable to the U.S. holder as interest income or (ii) the U.S. holder may recognize a loss to the extent the amount of such consideration is less than the amount of accrued and unpaid interest that has been previously included in income.

Table of Contents

Ownership and Taxable Disposition of Common Stock Received in this Exchange Offer or, in the Alternative, the Prepackaged Plan

Distributions paid by us out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) on shares of common stock will constitute dividends. Under current law, such dividends received by individual U.S. holders will qualify for a 15% tax rate on qualified dividend income through December 31, 2010 provided that holding period and other requirements are met. Such dividends will be eligible for the dividends received deduction if the U.S. holder is an otherwise qualifying corporate holder that meets the holding period and other requirements for the dividends received deduction. If a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a tax-free return of the U.S. holder's investment up to such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the shares of common stock and thereafter as gain from a taxable disposition of the shares of common stock.

Upon a taxable disposition of the shares of common stock, a U.S. holder will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the shares of common stock. Such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period in such shares of common stock exceeds one year immediately prior to such disposition. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. As discussed above, a U.S. holder may be required to treat gain from the disposition of shares of common stock (including certain dispositions that are non-recognition transactions under the Internal Revenue Code) as ordinary income to the extent accrued market discount on the convertible note is carried over to such shares of common stock.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Payments of interest on the convertible notes, payments of dividends on the shares of common stock and payments with respect to amounts realized on the disposition (including a disposition pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan, a retirement or a redemption) of the convertible notes or the shares of common stock may be reported to the IRS and may be subject to backup withholding unless the U.S. holder (i) is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) provides a valid taxpayer identification number and certifies that no loss of exemption from backup withholding has occurred.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or credit against a U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

Exchange of Convertible Notes for Common Stock and Cash

A non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes with respect to any gain recognized on the exchange of convertible notes for common stock and cash unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment that such non-U.S. holder maintains or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base), in which case the gain will be subject to tax in the same manner as effectively connected income as described below under **Income Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business** ;

the non-U.S. holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the exchange and certain other conditions are met, in which case the gain will be subject to tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate of withholding tax as may apply under an income tax treaty for which the non-U.S. holder is eligible); or

the non-U.S. holder meets certain ownership requirements and we have been a United States real property holding corporation, or a USRPHC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of the exchange or, if shorter, the non-U.S. holder's holding period with respect to the convertible notes. However, we do not believe that we are currently, or have been at any time over the past five years, a USRPHC, nor do we anticipate becoming a USRPHC.

Table of Contents

Accrued and Unpaid Interest

The extent to which the consideration received by a non-U.S. holder of a convertible note in this exchange offer or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, will be attributable to accrued and unpaid interest is unclear.

Treasury Regulations generally treat a payment under a debt instrument first as a payment of accrued and unpaid interest and then as a payment of principal. A non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on interest paid on the convertible notes, if the interest is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (or, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base), provided that the non-U.S. holder:

does not actually or constructively, directly or indirectly, own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us (directly or indirectly) through stock ownership;

is not a bank receiving interest on a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business; and

certifies to its non-U.S. status on IRS Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form).

If a non-U.S. holder cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments treated as interest made to the non-U.S. holder will be subject to a 30% U.S. federal withholding tax, unless the non-U.S. holder (i) qualifies for a reduced rate of withholding, or is able to claim a valid exemption, under an income tax treaty (generally, by providing an IRS Form W-8BEN claiming treaty benefits) or (ii) establishes that such interest is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States as further discussed below under **Income Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business**. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax under a tax treaty may also obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of that rate by filing a timely refund claim with the IRS.

Ownership and Taxable Disposition of Common Stock Received in this Exchange Offer or, in the Alternative, Pursuant to the Prepackaged Plan

In general, any distributions we make to a non-U.S. holder with respect to its shares of common stock that constitute a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% of the gross amount, unless the non-U.S. holder is eligible for a reduced rate of withholding tax under an applicable tax treaty and the non-U.S. holder provides proper certification of its eligibility for such reduced rate. A distribution will constitute a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any distribution not constituting a dividend will be treated first as reducing the adjusted basis in the non-U.S. holder's shares of common stock and thereafter as gain from the sale or exchange of such shares of common stock. Dividends we pay to a non-U.S. holder that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business within the United States will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax, as described above, if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. Instead, such dividends will be subject to U.S. federal income tax as further discussed below under **Income Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business**.

Non-U.S. holders will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on gain recognized on the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of shares of common stock unless certain exceptions apply, as described above under **Exchange of Convertible Notes for Common Stock and Cash**.

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

If a non-U.S. holder is or was engaged in a trade or business in the United States and interest, dividends or gain with respect to a convertible note or a share of common stock is or was effectively connected with the conduct of the non-U.S. holder's trade or business, and, where a U.S. income tax treaty applies, the non-U.S. holder maintains a U.S. permanent establishment (or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base) to which the interest, dividends or gain is attributable, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on such interest, dividends or gain in the same manner as a U.S. Holder, as described above under Consequences to U.S. Holders.

Table of Contents

Such interest or dividends will be exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax if the non-U.S. holder claims the exemption by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI or other applicable form to the payer on or before the relevant payment date. In addition, if a non-U.S. holder is a corporation, the non-U.S. holder may be subject to a U.S. branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, as adjusted for certain items, unless a lower rate applies to the non-U.S. holder under a U.S. income tax treaty with the non-U.S. holder's country of residence.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

A non-U.S. holder not subject to U.S. federal income tax may nonetheless be subject to backup withholding and information reporting with respect to interest paid on the convertible notes or dividends paid on the shares of common stock and with respect to amounts realized on the disposition (including a disposition pursuant to this exchange offer or, in the alternative, the prepackaged plan, a retirement or a redemption) of the convertible notes or the shares of common stock unless the non-U.S. holder provides the withholding agent with the applicable IRS Form W-8 or otherwise establishes an exemption. Non-U.S. holders should consult their independent tax advisors as to their qualifications for an exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption.

Consequences to Non-Participating Holders if the Recapitalization Plan Is Consummated

If the recapitalization plan is consummated, holders that do not tender their convertible notes in this exchange offer will not recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes and will continue to have the same tax basis and holding period with respect to the convertible notes as they had before the consummation of this exchange offer.

Consequences to the Company

Cancellation of Indebtedness Income

The exchange of convertible notes pursuant to the recapitalization plan or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan will generally result in COD income to us for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent that the adjusted issue price of the exchanged convertible notes exceeds the fair market value of the shares of common stock and cash paid in exchange for such convertible notes (except to the extent that such consideration is attributable to accrued and unpaid interest). Thus, the precise amount of COD income, if any, resulting from the exchange of convertible notes cannot be determined until the date of the exchange. In addition, the term loan refinancing may also result in COD income to us.

To the extent we were considered insolvent from a tax perspective immediately prior to the completion of the recapitalization plan, any such COD income would be excluded from our taxable income. Alternatively, if the discharge of our liability occurred pursuant to the prepackaged plan, any COD income from such discharge would be excluded from our taxable income.

If and to the extent any COD income is excluded from taxable income pursuant to the insolvency exception or the bankruptcy exception described above, we generally will be required to reduce certain of our tax attributes, including, but not limited to, our net operating losses, loss carryforwards, credit carryforwards and tax basis in certain assets, by the amount of any excluded COD income. This may result in a significant reduction in, and possible elimination of, certain of our tax attributes. Under regulations applicable to taxpayers filing consolidated returns, generally the tax attributes attributable to the debtor member (and, to the extent required by certain look-through rules, its direct or indirect subsidiaries) are the first to be reduced. To the extent that any COD income of such debtor member of the consolidated group exceeds the tax attributes attributable to such debtor member, the consolidated tax attributes attributable to other members of the consolidated group must be reduced.

If any COD income is not excluded from our taxable income and we do not have sufficient losses to offset fully such COD income, we may incur tax liability from such COD income. We may make an election under recently enacted section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code to defer the inclusion of all or a portion of any COD income resulting from the consummation of the recapitalization plan or the prepackaged plan, with the amount of deferred

Table of Contents

COD income becoming includible in taxable income ratably over a five-taxable-year period beginning in, if such consummation occurs in 2009, the fifth taxable year after such consummation.

To the extent the fair market value of the shares of common stock and cash paid pursuant to this exchange offer, or, in the alternative, pursuant to the prepackaged plan, exceeds the adjusted issue price of the convertible notes (except to the extent that such consideration is attributable to accrued and unpaid interest), the Company will generally have paid a premium on the exchange for the convertible notes. The premium might not be deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Potential Limitations on Net Operating Loss Carryforwards and Other Tax Attributes

The restructuring is expected to result in an ownership change of our Company within the meaning of section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. Under section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, if a corporation or a consolidated group with net operating losses, or NOLs, loss carryforwards or certain other tax attributes, which we refer to as a loss corporation, undergoes an ownership change, the loss corporation's use of its pre-change NOLs, loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes generally will be subject to an annual limitation in the post-change period.

Subject to the special bankruptcy rules discussed below, the amount of the annual limitation on a loss corporation's use of its pre-change NOLs (and certain other tax attributes) is generally equal to the product of the applicable long-term tax-exempt rate (as published by the IRS for the month in which the ownership change occurs) and the value of the loss corporation's outstanding stock immediately before the ownership change (excluding certain capital contributions). If a loss corporation has a net unrealized built-in gain, immediately prior to the ownership change, the annual limitation may be increased during the subsequent five-year period. If a loss corporation has a net unrealized built-in loss, immediately prior to the ownership change, certain losses recognized during the subsequent five-year period also would be subject to the annual limitation.

If the ownership change occurs pursuant to a bankruptcy plan and, if as expected here, the debtor does not satisfy the requirements of, or elects not to apply, section 382(l)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, the debtor's use of its pre-change NOLs, loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes will be subject to an annual limitation as determined under section 382(l)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. In such case, the amount of the annual limitation generally will be equal to the product of the applicable long-term tax-exempt rate and the value of the debtor's outstanding stock immediately after the bankruptcy reorganization, provided such value may not exceed the value of the debtor's gross assets immediately before the ownership change, subject to certain adjustments.

The impact on us of any ownership change under section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code depends upon, among other things, the amount of our pre-ownership change losses and other tax attributes remaining after the recognition of any COD income or reduction of tax attributes, the value of our Company at the time of the ownership change, and the amount and timing of future taxable income.

Alternative Minimum Tax

Notwithstanding our ability to utilize our losses to offset any COD income for regular U.S. federal income tax purposes, we may nonetheless be liable to tax under the alternative minimum tax, which we refer to as AMT, provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, if a corporation undergoes an ownership change and is in a net unrealized built-in loss position (as determined for AMT purposes) on the date of the ownership change, the corporation's aggregate tax basis in its assets would be reduced for certain AMT purposes to reflect the fair market value of such assets as of the change date.

Any AMT that a corporation pays generally is allowed as a nonrefundable credit against its regular U.S. federal income tax liability in future taxable years when it is no longer subject to the AMT.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the exchange of the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock and the acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition of shares of common stock by an employee benefit plan subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, or ERISA, a plan described in section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, including an individual retirement account, or IRA, or a Keogh plan, a plan subject to provisions under applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, and any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any such employee benefit or retirement plan's investment in such entity, each of which we refer to as a plan.

General Fiduciary Matters

ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, which we refer to as an ERISA plan and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA plan with its fiduciaries or other interested parties. In general, under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the administration of such an ERISA plan or the management or disposition of the assets of such an ERISA plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to such an ERISA plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of the ERISA plan. Plans that are governmental plans (as defined in section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in section 3(33) of ERISA or section 4975(g)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) and non-U.S. plans (as described in section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) are not subject to the requirements of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code (but may be subject to similar prohibitions under applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code).

In considering an exchange of the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock and the acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition of the shares of common stock with a portion of the assets of a plan, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code relating to a fiduciary's duties to the plan including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code and any other applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA prohibits ERISA plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of section 3(14) of ERISA, and section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes an excise tax on certain disqualified persons, within the meaning of section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, who engage in similar transactions, in each case, unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction also may be subject to other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. In the case of an IRA, the occurrence of a prohibited transaction could cause the IRA to lose its tax-exempt status.

The acquisition and/or holding (and, to the extent relevant, disposition) of the convertible notes or the shares of common stock by an ERISA plan with respect to which NCI, the dealer-manager, the information agent or the exchange agent is considered a party in interest or a disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under section 406 of ERISA and/or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, unless the investment is acquired and is held in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor, or DOL, has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may apply to the acquisition and holding of the convertible notes or the shares of common stock. These class exemptions include, without limitation, PTCE 84-14 respecting transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 respecting insurance

Table of Contents

company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 respecting bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 respecting life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 respecting transactions determined by in-house asset managers. Plans that acquired or held convertible notes in reliance on PTCE 84-14 should note that this exchange offer may constitute a renewal under Part V(i) of PTCE 84-14 and any such plan should consult its counsel to evaluate whether PTCE 84-14 remains applicable. In addition, section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and section 4975(d)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code each provides a limited exemption, called the service provider exemption, from the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code for certain transactions, provided that neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates (directly or indirectly) have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any ERISA plan involved in the transaction and provided further that the ERISA plan pays no more than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction. There can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied.

Because of the foregoing, the shares of common stock should not be acquired or held by any person investing plan assets of any plan, unless such acquisition and holding will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited **transaction under ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code or similar violation of any applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code.**

Representation

By exchanging a convertible note and accepting cash and shares of common stock, each purchaser and holder will be deemed to have represented and warranted that either (1) it is not a plan and no portion of the assets used to acquire or hold the shares of common stock constitutes assets of any plan or (2) the exchange of a convertible note and the acquisition and holding of shares of common stock (including the exchange of a convertible note for common stock) will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under section 406 of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code or similar violation under any applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries, or other persons considering acquiring the common stock (or exchanging the convertible notes for cash and shares of common stock) on behalf of, or with the assets of, any plan, consult with their counsel regarding the potential applicability of ERISA, section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code and any similar laws to such investment and whether an exemption would be applicable to the purchase and holding of the common stock. The sale of any convertible notes by or to any plan or plan subject to similar laws is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by such plans generally or any particular plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for plans generally or any particular plan.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus/disclosure statement is a part of a registration statement on Form S-4 that we filed with the SEC registering the securities that may be offered and sold hereunder. This registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and these securities that, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, we have not included in this prospectus/disclosure statement. A copy of the registration statement can be obtained at the address set forth below. You should read the registration statement, including any applicable prospectus/disclosure statement supplement, for further information about us and these securities.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy this information at the following SEC location:

Public Reference Room
100 F Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements, information statements and other information about issuers, like NCI Building Systems, Inc., that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that web site is *www.sec.gov*.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus/disclosure statement. This means that we can disclose important information about us and our financial condition to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus/disclosure statement. This prospectus/disclosure statement incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K, except for Part II, Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, for the year ended November 2, 2008;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended February 1, 2009, May 3, 2009 and August 2, 2009; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on November 21, 2008, December 11, 2008, December 17, 2008, January 16, 2009, February 19, 2009, March 10, 2009, March 17, 2009, May 21, 2009, June 6, 2009, July 15, 2009, August 19, 2009, August 27, 2009, August 28, 2009, September 1, 2009, September 10, 2009, September 15, 2009, September 30, 2009 (two reports), October 8, 2009 and October 9, 2009; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Form 8-A/A, filed on June 25, 1999, and any subsequent amendment thereto filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference all documents that we subsequently file with the SEC after the filing of this prospectus/disclosure statement pursuant to section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and prior to the date this exchange offer is terminated. Nothing in this prospectus/disclosure statement shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished but not filed with the SEC.

Any statement contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus/disclosure statement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus/disclosure statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in the applicable prospectus/disclosure statement supplement or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus/ disclosure statement.

Table of Contents

You may request a copy of the filings incorporated herein by reference, including exhibits to such documents that are specifically incorporated by reference, at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address or telephone number:

NCI Building Systems, Inc.
Investor Relations Department
10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West
Houston, Texas 77064
(281) 897-7788

Exhibits to these filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have been specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus/disclosure statement.

Statements contained in this prospectus/disclosure statement as to the contents of any contract or other documents are not necessarily complete, and in each instance investors are referred to the copy of the contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference and the exhibits and schedules thereto.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and related schedule of NCI Building Systems, Inc. for the fiscal year ended November 2, 2008 (including the schedule appearing therein), attached as Exhibit 99.1 to NCI Building Systems, Inc. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 10, 2009, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

The validity of the shares of common stock offered hereby are being passed upon by Todd R. Moore, Esq., Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company. Mr. Moore is paid a salary and bonus by the Company, participates in certain of the Company s employee benefit plans, owns shares of the Company s common stock and holds options to acquire shares of the Company s common stock.

Table of Contents

Annex A

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

)	
In re:)	Chapter 11
)	
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., <u>et al.</u> , ¹)	Case No. 09- ()
)	
Debtors.)	Joint Administration Requested
)	

**JOINT PREPACKAGED PLAN OF REORGANIZATION OF
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., ET AL. PURSUANT
TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE**

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022-4611
Telephone: (212) 446-4800
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

**WACHTELL, LIPTON,
ROSEN & KATZ**
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: (212) 403-1000
Facsimile: (212) 403-2000

**YOUNG CONAWAY
STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLP**
The Brandywine Building
1000 West Street, 17th Floor
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
Telephone: (302) 571-6637
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors

Dated: October , 2009

¹ The Debtors, together with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: NCI Building Systems, Inc. (7701) NCI Group, Inc. (8132) Steelbuilding.com, Inc. (8097) and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation

(9146). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters and the service address for all Debtors is: 10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, Texas 77064.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I. DEFINED TERMS, RULES OF INTERPRETATION, COMPUTATION OF TIME, AND GOVERNING LAW	A-1
A. Defined Terms.	A-1
B. Rules of Interpretation.	A-7
C. Computation of Time.	A-8
D. Governing Law.	A-8
E. Reference to Monetary Figures.	A-8
ARTICLE II. ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS AND PRIORITY TAX CLAIMS	A-8
A. Administrative Claims.	A-8
B. Priority Tax Claims.	A-9
ARTICLE III. CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS	A-9
A. Classification of Claims and Equity Interests.	A-9
B. Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests.	A-10
C. Special Provision Governing Unimpaired Claims.	A-14
D. Acceptance or Rejection of the Plan.	A-14
E. Confirmation Pursuant to Sections 1129(a)(10) and 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.	A-14
F. Controversy Concerning Impairment.	A-14
G. Subordinated Claims.	A-15
ARTICLE IV. MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN	A-15
A. General Settlement of Claims.	A-15
B. Restructuring Transactions.	A-15
C. Existing Letters of Credit.	A-15
D. Sources of Consideration for Plan Distributions.	A-15
E. Management Employment Contracts.	A-16
F. Corporate Existence.	A-16
G. Vesting of Assets in the Reorganized Debtors.	A-17
H. Cancellation of Securities and Agreements.	A-17
I. Surrender of Existing Securities.	A-17
J. Corporate Action.	A-18
K. New Certificates of Incorporation and New By-Laws.	A-18
L. Directors and Officers of the Reorganized Debtors.	A-18
M. Effectuating Documents; Further Transactions.	A-19
N. Section 1146 Exemption.	A-19
O. Employee and Retiree Benefits.	A-19
P. Preservation of Causes of Action.	A-19
ARTICLE V. TREATMENT OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES	A-20
A. Assumption and Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.	A-20
B. Claims Based on Rejection of Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases.	A-20
C. Cure of Defaults for Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases Assumed.	A-20
D. Insurance Policies.	A-21
E. Modifications, Amendments, Supplements, Restatements, or Other Agreements.	A-21
F. Reservation of Rights.	A-21
G. Nonoccurrence of Effective Date.	A-21

Table of Contents

H. Contracts and Leases Entered Into After the Petition Date.	A-21
ARTICLE VI. PROVISIONS GOVERNING DISTRIBUTIONS	A-22
A. Timing and Calculation of Amounts to Be Distributed.	A-22
B. Disbursing Agent.	A-22
C. Rights and Powers of Disbursing Agent.	A-22
D. Delivery of Distributions and Undeliverable or Unclaimed Distributions.	A-22
E. Manner of Payment.	A-23
F. Section 1145 Exemption.	A-23
G. Compliance with Tax Requirements.	A-24
H. Allocations.	A-24
I. No Postpetition Interest on Claims.	A-24
J. Setoffs and Recoupment.	A-24
K. Claims Paid or Payable by Third Parties.	A-24
ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONTINGENT, UNLIQUIDATED, AND DISPUTED CLAIMS	A-25
A. Allowance of Claims.	A-25
B. Proofs of Claims.	A-25
C. Prosecution of Objections to Claims.	A-25
D. Procedures Regarding Disputed Claims.	A-25
E. Disallowance of Claims or Interests.	A-26
F. No Distributions Pending Allowance.	A-26
G. Distributions After Allowance.	A-26
ARTICLE VIII. SETTLEMENT, RELEASE, INJUNCTION, AND RELATED PROVISIONS	A-26
A. Discharge of Claims and Termination of Equity Interests.	A-26
B. Release of Liens.	A-27
C. Releases by the Debtors.	A-27
D. Releases by Holders of Claims and Equity Interests.	A-27
E. Exculpation.	A-28
F. Injunction.	A-28
G. Subordination Rights.	A-28
H. Rights of Internal Revenue Service.	A-29
ARTICLE IX. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO CONFIRMATION AND CONSUMMATION OF THE PLAN	A-29
A. Conditions Precedent to the Effective Date.	A-29
B. Waiver of Conditions.	A-29
C. Effect of Failure of Conditions.	A-29
ARTICLE X. MODIFICATION, REVOCATION, OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLAN	A-30
A. Modification and Amendments.	A-30
B. Effect of Confirmation on Modifications.	A-30
C. Revocation or Withdrawal of Plan.	A-30
ARTICLE XI. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION	A-30
ARTICLE XII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	A-32
A. Immediate Binding Effect.	A-32
B. Additional Documents.	A-32
C. Payment of Statutory Fees.	A-32
D. Payment of Fees and Expenses of the Convertible Indenture Trustee.	A-32

Table of Contents

E. Statutory Committee and Cessation of Fee and Expense Payment.	A-32
F. Reservation of Rights.	A-32
G. Successors and Assigns.	A-32
H. Notices.	A-33
I. Term of Injunctions or Stays.	A-33
J. Entire Agreement.	A-33
K. Exhibits.	A-34
L. Nonseverability of Plan Provisions.	A-34
M. Votes Solicited in Good Faith.	A-34
N. Closing of Chapter 11 Cases.	A-34
O. Waiver or Estoppel.	A-34
P. Conflicts.	A-34

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

NCI Building Systems, Inc., together with its affiliates NCI Group, Inc., Steelbuilding.com, Inc. and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation, as debtors and debtors in possession, propose this joint prepackaged plan of reorganization for the resolution of the outstanding claims against and equity interests in the Debtors pursuant to section 1121(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Capitalized terms used in the Plan and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in Article I.A. The Debtors are the proponents of the Plan within the meaning of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code.

**ARTICLE I.
DEFINED TERMS, RULES OF INTERPRETATION,
COMPUTATION OF TIME, AND GOVERNING LAW**

A. Defined Terms.

As used in this Plan, capitalized terms have the meanings set forth below.

1. *Administrative Claim* means a Claim for costs and expenses of administration pursuant to sections 503(b), 507(a)(2), or 507(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, including: (a) the actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred after the Petition Date and through the Effective Date of preserving the Estates and operating the businesses of the Debtors (such as wages, salaries, or commissions for services, and payments for goods and other services and leased premises); (b) all fees and charges assessed against the Estates pursuant to section 1930 of chapter 123 of the Judicial Code; (c) Professional Fee Claims; and (d) all requests for compensation or expense reimbursement for making a substantial contribution in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to sections 503(b)(3), (4), and (5) of the Bankruptcy Code.
2. *Affiliate* has the meaning set forth in section 101(2) of the Bankruptcy Code.
3. *Allowed* means with respect to any Claim, except as otherwise provided herein: (a) a Claim that is scheduled by the Debtors as neither disputed, contingent nor unliquidated, and as to which the Debtors or other party in interest have not Filed an objection; (b) a Claim that either is not a Disputed Claim or has been Allowed by a Final Order; (c) a Claim that is Allowed (i) pursuant to the Plan, (ii) in any stipulation that is approved by the Bankruptcy Court or (iii) pursuant to any contract, instrument, indenture or other agreement entered into or assumed in connection herewith; (d) a Claim relating to a rejected Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease that either (i) is not a Disputed Claim or (ii) has been Allowed by a Final Order; (e) a Claim that is Allowed pursuant to the terms of the Plan; or (f) a Claim as to which a Proof of Claim has been timely Filed and as to which no objection has been Filed.
4. *Amended and Restated Senior Secured Credit Agreement* means that certain Amended and Restated Credit Agreement to be entered into on the Effective Date, substantially in the form contained in the Plan Supplement.
5. *Avoidance Actions* means any and all actual or potential Claims to avoid a transfer of property or an obligation incurred by the Debtors pursuant to any applicable section of the Bankruptcy Code, including sections 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 553(b), and 724(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
6. *Bankruptcy Code* means title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532.
7. *Bankruptcy Court* means the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware or any other court having jurisdiction over the Chapter 11 Cases.

8. *Bankruptcy Rules* means the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure promulgated under section 2075 of the Judicial Code and the general, local, and chambers rules of the Bankruptcy Court.

9. *Bar Date* means the date, if any, established by the Bankruptcy Court by which Proofs of Claim must be filed.

10. *Business Day* means any day, other than a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday (as defined in Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a)).

A-1

Table of Contents

11. *Cash* means the legal tender of the United States of America, as applicable, or the equivalent thereof.
12. *Causes of Action* means all actions (including Avoidance Actions), causes of action, liabilities, obligations, rights, suits, damages, judgments, remedies, demands, setoffs, defenses, recoupments, crossclaims, counterclaims, third-party claims, indemnity claims, contribution claims, or any other claims whatsoever, in each case held by the Debtors, whether known or unknown, matured or unmatured, fixed or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, disputed or undisputed, suspected or unsuspected, foreseen or unforeseen, direct or indirect, choate or inchoate, existing or hereafter arising, in law, equity, or otherwise, based in whole or in part upon any act or omission or other event occurring prior to the Petition Date or during the course of the Chapter 11 Cases, including through the Effective Date.
13. *CD&R* means Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc. and (i) its Affiliates, (ii) any investment fund managed by Clayton, Dubilier and Rice, Inc. or its Affiliates, (iii) any Affiliates of any such investment fund, (iv) any successor to its investment management business and (v) directors, officers, employees, and partners of the entities described in (i)-(iv) above.
14. *Certificate* means any instrument evidencing a Claim or an Equity Interest.
15. *CD&R Fund* means Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund VIII, L.P.
16. *CD&R Investors* means CD&R Fund and any parallel or co-investment vehicles under common control or management with CD&R Fund to which CD&R Fund assigned its rights and obligations to purchase Series B Preferred Stock under the Investment agreement.
17. *Chapter 11 Cases* means (a) when used with reference to a particular Debtor, the chapter 11 case pending for that Debtor under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Court and (b) when used with reference to all Debtors, the procedurally consolidated chapter 11 cases pending for the Debtors in the Bankruptcy Court.
18. *Claim* means any claim, as such term is defined in section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code, against a Debtor.
19. *Class* means a class of Claims or Equity Interests as set forth in Article III pursuant to section 1122(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
20. *Common Stock* means shares of common stock of NCIBS authorized pursuant to the NCIBS Charter.
21. *Confirmation* means the entry of the Confirmation Order on the docket of the Chapter 11 Cases.
22. *Confirmation Date* means the date upon which the Bankruptcy Court enters the Confirmation Order on the docket of the Chapter 11 Cases, within the meaning of Bankruptcy Rules 5003 and 9021.
23. *Confirmation Hearing* means the hearing held by the Bankruptcy Court on Confirmation of the Plan pursuant to section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code, as such hearing may be continued from time to time.
24. *Confirmation Order* means the order of the Bankruptcy Court confirming the Plan pursuant to section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code.
25. *Consummation* means the effectiveness of this Plan on the Effective Date.
26. *Convertible Notes* means the 2.125% Convertible Notes due 2024 issued by NCIBS.

27. *Convertible Notes Indenture* means that certain Indenture, dated November 16, 2004, by and between NCI Building Systems, Inc. and The Bank of New York, as indenture trustee, pursuant to which NCIBS issued the Convertible Notes.

28. *Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee* means The Bank of New York, as indenture trustee for the Convertible Notes.

29. *Credit Agreement Principal Repayment Amount* means an amount equal to the difference between the aggregate principal amount outstanding under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement as of the Petition Date and \$150.0 million.

Table of Contents

30. *Cure Claim* means a Claim based upon the Debtors' defaults on an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease at the time such contract or lease is assumed by the Debtors pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.
31. *Debtors* means, collectively: NCIBS, NCI Group, Inc., Steelbuilding.com, Inc. and Robertson-Ceco II Corporation.
32. *Disbursing Agent* means the Reorganized Debtors or the Entity or Entities selected by the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, to make or facilitate distributions pursuant to the Plan.
33. *Disclosure Statement* means that certain prospectus/disclosure statement which forms a part of NCIBS' s Registration Statement on Form S-4 filed on September 10, 2009 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including all exhibits and schedules thereto and references therein that relate to the Plan, that is prepared and distributed in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and any other applicable law.
34. *Disputed Claim* means any Claim that is not yet Allowed.
35. *Distribution Record Date* means other than with respect to any publicly held securities, the record date for purposes of making distributions under the Plan on account of Allowed Claims, which date shall be five Business Days after the Effective Date.
36. *Effective Date* means the date selected by the Debtors that is a Business Day after the Confirmation Date on which (a) the conditions to the occurrence of the Effective Date have been met or waived pursuant to Article IX.A and Article IX.B and (b) no stay of the Confirmation Order is in effect. Unless otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or the Investment Agreement, anything required to be done by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, on the Effective Date may be done on the Effective Date or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.
37. *Entity* means an entity as such term is defined in section 101(15) of the Bankruptcy Code.
38. *Equity Interests* means any: (a) Equity Security, including all issued, unissued, authorized, or outstanding shares of capital stock of the Debtors together with any warrants, options, or contractual rights to purchase or acquire such Equity Securities at any time and all rights arising with respect thereto; and (b) partnership, limited liability company, or similar interest in a Debtor.
39. *Equity Security* means any equity security as defined in section 101(16) of the Bankruptcy Code in a Debtor.
40. *ERISA* means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1001-1461 (2006), and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
41. *Estate* means, as to each Debtor, the estate created for the Debtor in its Chapter 11 Case pursuant to section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.
42. *Exchange Act* means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78a et seq.
43. *Exculpated Claim* means any Claim related to any act or omission in connection with, relating to, or arising out of the Debtors' out-of-court restructuring efforts, the Chapter 11 Cases, the formulation, preparation, dissemination, negotiation, or filing of the Disclosure Statement, the Plan, or any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Disclosure Statement, the Plan, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation, the pursuit of Consummation, the administration and implementation of the Plan, including the issuance of Common Stock or the distribution of property under the Plan, or any other agreement.

44. *Existing Letters of Credit* means all outstanding and undrawn letters of credit under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement.

45. *Exculpated Party* means each of: (a) the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Affiliates; (b) the Senior Secured Agent, in its capacity as such; (c) CD&R and CD&R Investors; (d) the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, in its capacity as such; (e) holders of Senior Secured Claims and (f) with respect to each of the foregoing Entities in clauses (a) through (e), such Entities current or former subsidiaries, affiliates, managed accounts or

Table of Contents

funds, officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other Professionals, in each case in their capacity as such.

46. *Executory Contract* means, as applicable, a contract to which one or more of the Debtors is a party and that is subject to assumption or rejection under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.

47. *File* or *Filed* or *Filing* means file, filed, or filing with the Bankruptcy Court or the Debtors' claims agent, as applicable, in the Chapter 11 Cases.

48. *Final Order* means, as applicable, an order or judgment of the Bankruptcy Court or other court of competent jurisdiction with respect to the relevant subject matter, which has not been reversed, stayed, modified, or amended, and as to which the time to appeal, seek certiorari, or move for a new trial, re-argument, or rehearing has expired and no appeal, petition for certiorari, or motion for a new trial, re-argument, or rehearing has been timely filed, or as to which any appeal that has been taken, any petition for certiorari, or motion for a new trial, re-argument, or rehearing that has been or may be Filed has been resolved by the highest court to which the order or judgment was appealed or from which certiorari was sought.

49. *General Administrative Claim* means any Administrative Claim, including Cure Claims, other than a Professional Fee Claim.

50. *General Unsecured Claim* means any Unsecured Claim that is not an Intercompany Claim, a Secured Tax Claim or a Claim in respect of the Convertible Notes.

51. *Governmental Unit* means a governmental unit as defined in section 101(27) of the Bankruptcy Code.

52. *Holdback Amount* means the aggregate holdback of those Professional fees billed to the Debtors during the Chapter 11 Cases that are held back pursuant to the Professional Fee Order or any other order of the Bankruptcy Court, which amount is to be deposited in the Holdback Escrow Account as of the Effective Date. The Holdback Amount shall not be considered property of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors. When all Professional Fee Claims have been paid, amounts remaining in the Holdback Escrow Account, if any, shall be paid to the Reorganized Debtors.

53. *Holdback Escrow Account* means the escrow account established by the Reorganized Debtors into which Cash equal to the Holdback Amount shall be deposited on the Effective Date for the payment of Allowed Professional Fee Claims to the extent not previously paid or disallowed.

54. *Holder* means an Entity holding a Claim or an Equity Interest.

55. *Impaired* means, with respect to a Class of Claims or Equity Interests, a Class of Claims or Equity Interests that is not Unimpaired.

56. *Intercompany Claim* means any Claim held by a Debtor against another Debtor or any Claim held by an Affiliate against a Debtor.

57. *Intercompany Interest* means an Equity Interest in a Debtor held by another Debtor or an Equity Interest in a Debtor held by an Affiliate of a Debtor.

58. *Investment Agreement* means that certain investment agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009, by and between NCIBS and the CD&R Fund, as such agreement may be amended from time to time, pursuant to which the CD&R

Fund agreed to purchase the Series B Preferred Stock.

59. *Investment Proceeds* means the \$250,000,000 payable by the CD&R Investors under the Investment Agreement.

60. *Judicial Code* means title 28 of the United States Code, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1-4001.

61. *Lien* means a lien as defined in section 101(37) of the Bankruptcy Code.

62. *Management Employment Contracts* means those certain management employment contracts identified on Exhibit G of the Investment Agreement.

63. *NCIBS* means NCI Building Systems, Inc.

Table of Contents

64. *NCIBS Charter* means the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of NCIBS, as amended.
65. *NCIBS General Unsecured Claim* means a General Unsecured Claim against NCIBS.
66. *NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim* means a General Unsecured Claim against NCI Group, Inc.
67. *New ABL Revolving Credit Facility* means an asset-backed revolving credit facility to be provided by certain lenders, substantially in the form contained in the Plan Supplement.
68. *New Boards* means the initial boards of directors of the Reorganized Debtors as of the Effective Date.
69. *New By-Laws* means the by-laws of any of the Debtors on and after the Effective Date.
70. *New Certificates of Incorporation* means the certificates of incorporation of any of the Debtors on and after the Effective Date.
71. *New Term Loan* means that certain first-priority, five-year senior secured term loan in the amount of \$150,000,000 provided pursuant to the Amended and Restated Senior Secured Credit Agreement and all other documents entered into in connection therewith or contemplated thereby, substantially on the terms contained in the Plan Supplement.
73. *Other Secured Claim* means any Secured Claim that is not a Senior Secured Claim or a Secured Tax Claim.
74. *Petition Date* means [,], the date on which the Debtors commenced the Chapter 11 Cases.
75. *Plan* means this *Joint Plan of Reorganization of NCI Building Systems, Inc., et al. Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code*, including the Plan Supplement, which is incorporated herein by reference.
76. *Plan Supplement* means the compilation of documents and forms of documents, schedules, and exhibits to the Plan to be Filed by the Debtors no later than five days prior to the Confirmation Hearing or such later date as may be approved by the Bankruptcy Court on notice to parties in interest, and additional documents filed with the Bankruptcy Court prior to the Effective Date as amendments to the Plan Supplement, comprised of, among other documents, the following: (a) the New By-Laws; (b) the New Certificate of Incorporation; (c) the Rejected Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease List; (d) a list of retained Causes of Action; (e) the Stockholders Agreement; (f) the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility; and (g) the Amended and Restated Senior Secured Credit Agreement. Any reference to the Plan Supplement in this Plan shall include each of the documents identified above as (a) through (g). The Debtors shall have the right to amend the documents contained in the Plan Supplement through and including the Effective Date in accordance with Article IX.
77. *Postpetition Period* means the period of time following the Petition Date through the Effective Date.
78. *Priority Non-Tax Claims* means any Claim, other than an Administrative Claim or a Priority Tax Claim, entitled to priority in right of payment under section 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
79. *Priority Tax Claim* means any Claim of the kind specified in section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.
80. *Pro Rata* means the proportion that an Allowed Claim in a particular Class bears to the aggregate amount of Allowed Claims in that Class.

81. *Professional* means an Entity: (a) employed pursuant to a Bankruptcy Court order in accordance with sections 327, 363, or 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code and to be compensated for services rendered prior to or on the Confirmation Date, pursuant to sections 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, and 363 of the Bankruptcy Code or (b) awarded compensation and reimbursement by the Bankruptcy Court pursuant to section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

82. *Professional Fee Claims* means all Administrative Claims for the compensation of Professionals and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by such Professionals through the Confirmation Date.

Table of Contents

83. *Professional Fee Order* means that certain order of the Bankruptcy Court entered on [. 2009], establishing procedures for interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses of Professionals [Docket No.].
84. *Proof of Claim* means a proof of Claim Filed against any of the Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases.
85. *Reinstated* means: (a) leaving unaltered the legal, equitable, and contractual rights to which a Claim entitles the Holder of such Claim or Equity Interest so as to leave such Claim or Equity Interest Unimpaired or (b) notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law that entitles the Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest to demand or receive accelerated payment of such Claim or Equity Interest after the occurrence of a default: (i) curing any such default that occurred before or after the Petition Date, other than a default of a kind specified in section 365(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code or of a kind that section 365(b)(2) expressly does not require to be cured; (ii) reinstating the maturity (to the extent such maturity has not otherwise accrued by the passage of time) of such Claim or Equity Interest as such maturity existed before such default; (iii) compensating the Holder of such Claim or Equity Interest for any damages incurred as a result of any reasonable reliance by such Holder on such contractual provision or such applicable law; (iv) if such Claim or Equity Interest arises from a failure to perform a nonmonetary obligation other than a default arising from failure to operate a nonresidential real property lease subject to section 365(b)(1)(A), compensating the Holder of such Claim or Equity Interest (other than the Debtor or an insider) for any actual pecuniary loss incurred by such Holder as a result of such failure; and (v) not otherwise altering the legal, equitable, or contractual rights to which such Claim or Equity Interest entitles the Holder.
86. *Rejected Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease List* means the list (as may be amended), as determined by the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases (including any amendments or modifications thereto) that will be rejected by the Reorganized Debtors pursuant to the provisions of Article V.
87. *Released Party* means each of: (a) the Senior Secured Agent, in its capacity as such; (b) the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, in its capacity as such, (c) CD&R and the CD&R Investors; (d) holders of Senior Secured Claims (e) with respect to each of the foregoing entities in clauses (a) through (d), such Entities current and former affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such; and (f) the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors current and former officers, directors, principals, employees, agents, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such.
88. *Reorganized Debtors* means the Debtors, in each case, or any successor thereto, by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, on or after the Effective Date.
89. *Reorganized NCIBS* means a newly formed corporation or Reorganized Debtor used to implement the Restructuring Transactions.
90. *Restructuring Transactions* means those mergers, amalgamations, consolidations, arrangements, continuances, restructurings, transfers, conversions, dispositions, liquidations, dissolutions, or other corporate transactions that the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors determine to be necessary or appropriate to effect a restructuring of a Debtor s business or a restructuring of the overall corporate structure of the Reorganized Debtors.
91. *Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim* means a General Unsecured Claim against Robertson-Ceco II Corporation.
92. *Section 510(b) Claim* means any Claim against the Debtors arising from rescission of a purchase or sale of a security of the Debtors or an affiliate of the Debtors, for damages arising from the purchase or sale of such a security,

or for reimbursement or contribution allowed under section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code on account of such a Claim.

93. *Secured* means when referring to a Claim: (a) secured by a Lien on property in which the Estate has an interest, which Lien is valid, perfected, and enforceable pursuant to applicable law or by reason of a Bankruptcy Court order, or that is subject to setoff pursuant to section 553 of the Bankruptcy Code, to the extent of the value of the creditor's interest in the Estate's interest in such property or to the extent of the amount subject to setoff, as

A-6

Table of Contents

applicable, as determined pursuant to section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code or (b) Allowed as such pursuant to the Plan.

94. *Secured Tax Claim* means any Secured Claim that, absent its secured status, would be entitled to priority in right of payment under section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code (determined irrespective of time limitations), including any related Secured Claim for penalties.

95. *Securities Act* means the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77a-77aa, together with the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

96. *Security* means a security as defined in section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act.

97. *Senior Secured Agent* means Wachovia Bank, as administrative agent under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement.

98. *Senior Secured Claims* means Claims arising under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement and any other Claims that, pursuant to the terms of the Senior Secured Credit Agreement, rank pari passu with and are secured equally and ratably with such Claims.

99. *Senior Secured Credit Agreement* means that certain Credit Agreement, dated June 18, 2004, by and among NCIBS, certain of its subsidiaries, as guarantors, Wachovia Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, Bank of America, N.A., as syndication agent, and the lenders party thereto, as amended.

100. *Series B Preferred Stock* means shares of Preferred Stock of NCIBS, par value \$1.00 per share, designated as the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock.

101. *Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim* means a General Unsecured Claim against Steelbuilding.com, Inc.

102. *Stockholders Agreement* means the form of stockholders agreement entered into by and between NCIBS and the CD&R Investors in connection with the Investment Agreement, substantially in the form contained in the Plan Supplement.

103. *Unexpired Lease* means a lease to which one or more of the Debtors is a party that is subject to assumption or rejection under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.

104. *Unimpaired* means, with respect to a Class of Claims or Equity Interests, a Class of Claims or Equity Interests that is unimpaired within the meaning of section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code.

105. *Unsecured Claim* means any Claim that is neither Secured nor entitled to priority under the Bankruptcy Code or any order of the Bankruptcy Court, including any Claim arising from the rejection of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.

B. Rules of Interpretation.

For purposes of this Plan: (1) in the appropriate context, each term, whether stated in the singular or the plural, shall include both the singular and the plural, and pronouns stated in the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender shall include the masculine, feminine, and the neuter gender; (2) any reference herein to a contract, lease, instrument, release, indenture, or other agreement or document being in a particular form or on particular terms and conditions means that

the referenced document shall be substantially in that form or substantially on those terms and conditions; (3) any reference herein to an existing document, schedule, or exhibit, whether or not Filed, having been Filed or to be Filed shall mean that document, schedule, or exhibit, as it may thereafter be amended, modified, or supplemented; (4) any reference to an Entity as a Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest includes that Entity's successors and assigns; (5) unless otherwise specified, all references herein to Articles are references to Articles hereof or hereto; (6) unless otherwise specified, all references herein to exhibits are references to exhibits in the Plan Supplement; (7) unless otherwise specified, the words herein, hereof, and hereto refer to the Plan in its entirety rather than to a particular portion of the Plan; (8) subject to the provisions of any contract, certificate of incorporation, bylaw, instrument, release, or other agreement or document entered into in connection with the Plan, the rights and obligations arising pursuant to the Plan shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with the applicable federal law, including the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules; (9) captions and

A-7

Table of Contents

headings to Articles are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the interpretation of the Plan; (10) unless otherwise specified herein, the rules of construction set forth in section 102 of the Bankruptcy Code shall apply; (11) any term used in capitalized form herein that is not otherwise defined but that is used in the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules shall have the meaning assigned to that term in the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules, as the case may be; (12) all references to docket numbers of documents Filed in the Chapter 11 Cases are references to the docket numbers under the Bankruptcy Court's CM/ECF system; (13) all references to statutes, regulations, orders, rules of courts, and the like shall mean as amended from time to time, and as applicable to the Chapter 11 Cases, unless otherwise stated; and (14) any immaterial effectuating provisions may be interpreted by the Reorganized Debtors in such a manner that is consistent with the overall purpose and intent of the Plan all without further Bankruptcy Court order. Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan to the contrary, references in the Plan to the Debtors or to the Reorganized Debtors shall mean the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, to the extent the context requires.

C. Computation of Time.

Unless otherwise specifically stated herein, the provisions of Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a) shall apply in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed herein.

D. Governing Law.

Unless a rule of law or procedure is supplied by federal law (including the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules) or unless otherwise specifically stated, the laws of the State of Delaware, without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws, shall govern the rights, obligations, construction, and implementation of the Plan, any agreements, documents, instruments, or contracts executed or entered into in connection with the Plan (except as otherwise set forth in those agreements, in which case the governing law of such agreement shall control); provided, however, that corporate governance matters relating to the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, not incorporated in Delaware shall be governed by the laws of the state of incorporation of the applicable Debtor or Reorganized Debtor, as applicable.

E. Reference to Monetary Figures.

All references in the Plan to monetary figures shall refer to currency of the United States of America, unless otherwise expressly provided.

**ARTICLE II.
ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS AND PRIORITY TAX CLAIMS**

In accordance with section 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Administrative Claims and Priority Tax Claims have not been classified and, thus, are excluded from the Classes of Claims and Equity Interests set forth in Article III.

A. Administrative Claims.

1. General Administrative Claims.

Except as specified in this Article II, unless otherwise agreed to by the Holder of a General Administrative Claim and the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, each Holder of an Allowed General Administrative Claim will receive, in full satisfaction of its General Administrative Claim, Cash equal to the amount of such Allowed General Administrative Claim either: (a) on the Effective Date; (b) if the General Administrative Claim is not Allowed as of the Effective Date, 30 days after the date on which an order allowing such General Administrative Claim becomes a

Final Order, or as soon thereafter as reasonably practicable; or (c) if the Allowed General Administrative Claims are based on liabilities incurred by the Debtors in the ordinary course of their business during the Postpetition Period, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the particular transaction giving rise to such Allowed General Administrative Claims, without any further action by the Holders of such Allowed General Administrative Claims.

Table of Contents

2. Professional Compensation.

(a) Final Fee Applications.

All final requests for payment of Professional Fee Claims, including the Holdback Amount and Professional Fee Claims incurred during the Postpetition Period, must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on the Reorganized Debtors no later than 45 days after the Effective Date. After notice and a hearing in accordance with the procedures established by the Bankruptcy Code and prior orders of the Bankruptcy Court in the Chapter 11 Cases, the allowed amounts of such Professional Fee Claims shall be determined by the Bankruptcy Court.

(b) Payment of Interim Amounts.

Subject to the Holdback Amount, on the Effective Date, the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, shall pay all amounts owing to Professionals for all outstanding amounts payable relating to prior periods through the Confirmation Date. To receive payment, on or before Effective Date, each Professional shall submit a detailed invoice covering such period in the manner and providing the detail as set forth in the Professional Fee Order.

(c) Post-Confirmation Date Fees and Expenses.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan, from and after the Confirmation Date, the Reorganized Debtors shall, in the ordinary course of business and without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, pay in Cash the reasonable legal, professional, or other fees and expenses related to implementation and Consummation of the Plan incurred by the Reorganized Debtors. Upon the Confirmation Date, any requirement that Professionals comply with sections 327 through 331 and 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code in seeking retention or compensation for services rendered after such date shall terminate, and the Reorganized Debtors may employ and pay any Professional in the ordinary course of business without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

B. Priority Tax Claims.

Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Priority Tax Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Allowed Priority Tax Claim, each Holder of such Allowed Priority Tax Claim shall be treated in accordance with the terms set forth in section 1129(a)(9)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**ARTICLE III.
CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS**

A. Classification of Claims and Equity Interests.

1. This Plan constitutes a separate chapter 11 plan for each Debtor. Classes 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, and 13, for administrative convenience, encompass claims against various Debtors of a similar nature and entitled to similar treatment. Class 3 includes Senior Secured Claims against all of the Debtors. Class 5 includes Convertible Notes Claims against NCIBS. Class 12 includes Claims on account of Equity Interests in NCIBS. In accordance with section 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors have not classified Administrative Claims and Priority Tax Claims, as described in Article II.

2. All Claims and Equity Interests, except for Administrative Claims and Priority Tax Claims are classified in the Classes set forth in this Article III. A Claim or Equity Interest is classified in a particular Class only to the extent that

the Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and is classified in other Classes to the extent that any portion of the Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of such other Classes. A Claim also is classified in a particular Class for the purpose of receiving distributions pursuant to the Plan only to the extent that such Claim is an Allowed Claim in that Class and has not been paid, released, or otherwise satisfied prior to the Effective Date.

A-9

Table of Contents**3. Class Identification.**

The classification of Claims and Equity Interests against the Debtors pursuant to the Plan is as follows:

Class	Claims and Equity Interests	Status	Voting Rights
Class 1	Priority Non-Tax Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 2	Secured Tax Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 3	Senior Secured Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 4	Other Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 5	Convertible Notes Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 6	NCIBS General Unsecured Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 7	NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 8	Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 9	Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 10	Intercompany Claims	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 11	Intercompany Interests	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 12	Equity Interests in NCIBS	Unimpaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)
Class 13	Section 510(b) Claims	Impaired	Not Entitled to Vote (Deemed to Reject)

B. Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests.**1. Class 1 Priority Non-Tax Claims.**

(a) *Classification:* Class 1 consists of all Priority Non-Tax Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Priority-Non Tax Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Allowed Priority Non-Tax Claim, each Holder of such Allowed Priority Non-Tax Claim shall be paid in full in Cash (a) on the Effective Date or (b) if the Priority Non-Tax Claim is not Allowed as of the Effective Date, 30 days after the date on which an order allowing such Priority Non-Tax Claim becomes a Final Order, or as soon thereafter as reasonably practicable; or (c) if the Priority Non-Tax Claims are based on liabilities incurred by the Debtors in the ordinary course of business, on the date such liability becomes due in the ordinary course of business.

(c) *Voting:* Class 1 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a Priority Non-Tax Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Priority Non-Tax Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

2. Class 2 Secured Tax Claims

(a) *Classification:* Class 2 consists of all Secured Tax Claims.

(b) *Voting:* Class 2 is Unimpaired, and holders of Class 2 Claims are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, the holders of Class 2 Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

A-10

Table of Contents

(c) *Treatment:* Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Secured Tax Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction and discharge of and in exchange for each Allowed Secured Tax Claim, each Holder of such Allowed Secured Tax Claim shall receive, at the sole option of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, (i) Cash on the Effective Date in an amount equal to such Allowed Secured Tax Claim, (ii) commencing on the Effective Date and continuing over a period not exceeding five years from the Petition Date, equal semi-annual Cash payments in an aggregate amount equal to such Allowed Secured Tax Claim, together with interest at the applicable rate under non-bankruptcy law, subject to the sole option of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors to prepay the entire amount of the Allowed Secured Tax Claim or (iii) regular Cash payments in a manner not less favorable than the most favored non-priority unsecured Claim provided for by the Plan.

3. Class 3 Senior Secured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 3 consists of all Senior Secured Claims.

(b) *Allowance:* The Senior Secured Claims are Allowed in full and, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be subject to any avoidance, reduction, set off, offset, recharacterization, subordination (whether equitable, contractual, or otherwise), counterclaim, cross-claim, defense, disallowance, impairment, objection, or any other challenges under any applicable law or regulation by any person or entity.

(c) *Treatment:* Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Senior Secured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Allowed Senior Secured Claim, each Holder of such Allowed Senior Secured Claim shall receive its Pro Rata share of:

(i) Cash in an amount equal to the Credit Agreement Principal Repayment Amount, plus Cash equal to accrued but unpaid interest, fees and expenses on the loans under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement up to the Effective Date; and

(ii) the New Term Loan.

(d) *Voting:* Class 3 is Impaired by the Plan. Holders of Senior Secured Claims are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

4. Class 4 Other Secured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 4 consists of all Other Secured Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* Except to the extent that a Holder of an Other Secured Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Other Secured Claim, each Allowed Other Secured Claim shall be Reinstated or otherwise rendered Unimpaired for the benefit of the Holders thereof.

(c) *Voting:* Class 4 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of an Other Secured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Other Secured Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

5. Class 5 Convertible Notes Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 5 consists of all Convertible Notes Claims.

(b) *Allowance*: The Convertible Notes Claims are Allowed in full and, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be subject to any avoidance, reduction, set off, offset, recharacterization, subordination (whether equitable, contractual, or otherwise), counterclaim, cross-claim, defense, disallowance, impairment, objection, or any other challenges under any applicable law or regulation by any person or entity.

A-11

Table of Contents

(c) *Treatment:* Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Convertible Notes Claim agrees to a less favorable treatment, in full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Allowed Convertible Notes Claim, each Holder of such Allowed Convertible Notes Claim shall receive:

(i) Cash in an amount equal to \$500 for each \$1,000 of principal amount of Convertible Notes held by such Holder ; and

(ii) 390 shares of Common Stock for each \$1,000 of principal amount of Convertible Notes held by such Holder, issued on the Effective Date.

(d) *Voting:* Class 5 is Impaired by the Plan. Holders of Convertible Notes Claims are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

6. Class 6 NCIBS General Unsecured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 6 consists of all General Unsecured Claims against NCIBS.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claim agrees to less favorable treatment of such Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claim or has been paid prior to the Effective Date, each Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claim shall be Unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the Effective Date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the Effective Date; and (b) the date such Allowed General Unsecured Claims becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the Bankruptcy Court to pay certain Allowed NCIBS General Unsecured Claims in advance of the Effective Date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any NCIBS General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the Effective Date.

(c) *Voting:* Class 6 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a NCIBS General Unsecured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of NCIBS General Unsecured Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

7. Class 7 NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 7 consists of all NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim agrees to less favorable treatment of such Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim or has been paid prior to the Effective Date, each Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim shall be Unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the Effective Date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the Effective Date; and (b) the date such Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the Bankruptcy Court to pay certain Allowed NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims in advance of the Effective Date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the Effective Date.

(c) *Voting:* Class 7 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of NCI Group, Inc. General Unsecured Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

8. Class 8 Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 8 consists of all Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim agrees to less favorable treatment of

Table of Contents

such Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim or has been paid prior to the Effective Date, each Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim shall be Unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the Effective Date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the Effective Date; and (b) the date such Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the Bankruptcy Court to pay certain Allowed Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims in advance of the Effective Date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the Effective Date.

(c) *Voting:* Class 8 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Steelbuilding.com, Inc. General Unsecured Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

9. Class 9 Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 9 consists of all Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim agrees to less favorable treatment of such Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim or has been paid prior to the Effective Date, each Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim shall be Unimpaired in accordance with section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each Holder of an Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim that is not due and payable on or before the Effective Date will receive payment in full in Cash of the unpaid portion of such Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim on the latest of (a) the Effective Date; and (b) the date such Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim becomes due and payable in the ordinary course of business; provided, however, that the Debtors may seek authority from the Bankruptcy Court to pay certain Allowed Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims in advance of the Effective Date in the ordinary course of business. The Debtors reserve their rights, however, to dispute the validity of any Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim, whether or not objected to prior to the Effective Date.

(c) *Voting:* Class 6 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Robertson-Ceco II Corporation General Unsecured Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

10. Class 10 Intercompany Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 10 consists of all Intercompany Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* To preserve the Debtors' corporate structure, all or a portion of the Intercompany Claims may be Reinstated, capitalized or otherwise discharged in any manner as of the Effective Date at the Debtors' or the Reorganized Debtors' option.

(c) *Voting:* Class 10 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of an Intercompany Claim is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Intercompany Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

11. Class 11 Intercompany Interests.

(a) *Classification:* Class 11 consists of all Intercompany Interests.

(b) *Treatment:* In full and final satisfaction, settlement, release, and discharge of and in exchange for each Intercompany Interest, Intercompany Interests shall be Reinstated for the benefit of the Holders thereof.

A-13

Table of Contents

(c) *Voting:* Class 11 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of an Intercompany Interest is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Intercompany Interests are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

12. Class 12 Equity Interests in NCIBS.

(a) *Classification:* Class 12 consists of all Equity Interests in NCIBS.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, all Equity Interests in NCIBS shall be Reinstated for the benefit of the Holders thereof, provided, such Equity Interests shall be subject to dilution in accordance with the NCIBS Charter on account of the Common Stock distributed to holders of the Convertible Notes and the Series B Preferred Stock issued to the CD&R Investors.

(c) *Voting:* Class 12 is Unimpaired by the Plan. Each Holder of an Equity Interest in NCIBS is conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Equity Interests in NCIBS are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

13. Class 13 Section 510(b) Claims.

(a) *Classification:* Class 13 consists of all Section 510(b) Claims.

(b) *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, all Section 510(b) Claims shall be cancelled without any distribution.

(c) *Voting:* Class 13 is Impaired by the Plan. Each Holder of a Section 510(b) Claim is conclusively presumed to have rejected the Plan pursuant to section 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, Holders of Section 510(b) Claims are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

C. Special Provision Governing Unimpaired Claims.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, nothing under the Plan shall affect the Debtors' rights in respect of any Unimpaired Claims, including, all rights in respect of legal and equitable defenses to or setoffs or recoupments against any such Unimpaired Claims.

D. Acceptance or Rejection of the Plan.

1. Voting Classes.

Classes 3 and 5 are Impaired under the Plan and are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

2. Presumed Acceptance of the Plan.

Classes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are Unimpaired under the Plan. The Holders of Claims and Equity Interests in such Classes are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

3. Deemed Rejection of Plan.

Class 13 is Impaired and shall receive no distribution under the Plan. The Holders of Claims in Class 13 are deemed to have rejected the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

E. Confirmation Pursuant to Sections 1129(a)(10) and 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Section 1129(a)(10) of the Bankruptcy Code shall be satisfied for purposes of Confirmation by acceptance of the Plan by either Class 3 or 5. The Debtors shall seek Confirmation of the Plan pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to any rejecting Class of Claims or Equity Interests.

F. Controversy Concerning Impairment.

If a controversy arises as to whether any Claims or Equity Interests, or any Class of Claims or Equity Interests, are Impaired, the Bankruptcy Court shall, after notice and a hearing, determine such controversy on or before the Confirmation Date.

A-14

Table of Contents

G. Subordinated Claims.

The allowance, classification, and treatment of all Allowed Claims and the respective distributions and treatments under the Plan take into account and conform to the relative priority and rights of the Claims in each Class in connection with any contractual, legal, and equitable subordination rights relating thereto, whether arising under general principles of equitable subordination, section 510(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, or otherwise. Pursuant to section 510 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Reorganized Debtors reserve the right to re-classify any Allowed Claim or Equity Interest in accordance with any contractual, legal, or equitable subordination relating thereto.

**ARTICLE IV.
MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

A. General Settlement of Claims.

As discussed in detail in the Disclosure Statement and as otherwise provided herein, pursuant to section 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, and in consideration for the classification, Distributions, releases, and other benefits provided under the Plan, upon the Effective Date, the provisions of the Plan shall constitute a good faith compromise and settlement of all Claims and Equity Interests and controversies resolved pursuant to the Plan. Subject to Article VI, all Distributions made to Holders of Allowed Claims in any Class are intended to be and shall be final.

B. Restructuring Transactions.

On the Effective Date, the applicable Debtors or Reorganized Debtors shall take any actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effect a corporate restructuring of their respective businesses or a corporate restructuring of the overall corporate structure of the Reorganized Debtors, as and to the extent provided herein, consistent with the terms of the Investment Agreement. The Restructuring Transactions may include one or more inter-company mergers, consolidations, amalgamations, arrangements, continuances, restructurings, conversions, dissolutions, transfers, liquidations, or other corporate transactions as may be determined by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, to be necessary or appropriate. The actions to effect the Restructuring Transactions may include: (1) the execution and delivery of appropriate agreements or other documents of merger, amalgamation, consolidation, restructuring, conversion, disposition, transfer, arrangement, continuance, dissolution, sale, purchase, or liquidation containing terms that are consistent with the terms of the Plan and that satisfy the applicable requirements of applicable law and any other terms to which the applicable Entities may agree; (2) the execution and delivery of appropriate instruments of transfer, assignment, assumption, or delegation of any asset, property, right, liability, debt, or obligation on terms consistent with the terms of the Plan and having other terms for which the applicable parties agree; (3) the filing of appropriate certificates or articles of incorporation, reincorporation, merger, consolidation, conversion, amalgamation, arrangement, continuance, or dissolution pursuant to applicable state or provincial law; and (4) all other actions that the applicable Entities determine to be necessary or appropriate, including making filings or recordings that may be required by applicable law in connection with the Restructuring Transactions.

C. Existing Letters of Credit.

On the Effective Date, all Existing Letters of Credit shall be replaced, backstopped by a letter of credit under the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, or cash collateralized.

D. Sources of Consideration for Plan Distributions.

The Reorganized Debtors shall fund distributions under the Plan with Cash on hand, including Cash from operations and the Investment Proceeds.

1. Investment Agreement

On the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors shall take any necessary action to effectuate the transactions contemplated in the Investment Agreement, including, without limitation, the authorization, execution and delivery of the Stockholders Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement, as contemplated thereby. Confirmation shall be deemed approval of the Investment Agreement (including the transactions contemplated thereby, and all actions to be taken, undertakings to be made, and obligations to be

A-15

Table of Contents

incurred by the Reorganized Debtors in connection therewith) and authorization for the Reorganized Debtors to issue the Series B Preferred Stock to the CD&R Investors.

2. The New Term Loan.

On the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors shall enter into the New Term Loan. Confirmation shall be deemed approval of the New Term Loan (including the transactions contemplated thereby, and all actions to be taken, undertakings to be made, and obligations to be incurred by the Reorganized Debtors in connection therewith) and authorization for the Reorganized Debtors to enter into and execute the New Term Loan documents, subject to such modifications as the Reorganized Debtors may deem to be reasonably necessary to consummate such New Term Loan.

3. The New ABL Revolving Credit Facility.

On the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors shall enter into the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility. Confirmation shall be deemed approval of the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility (including the transactions contemplated thereby, and all actions to be taken, undertakings to be made, and obligations to be incurred by the Reorganized Debtors in connection therewith) and authorization for the Reorganized Debtors to enter into and execute the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility documents, subject to such modifications as the Reorganized Debtors may deem to be reasonably necessary to consummate such New ABL Revolving Credit Facility.

4. Intercompany Account Settlement.

The Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors will be entitled to transfer funds between and among themselves as they determine to be necessary or appropriate to enable the Reorganized Debtors to satisfy their obligations under the Plan. Except as set forth herein, any changes in intercompany account balances resulting from such transfers will be accounted for and settled in accordance with the Debtors' historical intercompany account settlement practices and will not violate the terms of the Plan.

5. Series B Preferred Stock

On the Effective Date, Reorganized NCIBS shall issue 250,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock to the CD&R Investors in accordance with the terms of the Investment Agreement. The issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock by Reorganized NCIBS is consistent with the terms of the NCIBS Charter and is authorized without the need for any further corporate action or without any further action by the Holders of Claims or Equity Interests.

6. Common Stock.

The issuance of the Common Stock required to consummate the Plan is consistent with the terms of the NCIBS Charter and is authorized without the need for any further corporate action or without any further action by the Holders of Claims or Equity Interests. On the Effective Date, approximately 70,200,000 shares of Common Stock will be issued to the Holders of Claims in Class 5.

All of the shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to the Plan shall be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable. Each distribution and issuance referred to in Article VI shall be governed by the terms and conditions set forth in the Plan applicable to such distribution or issuance and by the terms and conditions of the instruments evidencing or relating to such distribution or issuance, which terms and conditions shall bind each Entity receiving such distribution or issuance.

E. Management Employment Contracts

On the Effective Date, the Debtors shall assume each of the Management Employment Contracts, subject to modification as required by the Investment Agreement.

F. Corporate Existence.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, each Debtor shall continue to exist after the Effective Date as a separate corporate entity, limited liability company, partnership, or other form, as the case may be, with all the powers of a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other form, as the case may be, pursuant to the applicable law in the jurisdiction in which each applicable Debtor is incorporated or formed and pursuant to the

Table of Contents

respective certificate of incorporation and bylaws (or other formation documents) in effect prior to the Effective Date, except to the extent such certificate of incorporation and bylaws (or other formation documents) are amended by the Plan or otherwise, and to the extent such documents are amended, such documents are deemed to be amended pursuant to the Plan and require no further action or approval (other than any requisite filings required under applicable state, provincial, or federal law).

G. Vesting of Assets in the Reorganized Debtors.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or any agreement, instrument, or other document incorporated in the Plan, on the Effective Date, all property in each Estate, all Causes of Action, and any property acquired by any of the Debtors pursuant to the Plan shall vest in each respective Reorganized Debtor, free and clear of all Liens, Claims, charges, or other encumbrances (except for Liens securing the New Term Loan and New ABL Revolving Credit Facility). On and after the Effective Date, except as otherwise provided in the Plan, each Reorganized Debtor may operate its business and may use, acquire, or dispose of property and compromise or settle any Claims, Equity Interests, or Causes of Action without supervision or approval by the Bankruptcy Court and free of any restrictions of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules.

H. Cancellation of Securities and Agreements.

On the Effective Date, except as otherwise specifically provided for in the Plan: (1) the obligations of the Debtors under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement, the Convertible Notes Indentures, and any other Certificate, Equity Security, share, note, bond, indenture, purchase right, option, warrant, or other instrument or document directly or indirectly evidencing or creating any indebtedness or obligation of or ownership interest in the Debtors giving rise to any Claim or Equity Interest (except such Certificates, notes, or other instruments or documents evidencing indebtedness or obligation of or ownership interest in the Debtors that are Reinstated pursuant to the Plan), shall be cancelled solely as to the Debtors and their affiliates, and none of the Reorganized Debtors shall have any continuing obligation thereunder, except that, to the extent provided in the New Term Loan and/or New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, the guarantees of and Liens securing obligations under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement shall not be cancelled and shall guarantee or secure obligations under the New Term Loan and/or New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, as applicable, and only such obligations; and (2) the obligations of the Debtors and their affiliates pursuant, relating, or pertaining to any agreements, indentures, certificates of designation, bylaws, or certificate or articles of incorporation or similar documents governing the shares, Certificates, notes, bonds, indentures, purchase rights, options, warrants, or other instruments or documents evidencing or creating any indebtedness or obligation of or ownership interest in the Debtors (except such agreements, Certificates, notes, or other instruments evidencing indebtedness or obligation of or ownership interest in the Debtors that are specifically Reinstated pursuant to the Plan) shall be released and discharged; provided, however, that notwithstanding Confirmation or Consummation, any such indenture or agreement that governs the rights of the Holder of a Claim shall continue in effect solely for purposes of allowing Holders to receive distributions under the Plan; provided, further, however, that the preceding proviso shall not affect the discharge of Claims or Equity Interests pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, the Confirmation Order, or the Plan, or result in any expense or liability to the Reorganized Debtors; provided, further, however, that the foregoing shall not effect the cancellation of shares issued pursuant to the Restructuring Transactions nor any other shares held by one Debtor in the capital of another Debtor; and provided, further, however, that to the extent provided in the New Term Loan and/or New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, the guarantees of and Liens securing obligations under the Senior Secured Credit Agreement shall not be cancelled and shall guarantee or secure obligations under the New Term Loan and/or New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, as applicable, and only such obligations.

I. Surrender of Existing Securities.

As soon as practicable on or after the Effective Date, each Holder of Convertible Notes Claims shall surrender its note(s) to the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, or in the event such note(s) are held in the name of, or by a nominee of, The Depository Trust Company, the Reorganized Debtors shall seek the cooperation of The Depository Trust Company to provide appropriate instructions to the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee. No distributions under the Plan shall be made for or on behalf of such Holder unless and until such note is received by the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee or appropriate instructions from The Depository Trust Company are received by the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee or the loss, theft, or destruction of such note is established to the reasonable

A-17

Table of Contents

satisfaction of the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, which satisfaction may require such Holder to submit (1) a lost instrument affidavit and (2) an indemnity bond holding the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, harmless in respect of such note and distributions made thereof. Upon compliance with this Section by a Holder of any Convertible Note, such Holder shall, for all purposes under the Plan, be deemed to have surrendered such Convertible Note. Any Holder that fails to surrender such Convertible Note or satisfactorily explain its non-availability to the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, within one year of the Effective Date shall be deemed to have no further Claim against the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors (or their property), or the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee in respect of such Claim and shall not participate in any distribution under the Plan. All property in respect of such forfeited distributions, including interest thereon, shall be promptly returned to the Reorganized Debtors by the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee, and any such security shall be cancelled.

J. Corporate Action.

Upon the Effective Date, all actions contemplated by the Plan shall be deemed authorized and approved in all respects, including: (1) assumption of the Management Employment Contracts, as may be amended; (2) selection of the directors and officers for the Reorganized Debtors; (3) the issuance and distribution of Common Stock to holders of Class 5 Claims; (4) the issuance and distribution of the Series B Preferred Stock to the CD&R Investors; (5) implementation of the Restructuring Transactions; (6) the execution and entry into the New Term Loan and New ABL Revolving Credit Facility; and (7) all other actions contemplated by the Plan (whether to occur before, on, or after the Effective Date). All matters provided for in the Plan involving the corporate structure of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, and any corporate action required by the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or Reorganized NCIBS in connection with the Plan shall be deemed to have occurred and shall be in effect, without any requirement of further action by the security holders, directors, or officers of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or Reorganized NCIBS. On or (as applicable) prior to the Effective Date, the appropriate officers of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or Reorganized NCIBS, as applicable, shall be authorized and (as applicable) directed to issue, execute, and deliver the agreements, documents, securities, and instruments contemplated by the Plan (or necessary or desirable to effect the transactions contemplated by the Plan) in the name of and on behalf of the Reorganized Debtors and Reorganized NCIBS, including the New Term Loan and New ABL Revolving Credit Facility, and any and all other agreements, documents, securities, and instruments relating to the foregoing. The authorizations and approvals contemplated by this Article IV.J shall be effective notwithstanding any requirements under non-bankruptcy law.

K. New Certificates of Incorporation and New By-Laws.

On or immediately prior to the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors will file their respective New Certificates of Incorporation with the applicable Secretaries of State and/or other applicable authorities in their respective states, provinces, or countries of incorporation in accordance with the corporate laws of the respective states, provinces, or countries of incorporation. Pursuant to section 1123(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code, the New Certificates of Incorporation will prohibit the issuance of non-voting equity securities. Subject to the preceding sentence, the New Certificate of Incorporation of NCIBS shall be identical to the NCIBS Charter. After the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors may amend and restate their respective New Certificates of Incorporation and New By-Laws and other constituent documents as permitted by the laws of their respective states, provinces, or countries of incorporation and their respective New Certificates of Incorporation and New By-Laws.

L. Directors and Officers of the Reorganized Debtors.

As of the Effective Date, the term of the current members of the board of directors of NCIBS shall expire, and the initial boards of directors and the officers of each of the Reorganized Debtors shall be appointed in accordance with the respective New Certificates of Incorporation and New By-laws and the Investment Agreement. Pursuant to section 1129(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors will disclose in advance of the Confirmation Hearing the

identity and affiliations of any Person proposed to serve on the New Boards or be an officer of each of the Reorganized Debtors and Reorganized NCIBS. To the extent any such director or officer of the Reorganized Debtors or Reorganized NCIBS is an insider under the Bankruptcy Code, the nature of any compensation to be paid to such director or officer will also be disclosed. Each such director and officer shall serve from and after the

A-18

Table of Contents

Effective Date pursuant to the terms of the New Certificates of Incorporation, New By-laws, the Stockholders Agreement, and other constituent documents of the Reorganized Debtors or Reorganized NCIBS.

M. Effectuating Documents; Further Transactions.

On and after the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors, and the officers and members of the boards of directors thereof, are authorized to and may issue, execute, deliver, file, or record such contracts, Securities, instruments, releases, and other agreements or documents and take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate, implement, and further evidence the terms and conditions of the Plan and the Securities issued pursuant to the Plan in the name of and on behalf of the Reorganized Debtors and Reorganized NCIBS, without the need for any approvals, authorization, or consents except for those expressly required pursuant to the Plan.

N. Section 1146 Exemption.

Pursuant to section 1146 of the Bankruptcy Code, any transfers of property pursuant hereto shall not be subject to any document recording tax, stamp tax, conveyance fee, intangibles or similar tax, mortgage tax, stamp act, real estate transfer tax, mortgage recording tax, or other similar tax or governmental assessment, and upon entry of the Confirmation Order, the appropriate state or local governmental officials or agents shall forgo the collection of any such tax or governmental assessment and accept for filing and recordation any of the foregoing instruments or other documents without the payment of any such tax, recordation fee, or governmental assessment.

O. Employee and Retiree Benefits.

All employment, retirement, indemnification, and other agreements or arrangements in place as of the Effective Date with the Debtors' officers, directors, or employees, or retirement income plans and welfare benefit plans for such persons, or variable incentive plans regarding payment of a percentage of annual salary based on performance goals and financial targets for certain employees identified as key leaders, top level managers or sales leaders, or indemnification arrangements with directors of non-Debtor subsidiaries, shall remain in place after the Effective Date, and the Reorganized Debtors will continue to honor such agreements, arrangements, programs, and plans. Nothing in the Plan shall limit, diminish, or otherwise alter the Reorganized Debtors' defenses, claims, Causes of Action, or other rights with respect to any such contracts, agreements, policies, programs, and plans. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to section 1129(a)(13) of the Bankruptcy Code, on and after the Effective Date, all retiree benefits (as that term is defined in section 1114 of the Bankruptcy Code), if any, shall continue to be paid in accordance with applicable law.

P. Preservation of Causes of Action.

In accordance with section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, but subject to Article VIII hereof, the Reorganized Debtors shall retain and may enforce all rights to commence and pursue, as appropriate, any and all Causes of Action, whether arising before or after the Petition Date, including any actions specifically enumerated in the Plan Supplement, and the Reorganized Debtors' rights to commence, prosecute, or settle such Causes of Action shall be preserved notwithstanding the occurrence of the Effective Date. The Reorganized Debtors may pursue such Causes of Action, as appropriate, in accordance with the best interests of the Reorganized Debtors. No Entity may rely on the absence of a specific reference in the Plan, the Plan Supplement, or the Disclosure Statement to any Cause of Action against them as any indication that the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, will not pursue any and all available Causes of Action against them. The Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, expressly reserve all rights to prosecute any and all Causes of Action against any Entity, except as otherwise expressly provided in the Plan. Unless any Causes of Action against an Entity are expressly waived, relinquished, exculpated, released, compromised, or settled in the Plan or a Bankruptcy Court order, the Reorganized Debtors expressly reserve all

Causes of Action, for later adjudication, and, therefore, no preclusion doctrine, including the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, estoppel (judicial, equitable or otherwise), or laches, shall apply to such Causes of Action upon, after, or as a consequence of the Confirmation or Consummation.

The Reorganized Debtors reserve and shall retain the Causes of Action notwithstanding the rejection or repudiation of any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease during the Chapter 11 Cases or pursuant to the Plan. In accordance with section 1123(b)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, any Causes of Action that a Debtor may hold against any Entity shall vest in the Reorganized Debtors, as the case may be. The applicable Reorganized Debtor, through

Table of Contents

its authorized agents or representatives, shall retain and may exclusively enforce any and all such Causes of Action. The Reorganized Debtors shall have the exclusive right, authority, and discretion to determine and to initiate, file, prosecute, enforce, abandon, settle, compromise, release, withdraw, or litigate to judgment any such Causes of Action and to decline to do any of the foregoing without the consent or approval of any third party or further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

**ARTICLE V.
TREATMENT OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES**

A. Assumption and Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.

On the Effective Date, except as otherwise provided herein, all Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases, not previously assumed or rejected pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court, will be deemed assumed, in accordance with the provisions and requirements of sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, other than those Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases that (1) were previously assumed or rejected by the Debtors, (2) are identified on the Rejected Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease List, (3) are the subject of a motion to reject Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases that is pending on the Confirmation Date, or (4) are subject to a motion to reject an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease pursuant to which the requested effective date of such rejection is after the Effective Date. Entry of the Confirmation Order by the Bankruptcy Court shall constitute approval of such assumptions and the rejection of the Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases listed on the Rejected Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease List pursuant to sections 365(a) and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code. Any motions to assume Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases pending on the Effective Date shall be subject to approval by the Bankruptcy Court on or after the Effective Date by a Final Order. Each Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease assumed pursuant to this Article V.A or by any order of the Bankruptcy Court, which has not been assigned to a third party prior to the Confirmation Date, shall revert in and be fully enforceable by the Reorganized Debtors in accordance with its terms, except as such terms are modified by the provisions of the Plan or any order of the Bankruptcy Court authorizing and providing for its assumption under applicable federal law.

B. Claims Based on Rejection of Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases.

All proofs of Claim with respect to Claims arising from the rejection of Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases, pursuant to the Plan or the Confirmation Order, if any, must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court within 30 days after the date of entry of an order of the Bankruptcy Court approving such rejection (which order may be the Confirmation Order). Any Claims arising from the rejection of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease not filed with the Bankruptcy Court within such time will be automatically disallowed, forever barred from assertion, and shall not be enforceable against the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, the Estates, or their property without the need for any objection by the Reorganized Debtors or further notice to, or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court. All Allowed Claims arising from the rejection of the Debtors' Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases shall be classified as General Unsecured Claims and shall be treated in accordance with Article III.B of the Plan.

C. Cure of Defaults for Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases Assumed.

Any monetary defaults under each Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease to be assumed pursuant to the Plan shall be satisfied, pursuant to section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, by payment of the default amount in Cash on the Effective Date, subject to the limitation described below, or on such other terms as the parties to such Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases may otherwise agree. In the event of a dispute regarding (1) the amount of any payments to cure such a default, (2) the ability of the Reorganized Debtors or any assignee to provide adequate assurance of future performance (within the meaning of section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code) under the Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease to be assumed, or (3) any other matter pertaining to assumption, the cure payments

required by section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code shall be made following the entry of a Final Order or orders resolving the dispute and approving the assumption. At least 20 days prior to the Confirmation Hearing, the Debtors shall provide for notices of proposed assumption and proposed cure amounts to be sent to applicable third parties and for procedures for objecting thereto and resolution of disputes by the Bankruptcy Court. Any objection by a counterparty to an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease to a proposed assumption or related cure amount must be

A-20

Table of Contents

filed, served, and actually received by the Debtors at least three (3) days prior to the Confirmation Hearing. Any counterparty to an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease that fails to object timely to the proposed assumption or cure amount will be deemed to have assented to such assumption or cure amount.

Assumption of any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease pursuant to the Plan or otherwise shall result in the full release and satisfaction of any Claims or defaults, whether monetary or nonmonetary, including defaults of provisions restricting the change in control or ownership interest composition or other bankruptcy-related defaults, arising under any assumed executory contract or unexpired lease at any time prior to the effective date of assumption. Any Proofs of Claim filed with respect to an executory contract or unexpired lease that has been assumed shall be deemed disallowed and expunged, without further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

D. Insurance Policies.

All of the Debtors' insurance policies and any agreements, documents, or instruments relating thereto, are treated as Executory Contracts under the Plan. On the Effective Date, the Debtors shall be deemed to have assumed all insurance policies and any agreements, documents, and instruments relating to coverage of all Insured Claims.

E. Modifications, Amendments, Supplements, Restatements, or Other Agreements.

Unless otherwise provided in the Plan, each Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease that is assumed shall include all modifications, amendments, supplements, restatements, or other agreements that in any manner affect such Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease, and all Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases related thereto, if any, including all easements, licenses, permits, rights, privileges, immunities, options, rights of first refusal, and any other interests, unless any of the foregoing agreements has been previously rejected or repudiated or is rejected or repudiated under the Plan.

Modifications, amendments, supplements, and restatements to prepetition Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases that have been executed by the Debtors during the Chapter 11 Cases shall not be deemed to alter the prepetition nature of the Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease, or the validity, priority, or amount of any Claims that may arise in connection therewith.

F. Reservation of Rights.

Neither the exclusion nor inclusion of any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease on the Rejected Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease List, nor anything contained in the Plan, shall constitute an admission by the Debtors that any such contract or lease is in fact an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease or that any Reorganized Debtor has any liability thereunder. If there is a dispute regarding whether a contract or lease is or was executory or unexpired at the time of assumption or rejection, the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, shall have 30 days following entry of a Final Order resolving such dispute to alter their treatment of such contract or lease.

G. Nonoccurrence of Effective Date.

In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, the Bankruptcy Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to any request to extend the deadline for assuming or rejecting unexpired leases pursuant to section 365(d)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

H. Contracts and Leases Entered Into After the Petition Date.

Contracts and leases entered into after the Petition Date by any Debtor, including any Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases assumed by such Debtor, will be performed by the Debtor or Reorganized Debtor liable thereunder in the ordinary course of its business. Accordingly, such contracts and leases (including any assumed Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases and any agreements entered into pursuant to the Investment Agreement) will survive and remain unaffected by entry of the Confirmation Order.

A-21

Table of Contents

**ARTICLE VI.
PROVISIONS GOVERNING DISTRIBUTIONS**

A. Timing and Calculation of Amounts to Be Distributed.

Unless otherwise provided in the Plan, on the Effective Date (or if a Claim is not an Allowed Claim on the Effective Date, on the date that such Claim becomes an Allowed Claim, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter), each Holder of an Allowed Claim against the Debtors shall receive the full amount of the distributions that the Plan provides for Allowed Claims in the applicable Class. In the event that any payment or act under the Plan is required to be made or performed on a date that is not a Business Day, then the making of such payment or the performance of such act may be completed on the next succeeding Business Day, but shall be deemed to have been completed as of the required date. If and to the extent that there are Disputed Claims, distributions on account of any such Disputed Claims shall be made pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article VII of the Plan. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, Holders of Claims shall not be entitled to interest, dividends, or accruals on the distributions provided for in the Plan, regardless of whether such distributions are delivered on or at any time after the Effective Date.

B. Disbursing Agent.

All distributions under the Plan shall be made by the Disbursing Agent on or as soon as practicable after the Effective Date. The Disbursing Agent shall not be required to give any bond or surety or other security for the performance of its duties unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court. Additionally, in the event that the Disbursing Agent is so otherwise ordered, all costs and expenses of procuring any such bond or surety shall be borne by the Reorganized Debtors.

C. Rights and Powers of Disbursing Agent.

1. Powers of the Disbursing Agent.

The Disbursing Agent shall be empowered to: (a) effect all actions and execute all agreements, instruments, and other documents necessary to perform its duties under the Plan; (b) make all distributions contemplated hereby; (c) employ professionals to represent it with respect to its responsibilities; and (d) exercise such other powers as may be vested in the Disbursing Agent by order of the Bankruptcy Court, pursuant to the Plan, or as deemed by the Disbursing Agent to be necessary and proper to implement the provisions hereof.

2. Expenses Incurred On or After the Effective Date.

Except as otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, the amount of any reasonable fees and expenses incurred by the Disbursing Agent on or after the Effective Date (including taxes) and any reasonable compensation and expense reimbursement claims (including reasonable attorney fees and expenses) made by the Disbursing Agent shall be paid in Cash by the Reorganized Debtors.

D. Delivery of Distributions and Undeliverable or Unclaimed Distributions.

1. Delivery of Distributions in General.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Reorganized Debtors shall make distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims on the Distribution Record Date at the address for each such Holder as indicated on the Debtors' records as of the date of any such distribution; provided, however, that the manner of such distributions shall be determined at the discretion of the Reorganized Debtors; provided further, however, that the address for each Holder of an Allowed Claim shall be

deemed to be the address set forth in any Proof of Claim Filed by that Holder.

2. Delivery of Distributions to Senior Secured Claims and Convertible Notes Claims.

(a) Senior Secured Agent.

The Senior Secured Agent shall be deemed to be the Holder of all Senior Secured Claims, as applicable, for purposes of distributions to be made hereunder, and all distributions on account of such Senior Secured Claims shall be made to or on behalf of the Senior Secured Agent. The Senior Secured Agent shall hold or direct such distributions for the benefit of the Holders of Allowed Senior Secured Claims, as applicable. As soon as practicable

A-22

Table of Contents

following compliance with the requirements set forth in Article IV.H of the Plan, the Senior Secured Agent shall arrange to deliver such distributions to or on behalf of such Holders of Allowed Senior Secured Claims

(b) Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee.

The Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee shall be deemed to be the Holder of all Convertible Notes Claims, as applicable, for purposes of distributions to be made hereunder, and all distributions on account of such Convertible Notes Claims shall be made to or on behalf of the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee. The Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee shall hold or direct such distributions for the benefit of the Holders of Allowed Convertible Notes Claims, as applicable. As soon as practicable following compliance with the requirements set forth in Article IV.I of the Plan, the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee shall (a) arrange to deliver such distributions to or on behalf of such Holders of Allowed Convertible Notes Claims, (b) exercise its charging liens against any such distributions, and (c) seek compensation and reimbursement for any fees and expenses incurred in making such distributions.

3. Minimum Distributions.

No fractional shares of Common Stock shall be distributed and no Cash shall be distributed in lieu of such fractional amounts. When any distribution pursuant to the Plan on account of an Allowed Claim would otherwise result in the issuance of a number of shares of Common Stock that is not a whole number, the actual distribution of shares of Common Stock shall be rounded as follows: (a) fractions of one-half (1/2) or greater shall be rounded to the next higher whole number and (b) fractions of less than one-half (1/2) shall be rounded to the next lower whole number with no further payment therefor. The total number of authorized shares of Common Stock to be distributed to holders of Allowed Claims shall be adjusted as necessary to account for the foregoing rounding.

4. Undeliverable Distributions and Unclaimed Property.

In the event that any distribution to any Holder is returned as undeliverable, no distribution to such Holder shall be made unless and until the Disbursing Agent has determined the then-current address of such Holder, at which time such distribution shall be made to such Holder without interest; provided, however, that such distributions shall be deemed unclaimed property under section 347(b) of the Bankruptcy Code on the first anniversary of the Effective Date. After such date, all unclaimed property or interests in property shall revert to the Reorganized Debtors automatically and without need for a further order by the Bankruptcy Court (notwithstanding any applicable federal, provincial or state escheat, abandoned, or unclaimed property laws to the contrary), and the Claim of any Holder to such property or Equity Interest in property shall be discharged and forever barred.

E. Manner of Payment.

1. All distributions of the Common Stock to Holders of Class 5 Claims under the Plan shall be made by the Disbursing Agent on behalf of Reorganized NCIBS.

2. All distributions of the New Term Loan to Holders of Class 3 Claims under the Plan shall be made by the Disbursing Agent on behalf of Reorganized NCIBS.

3. All distributions of Cash under the Plan shall be made by the Disbursing Agent on behalf of the applicable Debtor.

4. At the option of the Disbursing Agent, any Cash payment to be made hereunder may be made by check or wire transfer or as otherwise required or provided in applicable agreements.

F. Section 1145 Exemption.

To the extent permitted by section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, the offering, issuance, and distribution of the Common Stock as contemplated by Article III.B of the Plan to Class 5, shall be exempt from, among other things, the registration requirements of section 5 of the Securities Act and any other applicable law requiring registration prior to the offering, issuance, distribution, or sale of Securities. In addition, to the extent permitted by section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, such Common Stock will be freely tradable in the U.S. by the recipients thereof, subject to the provisions of section 1145(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code relating to the definition of an underwriter in section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act, and compliance with applicable securities laws and any rules and regulations

A-23

Table of Contents

of the Securities and Exchange Commission, if any, applicable at the time of any future transfer of such Securities or instruments and subject to any restrictions in the Stockholders Agreement and the New Certificate of Incorporation.

G. Compliance with Tax Requirements.

In connection with the Plan, to the extent applicable, the Reorganized Debtors shall comply with all tax withholding and reporting requirements imposed on them by any Governmental Unit, and all distributions pursuant to the Plan shall be subject to such withholding and reporting requirements. Notwithstanding any provision in the Plan to the contrary, the Reorganized Debtors and the Disbursing Agent shall be authorized to take all actions necessary or appropriate to comply with such withholding and reporting requirements, including liquidating a portion of the distribution to be made under the Plan to generate sufficient funds to pay applicable withholding taxes, withholding distributions pending receipt of information necessary to facilitate such distributions, or establishing any other mechanisms they believe are reasonable and appropriate. The Reorganized Debtors reserve the right to allocate all distributions made under the Plan in compliance with all applicable wage garnishments, alimony, child support, and other spousal awards, liens, and encumbrances.

H. Allocations.

Distributions in respect of Allowed Claims shall be allocated first to the principal amount of such Claims (as determined for federal income tax purposes) and then, to the extent the consideration exceeds the principal amount of the Claims, to any portion of such Claims for accrued but unpaid interest.

I. No Postpetition Interest on Claims.

Unless otherwise specifically provided for in the Plan or the Confirmation Order, or required by applicable bankruptcy law, postpetition interest shall not accrue or be paid on any Claims against the Debtors, and no Holder of a Claim against the Debtors shall be entitled to interest accruing on or after the Petition Date on any such Claim.

J. Setoffs and Recoupment.

The Debtors may, but shall not be required to, setoff against or recoup from any Claims of any nature whatsoever that the Debtors may have against the claimant, but neither the failure to do so nor the allowance of any Claim hereunder shall constitute a waiver or release by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors of any such Claim it may have against the Holder of such Claim.

K. Claims Paid or Payable by Third Parties.

1. Claims Paid by Third Parties.

The Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, shall reduce in full a Claim, and such Claim shall be disallowed without a Claims objection having to be Filed and without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, to the extent that the Holder of such Claim receives payment in full on account of such Claim from a party that is not a Debtor or Reorganized Debtor. Subject to the last sentence of this paragraph, to the extent a Holder of a Claim receives a distribution on account of such Claim and receives payment from a party that is not a Debtor or a Reorganized Debtor on account of such Claim, such Holder shall, within two weeks of receipt thereof, repay or return the distribution to the applicable Reorganized Debtor, to the extent the Holder's total recovery on account of such Claim from the third party and under the Plan exceeds the amount of such Claim as of the date of any such distribution under the Plan. The failure of such Holder to timely repay or return such distribution shall result in the Holder owing the applicable Reorganized Debtor annualized interest on such amount owed for each Business

Day after the two-week grace period specified above until the amount is repaid.

2. Claims Payable by Third Parties.

No distributions under the Plan shall be made on account of an Allowed Claim that is payable pursuant to one of the Debtors' insurance policies until the Holder of such Allowed Claim has exhausted all remedies with respect to such insurance policy. To the extent that one or more of the Debtors' insurers agrees to satisfy in full or in part a Claim (if and to the extent adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction), then immediately upon such insurers' agreement, the applicable portion of such Claim may be expunged without a Claims objection having to be Filed and without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

Table of Contents

3. Applicability of Insurance Policies.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims shall be in accordance with the provisions of any applicable insurance policy. Nothing contained in the Plan shall constitute or be deemed a waiver of any Cause of Action that the Debtors or any Entity may hold against any other Entity, including insurers under any policies of insurance, nor shall anything contained herein constitute or be deemed a waiver by such insurers of any defenses, including coverage defenses, held by such insurers.

**ARTICLE VII.
PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONTINGENT,
UNLIQUIDATED, AND DISPUTED CLAIMS**

A. Allowance of Claims.

After the Effective Date, each Reorganized Debtor shall have and retain any and all rights and defenses such Debtor had with respect to any Claim or Interest immediately prior to the Effective Date.

B. Proofs of Claims.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, Holders of Claims shall not be required to File a Proof of Claim, and no parties should File a Proof of Claim. On the Effective Date, any and all Filed Proofs of Claims shall be deemed expunged from the record of these cases and the Debtors shall not be required to object to such Proofs of Claim in the Bankruptcy Court.

C. Prosecution of Objections to Claims.

The Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, shall have the exclusive authority to File, settle, compromise, withdraw, or litigate to judgment any objections to any Claims not specifically Allowed by the Plan. From and after the Effective Date, the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors may settle or compromise any Disputed Claim without approval of the Bankruptcy Court. The Debtors also reserve the right to resolve any Disputed Claim outside the Bankruptcy Court under applicable governing law.

D. Procedures Regarding Disputed Claims

The Debtors do not intend to object to the allowance of Claims Filed; provided, however, that the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, reserve the right to object to any Claim that is entitled, or deemed to be entitled, to a distribution under the Plan or is rendered Unimpaired under the Plan within 120 days of the Effective Date. Instead, the Debtors intend to make distributions, as required by the Plan, in accordance with the books and records of the Debtors. Unless disputed by a Holder of a Claim, the amount set forth in the books and records of the Debtors shall constitute the amount of the Allowed Claim of such Holder. If any such Holder of a Claim disagrees with the Debtors' books and records with respect to the Allowed amount of such Holder's Claim, such Holder must so advise the Debtors in writing, in which event the Claim will become a Disputed Claim. The Debtors intend to attempt to resolve any such disputes consensually or through judicial means outside the Bankruptcy Court. Nevertheless, the Debtors may, in their discretion, file with the Bankruptcy Court (or any other court of competent jurisdiction) an objection to the allowance of any Claim or any other appropriate motion or adversary proceeding with respect thereto. All such objections will be litigated to Final Order; provided, however, that the Debtors may compromise, settle, withdraw, or resolve by any other method approved by the Bankruptcy Court any objections to Claims.

Any Debtor or Reorganized Debtor, as applicable, may, at any time, request that the Bankruptcy Court estimate any contingent or unliquidated Claim pursuant to section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, regardless of whether such Debtor has previously objected to such Claim or whether the Bankruptcy Court has ruled on any objection, and the Bankruptcy Court will retain jurisdiction to estimate any Claim at any time during litigation concerning any objection to any Claim, including during the pendency of any appeal related to any such objection. In the event the Bankruptcy Court estimates any contingent or unliquidated Claim, that estimated amount will constitute either the Allowed amount of such Claim or a maximum limitation on such Claim, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court. If the estimated amount constitutes a maximum limitation on such Claim, the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as

Table of Contents

applicable, may elect to pursue any supplemental proceedings to object to any ultimate payment on such Claim. All of the aforementioned objection, estimation, and resolution procedures are cumulative and are not necessarily exclusive of one another. Claims may be estimated and thereafter resolved by any permitted mechanism.

E. Disallowance of Claims or Interests.

Any Claims held by Entities from which property is recoverable under section 542, 543, 550, or 553 of the Bankruptcy Code or that is a transferee of a transfer avoidable under section 522(f), 522(h), 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, or 724(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, shall be deemed disallowed pursuant to section 502(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, and Holders of such Claims may not receive any distributions on account of such Claims until such time as such Causes of Action against that Entity have been settled or a Bankruptcy Court order with respect thereto has been entered and all sums due, if any, to the Debtors by that Entity have been turned over or paid to the Reorganized Debtors. All Claims Filed on account of an indemnification obligation to a director, officer, or employee shall be deemed satisfied and expunged as of the Effective Date to the extent such indemnification obligation is assumed (or honored or reaffirmed, as the case may be) pursuant to the Plan, without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court. All Claims Filed on account of an employee benefit shall be deemed satisfied and expunged as of the Effective Date to the extent the Reorganized Debtors elect to honor such employee benefit, without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

F. No Distributions Pending Allowance.

If an objection to a Claim or portion thereof is filed as set forth in Article VII.D, no payment or distribution provided under the Plan shall be made on account of such Claim or portion thereof unless and until such Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim.

G. Distributions After Allowance.

To the extent that a Disputed Claim ultimately becomes an Allowed Claim, distributions (if any) shall be made to the Holder of such Allowed Claim in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. As soon as practicable after the date that the order or judgment of the Bankruptcy Court allowing any Disputed Claim becomes a Final Order, the Disbursing Agent shall provide to the Holder of such Claim the distribution (if any) to which such Holder is entitled under the Plan as of the Effective Date, without any interest to be paid on account of such Claim unless required under applicable bankruptcy law.

**ARTICLE VIII.
SETTLEMENT, RELEASE, INJUNCTION, AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

A. Discharge of Claims and Termination of Equity Interests.

Pursuant to section 1141(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or in any contract, instrument, or other agreement or document created pursuant to the Plan, the distributions, rights, and treatment that are provided in the Plan shall be in complete satisfaction, discharge, and release, effective as of the Effective Date, of Claims (including any Intercompany Claims resolved or compromised after the Effective Date by the Reorganized Debtors), Equity Interests, and causes of action of any nature whatsoever, including any interest accrued on Claims or Equity Interests from and after the Petition Date, whether known or unknown, against, liabilities of, Liens on, obligations of, rights against, and Equity Interests in, the Debtors or any of their assets or properties, regardless of whether any property shall have been distributed or retained pursuant to the Plan on account of such Claims and Equity Interests, including demands, liabilities, and causes of action that arose before the Effective Date, any liability (including withdrawal liability) to the extent such Claims or Equity Interests relate to services performed

by employees of the Debtors prior to the Effective Date and that arise from a termination of employment, any contingent or non-contingent liability on account of representations or warranties issued on or before the Effective Date, and all debts of the kind specified in sections 502(g), 502(h), or 502(i) of the Bankruptcy Code, in each case whether or not: (1) a Proof of Claim or Equity Interest based upon such debt, right, or Equity Interest is Filed or deemed Filed pursuant to section 501 of the Bankruptcy Code; (2) a Claim or Equity Interest based upon such debt, right, or Equity Interest is Allowed pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code; or (3) the Holder of such a Claim or Equity Interest has accepted the Plan. Any default by the Debtors or their Affiliates with

A-26

Table of Contents

respect to any Claim or Equity Interest that existed immediately prior to or on account of the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases shall be deemed cured on the Effective Date. The Confirmation Order shall be a judicial determination of the discharge of all Claims and Equity Interests subject to the Effective Date occurring.

B. Release of Liens.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or in any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or assumed pursuant to the Plan, on the Effective Date and concurrently with the applicable distributions made pursuant to the Plan and, in the case of a Secured Claim, satisfaction in full of the portion of the Secured Claim that is Allowed as of the Effective Date, all mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges, or other security interests against any property of the Estates shall be fully released and discharged, and all of the right, title, and interest of any Holder of such mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges, or other security interests shall revert to the Reorganized Debtor and its successors and assigns.

C. Releases by the Debtors.

Pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan, for good and valuable consideration, including the service of the Released Parties to facilitate the expeditious reorganization of the Debtors and the implementation of the restructuring contemplated by the Plan, on and after the Effective Date of the Plan, the Released Parties are deemed released and discharged by the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and the estates from any and all Claims, obligations, rights, suits, damages, causes of action, remedies, and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative Claims asserted on behalf of the Debtors, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereinafter arising, in law, equity, or otherwise, that the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Estates, or their Affiliates would have been legally entitled to assert in their own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim or Equity Interest or other Entity, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the Debtors, the Chapter 11 Cases, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any Security of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Equity Interest that is treated in the Plan, the business or contractual arrangements between any Debtor and any Released Party, the restructuring of Claims and Equity Interests prior to or in the Chapter 11 Cases, the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the Plan, the Plan Supplement, the Disclosure Statement, or related agreements, instruments, or other documents, upon any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before the Effective Date of the Plan, other than Claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a Released Party that constitutes willful misconduct or gross negligence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above does not release any post-Effective Date obligations of any party under the Plan or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the plan, including the Investment Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, the Amended and Restated Senior Secured Credit Agreement, and the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility.

D. Releases by Holders of Claims and Equity Interests.

As of the Effective Date of the Plan, each Holder of a Claim or an Equity Interest shall be deemed to have conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever, released and discharged the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and the Released Parties from any and all Claims, Equity Interests, obligations, rights, suits, damages, causes of action, remedies, and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative Claims asserted on behalf of a debtor, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereafter arising, in law, equity or otherwise, that such entity would have been legally entitled to assert (whether individually or collectively), based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the Debtors, the

Debtors restructuring, the Chapter 11 Cases, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any Security of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Equity Interest that is treated in the Plan, the business or contractual arrangements between any Debtor and any Released Party, the restructuring of Claims and Equity Interests prior to or in the Chapter 11 Cases, the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the Plan, the related Disclosure Statement, the related Plan Supplement, or related agreements, instruments, or other documents

A-27

Table of Contents

(including, without limitation, the Investment Agreement and related agreements, instruments, or other documents), upon any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before the Confirmation Date of the Plan, other than Claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a Released Party that constitutes willful misconduct or gross negligence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above does not release any post-Effective Date obligations of any party under the Plan or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above shall not apply to any Holder of a Claim that votes to reject the Plan and opts out of the releases provided in this section by a timely written election and does not release the personal liability of any of the aforementioned Released Parties in this Article VIII for any statutory violation of applicable tax laws or bar any right of action asserted by a governmental taxing authority against the aforementioned Released Parties for any statutory violation of applicable tax laws.

E. Exculpation.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or Plan Supplement, no Exculpated Party shall have or incur, and each Exculpated Party is hereby released and exculpated from any Exculpated Claim, obligation, cause of action, or liability for any Exculpated Claim, except for gross negligence or willful misconduct, but in all respects such Entities shall be entitled to reasonably rely upon the advice of counsel with respect to their duties and responsibilities pursuant to the Plan. The Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors (and each of their respective Affiliates, agents, directors, officers, employees, advisors, and attorneys) have participated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code with regard to the solicitation and distribution of the Securities pursuant to the Plan, and, therefore, are not, and on account of such distributions shall not be, liable at any time for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of the Plan or such distributions made pursuant to the Plan.

F. Injunction.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Plan or for obligations issued pursuant to the Plan, all Entities who have held, hold, or may hold Claims or Equity Interests that have been released pursuant to Article VIII.C or Article VIII.D, discharged pursuant to Article VIII.A, or are subject to exculpation pursuant to Article VIII.E are permanently enjoined, from and after the Effective Date, from taking any of the following actions against, as applicable, the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Released Parties, or the Exculpated Parties: (1) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims or Equity Interests; (2) enforcing, attaching, collecting, or recovering by any manner or means any judgment, award, decree, or order against such Entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims or Equity Interests; (3) creating, perfecting, or enforcing any encumbrance of any kind against such Entities or the property or estates of such Entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims or Equity Interests; (4) asserting any right of setoff, subrogation, or recoupment of any kind against any obligation due from such Entities or against the property or Estates of such Entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims or Equity Interests unless such Holder has Filed a motion requesting the right to perform such setoff on or before the Confirmation Date, and notwithstanding an indication in a Proof of Claim or Equity Interest or otherwise that such Holder asserts, has, or intends to preserve any right of setoff pursuant to section 553 of the Bankruptcy Code or otherwise; and (5) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims or Equity Interests released or settled pursuant to the Plan.

G. Subordination Rights.

Any distributions under the Plan to Holders of Convertible Notes Claims shall be received and retained free from any obligations to hold or transfer the same to any other creditor, and shall not be subject to levy, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process by any Holder by reason of claimed contractual subordination rights. The Confirmation Order shall constitute an injunction enjoining any Person from enforcing or attempting to enforce any

A-28

Table of Contents

contractual, legal, or equitable subordination rights to Property distributed under the Plan to Holders of Convertible Notes Claims, in each case other than as provided in the Plan.

H. Rights of Internal Revenue Service.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Plan, the Confirmation Order or the implementing Plan documents: (1) the rights of the Internal Revenue Service to setoff and recoupment shall be preserved; and (2) nothing in Article VIII.D shall constitute a release of the Internal Revenue Service's claims, if any, against the Released Parties and nothing shall affect the ability of the Internal Revenue Service to pursue, to the extent allowed by non-bankruptcy law, any non-debtors for any liabilities that may be related to any federal tax liabilities owed by the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors.

**ARTICLE IX.
CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO CONFIRMATION
AND CONSUMMATION OF THE PLAN**

A. Conditions Precedent to the Effective Date.

It shall be a condition to the Effective Date of the Plan that the following conditions shall have been satisfied or waived pursuant to the provisions of Article IX.B hereof:

1. the Confirmation Order shall (a) have been entered in a form and substance satisfactory to the Debtors and CD&R Fund and (b) no stay of the Confirmation Order shall be in effect;
2. the Plan Supplement and all of the schedules, documents, and exhibits contained therein shall have been Filed in form and substance acceptable to the Debtors and CD&R Fund;
3. all actions, documents, certificates, and agreements necessary to implement the Plan, including documents contained in the Plan Supplement, shall have been effected or executed and delivered, as the case may be, to the required parties and, to the extent required, Filed with the applicable Governmental Units in accordance with applicable laws; provided, however, that each document, instrument, and agreement must be acceptable to the Debtors and CD&R Fund;
4. all conditions precedent to the obligations of the parties to the Investment Agreement thereunder (other than the occurrence of the Effective Date, and such other conditions that, by their nature, would be satisfied or waived at the closing thereunder) shall have been satisfied or waived pursuant to the terms of the Investment Agreement;
5. all authorizations, consents, regulatory approvals, rulings, or documents that are necessary to implement and effectuate the Plan shall have been received;
6. the Debtors shall have entered into the New Term Loan and the New ABL Revolving Credit Facility; and
7. the Effective Date shall have occurred on or before the deadline set forth in the Investment Agreement.

B. Waiver of Conditions.

The conditions to the Effective Date set forth in this Article IX may be waived only by consent of the Debtors and CD&R Fund, without notice, leave, or order of the Bankruptcy Court or any formal action other than proceeding to consummate the Plan.

C. Effect of Failure of Conditions.

If the Consummation of the Plan does not occur, the Plan shall be null and void in all respects and nothing contained in the Plan or the Disclosure Statement shall: (1) constitute a waiver or release of any claims by the Debtors, Claims, or Equity Interests; (2) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Debtors, any Holders, or any other Entity; or (3) constitute an admission, acknowledgment, offer, or undertaking by the Debtors, any Holders, or any other Entity in any respect.

A-29

Table of Contents

**ARTICLE X.
MODIFICATION, REVOCATION, OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLAN**

A. Modification and Amendments.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan, the Debtors reserve the right to modify the Plan, whether such modification is material or immaterial, and seek Confirmation consistent with the Bankruptcy Code. Subject to certain restrictions and requirements set forth in section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3019 and those restrictions on modifications set forth in the Plan, each of the Debtors expressly reserves its respective rights to revoke, withdraw, alter, amend or modify the Plan with respect to such Debtor, one or more times, after Confirmation, and, to the extent necessary may initiate proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court to so alter, amend, or modify the Plan, or remedy any defect or omission, or reconcile any inconsistencies in the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, or the Confirmation Order, in such matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of the Plan. Any such modification or supplement shall be considered a modification of the Plan and shall be made in accordance with this Article X.

B. Effect of Confirmation on Modifications.

Entry of a Confirmation Order shall mean that all modifications or amendments to the Plan since the solicitation thereof are approved pursuant to section 1127(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and do not require additional disclosure or resolicitation under Bankruptcy Rule 3019.

C. Revocation or Withdrawal of Plan.

The Debtors reserve the right to revoke or withdraw the Plan prior to the Effective Date and to file subsequent plans of reorganization. If the Debtors revoke or withdraw the Plan, or if Confirmation or Consummation does not occur, then: (1) the Plan shall be null and void in all respects; (2) any settlement or compromise embodied in the Plan (including the fixing or limiting to an amount certain of any Claim or Interest or Class of Claims or Interests), assumption or rejection of executory contracts or unexpired leases effected by the Plan, and any document or agreement executed pursuant to the Plan, shall be deemed null and void; and (3) nothing contained in the Plan shall: (a) constitute a waiver or release of any Claims or Interests; (b) prejudice in any manner the rights of such Debtor or any other Entity; or (c) constitute an admission, acknowledgement, offer, or undertaking of any sort by such Debtor or any other Entity.

**ARTICLE XI.
RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

Notwithstanding the entry of the Confirmation Order and the occurrence of the Effective Date, on and after the Effective Date, the Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction over all matters arising out of, or related to, the Chapter 11 Cases and the Plan pursuant to sections 105(a) and 1142 of the Bankruptcy Code, including jurisdiction to:

1. allow, disallow, determine, liquidate, classify, estimate, or establish the priority, Secured or unsecured status, or amount of any Claim or Equity Interest, including the resolution of any request for payment of any Administrative Claim and the resolution of any and all objections to the Secured or unsecured status, priority, amount, or allowance of Claims or Equity Interests;
2. decide and resolve all matters related to the granting and denying, in whole or in part, any applications for allowance of compensation or reimbursement of expenses to Professionals authorized pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code or the Plan;

3. resolve any matters related to: (a) the assumption, assumption and assignment, or rejection of any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease to which a Debtor is party or with respect to which a Debtor may be liable and to hear, determine, and, if necessary, liquidate, any Claims arising therefrom, including Cure Claims pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (b) any potential contractual obligation under any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease that is assumed; (c) the Reorganized Debtors amending, modifying, or supplementing, after the Effective Date, pursuant to Article V, any Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases to the list of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases to be assumed or rejected or otherwise; and (d) any dispute regarding whether a contract or lease is or was executory or expired;

A-30

Table of Contents

4. ensure that distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims and Equity Interests are accomplished pursuant to the provisions of the Plan;
5. adjudicate, decide, or resolve any motions, adversary proceedings, contested or litigated matters, and any other matters, and grant or deny any applications involving a Debtor that may be pending on the Effective Date;
6. adjudicate, decide, or resolve any and all matters related to section 1141 of the Bankruptcy Code;
7. enter and implement such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to execute, implement, or consummate the provisions of the Plan and all contracts, instruments, releases, indentures, and other agreements or documents created in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement;
8. enter and enforce any order for the sale of property pursuant to sections 363, 1123, or 1146(a) of the Bankruptcy Code;
9. resolve any cases, controversies, suits, disputes, or Causes of Action that may arise in connection with the Consummation, interpretation, or enforcement of the Plan or any Entity's obligations incurred in connection with the Plan;
10. issue injunctions, enter and implement other orders, or take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to restrain interference by any Entity with Consummation or enforcement of the Plan;
11. resolve any cases, controversies, suits, disputes, or Causes of Action with respect to the releases, injunctions, and other provisions contained in Article VIII and enter such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such releases, injunctions, and other provisions;
12. resolve any cases, controversies, suits, disputes, or causes of action with respect to the repayment or return of distributions and the recovery of additional amounts owed by the Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest for amounts not timely repaid pursuant to Article VI.K.1;
13. enter and implement such orders as are necessary or appropriate if the Confirmation Order is for any reason modified, stayed, reversed, revoked, or vacated;
14. determine any other matters that may arise in connection with or relate to the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Confirmation Order, or any contract, instrument, release, indenture, or other agreement or document created in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement;
15. enter an order or Final Decree concluding or closing the Chapter 11 Cases;
16. adjudicate any and all disputes arising from or relating to distributions under the Plan;
17. consider any modifications of the Plan, to cure any defect or omission, or to reconcile any inconsistency in any Bankruptcy Court order, including the Confirmation Order;
18. determine requests for the payment of Claims and Equity Interests entitled to priority pursuant to section 507 of the Bankruptcy Code;
19. hear and determine disputes arising in connection with the interpretation, implementation, or enforcement of the Plan or the Confirmation Order, including disputes arising under agreements, documents, or instruments executed in

connection with the Plan;

20. hear and determine matters concerning state, local, and federal taxes in accordance with sections 346, 505, and 1146 of the Bankruptcy Code;

21. hear and determine all disputes involving the existence, nature, scope, or enforcement of any exculpations, discharges, injunctions and releases granted in the Plan, including under Article VIII, regardless of whether such termination occurred prior to or after the Effective Date;

22. enforce all orders previously entered by the Bankruptcy Court; and

23. hear any other matter not inconsistent with the Bankruptcy Code.

A-31

Table of Contents

**ARTICLE XII.
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

A. Immediate Binding Effect.

Subject to Article IX.A and notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rules 3020(e), 6004(h), or 7062 or otherwise, upon the occurrence of the Effective Date, the terms of the Plan and the Plan Supplement shall be immediately effective and enforceable and deemed binding upon the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and any and all Holders of Claims or Equity Interests (irrespective of whether such Claims or Equity Interests are deemed to have accepted the Plan), all Entities that are parties to or are subject to the settlements, compromises, releases, discharges, and injunctions described in the Plan, each Entity acquiring property under the Plan, and any and all non-Debtor parties to Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases with the Debtors.

B. Additional Documents.

On or before the Effective Date, the Debtors may file with the Bankruptcy Court such agreements and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and further evidence the terms and conditions of the Plan. The Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, and all Holders of Claims or Equity Interests receiving distributions pursuant to the Plan and all other parties in interest shall, from time to time, prepare, execute, and deliver any agreements or documents and take any other actions as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the provisions and intent of the Plan.

C. Payment of Statutory Fees.

All fees payable pursuant to section 1930(a) of the Judicial Code, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court at a hearing pursuant to section 1128 of the Bankruptcy Code, shall be paid by each Reorganized Debtor (or the Disbursing Agent on behalf of each Reorganized Debtor) for each quarter (including any fraction thereof) until the Chapter 11 Cases are converted, dismissed, or closed, whichever occurs first.

D. Payment of Fees and Expenses of the Convertible Indenture Trustee.

On the Effective Date or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, the Disbursing Agent shall pay in full in Cash all reasonable and documented fees and expenses of the Convertible Notes Indenture Trustee and its advisors; provided that reasonably detailed fee invoices provided to the Debtor shall be required as a condition of payment hereunder.

E. Statutory Committee and Cessation of Fee and Expense Payment.

On the Effective Date, any statutory committee appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases shall dissolve and members thereof shall be released and discharged from all rights and duties from or related to the Chapter 11 Cases. The Reorganized Debtors shall no longer be responsible for paying any fees or expenses incurred by the members of or advisors to the Senior Secured Agent, and any other statutory committees after the Effective Date.

F. Reservation of Rights.

Except as expressly set forth in the Plan, the Plan shall have no force or effect unless the Bankruptcy Court shall enter the Confirmation Order, and the Confirmation Order shall have no force or effect if the Effective Date does not occur. None of the Filing of the Plan, any statement or provision contained in the Plan, or the taking of any action by any Debtor with respect to the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, or the Plan Supplement shall be or shall be deemed to be an admission or waiver of any rights of any Debtor with respect to the Holders of Claims or Equity Interests prior to the

Effective Date.

G. Successors and Assigns.

The rights, benefits, and obligations of any Entity named or referred to in the Plan shall be binding on, and shall inure to the benefit of any heir, executor, administrator, successor or assign, affiliate, officer, director, agent, representative, attorney, beneficiaries, or guardian, if any, of each Entity.

A-32

Table of Contents

H. Notices.

All notices, requests, and demands to or upon the Debtors to be effective shall be in writing (including by facsimile transmission) and, unless otherwise expressly provided herein, shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when actually delivered or, in the case of notice by facsimile transmission, when received and telephonically confirmed, addressed to:

10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West
Houston, Texas 77064
Facsimile: (281) 477-9646
Attn.: Todd R. Moore
E-mail address: trmoore@ncilp.com

with copies to:

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz LLP
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019
Facsimile: (212) 403-2000
Attn.: Mark Gordon, Esq. and Joshua A. Feltman
E-mail Addresses:
MGordon@wlrk.com, JAFeltman@wlrk.com

Kirkland & Ellis LLP
601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022-4611
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900
Attention: James H.M. Sprayregen, Esq., Paul M. Basta, Esq., Christopher J. Marcus, Esq., and
Brian S. Lennon, Esq.
E-mail addresses: james.sprayregen@kirkland.com, paul.basta@kirkland.com,
christopher.marcus@kirkland.com, and brian.lennon@kirkland.com

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Facsimile: (212) 909-6836
Attn.: Franci J. Blassberg
E-mail address: fjblassberg@debevoise.com

After the Effective Date, the Debtors have authority to send a notice to Entities that to continue to receive documents pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002, such Entity must file a renewed request to receive documents pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. After the Effective Date, the Debtors are authorized to limit the list of Entities receiving documents pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 to those Entities who have Filed such renewed requests.

I. Term of Injunctions or Stays.

Unless otherwise provided in the Plan or in the Confirmation Order, all injunctions or stays in effect in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to sections 105 or 362 of the Bankruptcy Code or any order of the Bankruptcy Court, and extant on the Confirmation Date (excluding any injunctions or stays contained in the Plan or the Confirmation Order) shall remain

in full force and effect until the Effective Date. All injunctions or stays contained in the Plan or the Confirmation Order shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their terms.

J. Entire Agreement.

Except as otherwise indicated, the Plan and the Plan Supplement supersede all previous and contemporaneous negotiations, promises, covenants, agreements, understandings, and representations on such subjects, all of which have become merged and integrated into the Plan.

Table of Contents

K. Exhibits.

All exhibits and documents included in the Plan Supplement are incorporated into and are a part of the Plan as if set forth in full in the Plan. After the exhibits and documents are Filed, copies of such exhibits and documents shall be available upon written request to the Debtors' counsel at the address above or by downloading such exhibits and documents from the website of the Debtors' notice, claims, and balloting agent at www.epiq11.com or the Bankruptcy Court's website at www.deb.uscourts.gov. To the extent any exhibit or document is inconsistent with the terms of the Plan, unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, the non-exhibit or non-document portion of the Plan shall control.

L. Nonseverability of Plan Provisions.

If, prior to Confirmation, any term or provision of the Plan is held by the Bankruptcy Court to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the Bankruptcy Court shall have the power to alter and interpret such term or provision to make it valid or enforceable to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the original purpose of the term or provision held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, and such term or provision shall then be applicable as altered or interpreted. Notwithstanding any such holding, alteration, or interpretation, the remainder of the terms and provisions of the Plan will remain in full force and effect and will in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated by such holding, alteration, or interpretation. The Confirmation Order shall constitute a judicial determination and shall provide that each term and provision of the Plan, as it may have been altered or interpreted in accordance with the foregoing, is: (1) valid and enforceable pursuant to its terms; (2) integral to the Plan and may not be deleted or modified without the Debtors' consent; and (3) nonseverable and mutually dependent.

M. Votes Solicited in Good Faith.

Upon entry of the Confirmation Order, the Debtors will be deemed to have solicited votes on the Plan in good faith and in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code, and pursuant to section 1125(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors and each of their respective Affiliates, agents, representatives, members, principals, shareholders, officers, directors, employees, advisors, and attorneys will be deemed to have participated in good faith and in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code in the offer, issuance, sale, and purchase of Securities offered and sold under the Plan and any previous plan, and, therefore, neither any of such parties or individuals or the Reorganized Debtors will have any liability for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of votes on the Plan or the offer, issuance, sale, or purchase of the Securities offered and sold under the Plan and any previous plan.

N. Closing of Chapter 11 Cases.

The Reorganized Debtors shall, promptly after the full administration of the Chapter 11 Cases, File with the Bankruptcy Court all documents required by Bankruptcy Rule 3022 and any applicable order of the Bankruptcy Court to close the Chapter 11 Cases.

O. Waiver or Estoppel.

Each Holder of a Claim or an Equity Interest shall be deemed to have waived any right to assert any argument, including the right to argue that its Claim or Equity Interest should be Allowed in a certain amount, in a certain priority, Secured or not subordinated by virtue of an agreement made with the Debtors or their counsel, the Agent or its counsel, or any other Entity, if such agreement was not disclosed in the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, or papers Filed with the Bankruptcy Court prior to the Confirmation Date.

P. Conflicts.

Except as set forth in the Plan, to the extent that any provision of the Disclosure Statement, the Plan Supplement, or any other order (other than the Confirmation Order) referenced in the Plan (or any exhibits, schedules, appendices, supplements, or amendments to any of the foregoing), conflict with or are in any way inconsistent with any provision of the Plan, the Plan shall govern and control.

A-34

Table of Contents

Wilmington, Delaware
Dated: October 2, 2009

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., on behalf of itself and all of the other Debtors

By:

Name: Mark E. Johnson

Title: Executive Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer
and Treasurer

COUNSEL:

Pauline K. Morgan (Bar No. 3650)
Edward J. Kosmowski (Bar No. 3849)
YOUNG CONAWAY STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLP
The Brandywine Building
1000 West Street, 17th Floor
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
Telephone: (302) 571-6600
Facsimile: (302) 576-3320

- and -

James H.M. Sprayregen (*pro hac vice* pending)
Paul M. Basta (*pro hac vice* pending)
Christopher J. Marcus (*pro hac vice* pending)
Brian S. Lennon (*pro hac vice* pending)
KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: (212) 446-4800
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

- and -

Mark Gordon
Joshua A. Feltman
WACHTELL, LIPTON, ROSEN & KATZ LLP
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: (212) 403-1000
Facsimile: (212) 403-2000

Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors

A-35

Table of Contents

Annex B

**INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.
DATED AS OF AUGUST 14, 2009**

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Section 1. Authorization and Sale of Securities	B-2
Section 2. Closing and Delivery of Securities and Funds	B-2
Section 3. Closing Conditions	B-3
Section 4. Representations and Warranties of the Company	B-8
Section 5. Representations and Warranties of the Investor	B-21
Section 6. Certain Additional Agreements of the Parties	B-24
Section 7. Indemnity	B-34
Section 8. Termination	B-37
Section 9. Certain Definitions	B-39
Section 10. Survival of Representations, Warranties and Agreements	B-48
Section 11. Notices	B-48
Section 12. Successors and Assigns	B-49
Section 13. Amendments; Waiver	B-49
Section 14. Headings	B-49
Section 15. Severability	B-49
Section 16. Liability Limitations	B-49
Section 17. Integration	B-50
Section 18. Governing Law	B-50
Section 19. Counterparts	B-50
Section 20. Access; Information	B-50
Section 21. Publicity	B-50
Section 22. Confidentiality Agreement	B-51
Section 23. Specific Performance; Jurisdiction	B-51
Section 24. Waiver of Jury Trial	B-51
Section 25. Interpretation	B-52
Section 26. No Third Party Beneficiaries	B-52
Section 27. Certain Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy	B-52

Table of Contents

SCHEDULES AND EXHIBITS

Exhibit A	Form of Amended Credit Agreement
Exhibit B	Form of Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Rights of the Series B Preferred Stock
Exhibit C	Form of Stockholders Agreement
Exhibit D	Form of Indemnification Agreement
Exhibit E	Terms of Registration Rights Agreement
Exhibit F	Form of Press Release
Exhibit G	Employee Benefits Covenants
Exhibit H	ABL Term Sheet
Exhibit I	Prepackaged Plan Term Sheet
Annex A	Terms and Conditions of the Offer

Disclosure Letter

B-iii

Table of Contents

Annex B

Investment Agreement

THIS INVESTMENT AGREEMENT (this Agreement), dated as of August 14, 2009, is made by and among NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., a Delaware corporation, and CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (the Investor).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Company (as defined herein) has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders to restructure the Company's ownership and capital structure through a series of transactions as contemplated in this Agreement and the Transaction Documents (as defined herein) (the Restructuring);

WHEREAS, in connection with the Restructuring, the Company intends to enter into an amendment and restatement of its Credit Agreement, dated June 18, 2004 (as amended prior to the date hereof, the Credit Agreement), by and among the Company, certain of its Subsidiaries (as defined herein), Wachovia Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, Bank of America, N.A., as syndication agent, and the lenders party thereto (the Term Lenders) pursuant to which, among other things, the Company would agree to pay \$143 million of the principal amount of the term loans outstanding thereunder and the Term Lenders would agree to extend the maturity of the remaining term loans outstanding thereunder, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement (as defined herein) (the Term Loan Refinancing);

WHEREAS, in connection with the Restructuring, the Company has received an expression of interest from certain lenders (the ABL Lenders) regarding the provision to the Company and certain of its Subsidiaries of revolving credit commitments for general corporate purposes, upon the terms and subject to the conditions summarized in the term sheet attached hereto as Exhibit H (the ABL Term Sheet);

WHEREAS, in connection with the Restructuring, the Company intends to conduct an exchange offer to exchange all of the Company's outstanding 2.125% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024 (the Convertible Notes) issued under that Indenture, dated as of November 16, 2004, between the Company and The Bank of New York, as trustee (the Indenture), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement (such exchange offer, the Offer);

WHEREAS, in connection with the Restructuring, each of the Investor and the Company desires that, concurrent with the consummation of the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing (as defined herein)), the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing (each as defined herein)) and the consummation of the Offer, the Company will issue and sell to the Investor, and the Investor will purchase and acquire from the Company, 250,000 shares (the Series B Preferred Shares) of a newly created series of preferred stock designated the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the Series B Preferred Stock), of the Company having the terms, rights, obligations and preferences set forth in the Certificate of Designations (the Series B Preferred Stock CoD) attached as Exhibit B hereto, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth herein (such purchase and sale, the Investment);

WHEREAS, in the event that the Offer Conditions are not satisfied or waived by the Restructuring Deadline, but the Requisite Acceptances (as defined herein) have been received and all other conditions to the Investment have been

satisfied (or in the Company's judgment, there is no reason to believe that any such condition is unlikely to be satisfied by the Outside Date), the Company and the Investor intend to effectuate the Restructuring through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding (each as defined herein) and in connection therewith, to prepare the Prepackaged Plan and a disclosure statement reflecting the Prepackaged Plan (which disclosure statement shall be incorporated into the applicable Offer Document (as defined herein)) (the Disclosure Statement) and all related documents, including bankruptcy ballots (collectively with the Disclosure Statement, the Solicitation Materials), necessary to solicit acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan from the creditors of the Company whose claims are impaired by the Prepackaged Plan and to solicit (the Solicitation) acceptances

B-1

Table of Contents

of the Prepackaged Plan from such creditors pursuant to Section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3018(b) and to commence a case under the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court in the District of Delaware (the Bankruptcy Court);

WHEREAS, in connection with the Investment, (i) the Company is willing to make certain representations and warranties and to agree to observe certain covenants set forth herein for the benefit of the Investor, and the Investor will rely on such representations, warranties and covenants as a material inducement to its purchase of the Series B Preferred Shares and (ii) the Investor is willing to make certain representations and warranties and to agree to observe certain covenants set forth herein for the benefit of the Company, and the Company will rely on such representations, warranties and covenants as a material inducement to its sale of the Series B Preferred Shares; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the Investment, the Investor and the Company have agreed to enter into a Stockholders Agreement to set forth certain terms and conditions regarding the Investment and the ownership of the shares of the Series B Preferred Stock, including certain restrictions on the transfer of the Series B Preferred Stock and the Common Stock issuable upon conversion thereof and on certain actions of the Investor and its controlled Affiliates with respect to the Company, and to provide for, among other things, preemptive rights, corporate governance rights and consent rights and other obligations and rights, in each case, on the terms and conditions contained in the Stockholders Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1. *Authorization and Sale of Securities.* Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement, at the Closing, the Company shall issue, sell and deliver to the Investor, and the Investor shall purchase from the Company, 250,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, mortgages, pledges, charges, or security interests, for an aggregate purchase price of two hundred and fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in cash (the Aggregate Purchase Price) to be paid in full to the Company.

Section 2. *Closing and Delivery of Securities and Funds.*

(a) The Closing shall take place, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of all conditions to the Closing set forth in Section 3 hereof, at the offices of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, 51 West 52nd Street, New York City, at 10:00 a.m. New York City time, as promptly as practicable (but no more than two (2) Business Days) following the first date on which all conditions set forth in Section 3 have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied by actions taken at the Closing) or on such date and at such time as otherwise agreed by the parties.

(b) At the Closing, the Investor shall deliver to the Company:

(i) a portion of the Aggregate Purchase Price consisting of (x) an amount equal to the full cash consideration due to the holders of all Convertible Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under the Offer plus (y) an amount equal to the maximum consideration necessary to redeem all of the Convertible Notes not so tendered under the Offer pursuant to the Indenture, including, without limitation, pursuant to (A) Section 3.05 of the Indenture with respect to the Designated Event (as defined in the Indenture) arising in connection with the Investment, (B) Section 3.06 of the Indenture on November 15, 2009 or (C) Section 3.01 of the Indenture on November 20, 2009 plus (z) an amount equal to all reasonably anticipated costs and expenses of effecting the redemption or repurchase of all of the Convertible Notes (the Convertible Notes Expenses), such portion (the Convertible Notes Portion) to be delivered in immediately available funds by wire transfer to the Convertible Notes Account;

(ii) the balance of the Aggregate Purchase Price consisting of an amount equal to the Aggregate Purchase Price minus the Convertible Notes Portion, such amount to be delivered in immediately available funds by wire transfer to the Non-Convertible Notes Account; and

(iii) all other documents and certificates to be delivered to the Company by the Investor pursuant to Section 3(b) hereof.

B-2

Table of Contents

(c) At the Closing, the Company shall deliver to the Investor:

(i) certificates representing the Series B Preferred Shares, duly authorized and validly issued, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, other than as set forth in Section 5.1 of the Stockholders Agreement, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof, and registered in the name of the Investor; and

(ii) all other documents and certificates to be delivered to the Investor by the Company pursuant to Section 3(c) hereof.

(d) At or prior to the Closing, the Company and each of the Subsidiaries party thereto shall duly execute and deliver (i) the Amended Credit Agreement for the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be) on terms and conditions that satisfy the condition in Section 3(c)(vi) and (ii) each other Amended Credit Document on terms and conditions that satisfy the condition in Section 3(c)(viii).

(e) At the Closing, the Company and each of its Subsidiaries party thereto shall duly execute and deliver (i) the ABL Agreement for the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be) on terms and conditions that satisfy the condition in Section 3(c)(vii) and (ii) each other ABL Document on terms and conditions that satisfy the condition in Section 3(c)(viii).

(f) If the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, concurrently with the Closing but after receipt of proceeds from the Investment, the Company shall take the actions set forth in Section 6(i)(i) and accept for exchange all Convertible Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the Offer.

(g) Concurrently with the Closing but after receipt of proceeds from the Investment, the Company shall (i) reimburse the Investor for all of the Transaction Expenses (net of the Pre-Signing Expenses that have been previously paid or reimbursed by the Company) and pay such amounts to the account (or accounts) specified by the Investor in writing at least 3 business days prior to the Closing and (ii) pay the Deal Fee to CD&R Inc.

(h) If the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, at the Closing, the Company shall deliver to the disbursing agent appointed under the Prepackaged Plan (the Disbursing Agent) sufficient cash and shares of Common Stock to permit the Disbursing Agent to make the Distributions required under the Prepackaged Plan.

(i) Concurrently with the Closing, but after receipt of proceeds from the Investment, (i) the Company shall pay in full (x) the principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement that are not rolled into the Amended Credit Agreement as of the Closing, together with all accrued and unpaid interest thereon and all other interest due and payable as of the Closing Date under the Amended Credit Agreement and other Amended Credit Documents, (y) all fees, expenses and other obligations payable as of the Closing Date under the Amended Credit Agreement, the other Credit Documents, the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents and (z) all costs, expenses and other obligations due as of the Closing Date and relating to or arising out of the Transactions (including but not limited to the Investment and the Offer) and (ii) the Company shall cash collateralize or backstop in full, or replace with or roll over and novate into letters of credit issued and outstanding under the ABL Agreement, all letters of credit outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement.

Section 3. Closing Conditions.

(a) The obligation of the Investor, on the one hand, and the Company, on the other hand, to consummate the Closing is conditioned on the fulfillment or written waiver by both the Company and the Investor prior to the Closing of the

following conditions:

(i) Any waiting period (or any extension thereof) required to consummate the Investment under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (the HSR Act) or the Austrian Cartel Act of 2005 (the Austrian Act) shall have expired or been terminated.

(ii) No provision of any applicable Law and no Order shall prohibit the Closing or the consummation of any of the transactions contemplated by the Transaction Documents or shall restrict the Investor and its Affiliates from owning, voting, or converting or exercising, any Series B Preferred Stock in accordance with

B-3

Table of Contents

the terms thereof or exercising its consent rights in accordance with the terms of the Stockholders Agreement and no lawsuit shall have been commenced by a Governmental Entity seeking to effect any of the foregoing.

(iii) The Company shall have received confirmation from the New York Stock Exchange, or such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, and such confirmation shall not have been withdrawn, that the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares and the other Transactions are in compliance with the New York Stock Exchange's (or such other exchange's) stockholder approval policy and that the Company has properly, and without condition, obtained an exception under Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual (or such similar exception, if any, of such other exchange) to issue the Series B Preferred Shares without obtaining approval of the stockholders of the Company.

(iv) The Company shall have properly provided notice to the stockholders of the Company that the Company will issue the Series B Preferred Shares without obtaining stockholder approval as required by, and in compliance with, Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual (or such other required notice of such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), and the ten (10) day notice period set forth in Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual (or such other notice period pursuant to such other exchange's rules and regulations) shall have passed after such notice has been properly provided.

(v) The Company shall have duly filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware the Series B Preferred Stock CoD which shall have become effective as an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation.

(vi) Subject to and in accordance with Section 6(d), the Offer shall have expired and all of the Offer Conditions shall have been satisfied or earlier waived, with the prior consent of the Investor, as of the expiration of the Offer.

(vii) The proceeds of the Investment together with cash of the Company (without giving effect to any borrowings under the ABL Agreement) shall be in an aggregate amount sufficient to (A) pay the principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement that are not rolled into the Amended Credit Agreement as of the Closing and all accrued and unpaid interest thereon, and all other interest due and payable as of the Closing Date under the Amended Credit Agreement and other Amended Credit Documents, (B) pay in full all fees, expenses and other obligations payable under the Amended Credit Agreement, the other Amended Credit Documents, the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents, (C) pay in full all fees, costs and expenses relating to or arising out of the Transactions (including but not limited to the Investment and the Offer), (D) pay the full cash consideration for the purchase of all Convertible Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under the Offer, (E) pay the maximum consideration necessary to redeem all of the Convertible Notes not so tendered under the Offer pursuant to the Indenture, including, without limitation, pursuant to (x) Section 3.05 of the Indenture with respect to the Designated Event (as defined in the Indenture) arising in connection with the Investment, (y) Section 3.06 of the Indenture on November 15, 2009 or (z) Section 3.01 of the Indenture on November 20, 2009 and (F) cash collateralize or backstop in full all letters of credit outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement that are not replaced with or rolled over or novated into letters of credit issued and outstanding under the ABL Agreement.

(b) The obligation of the Company to consummate the Closing is conditioned on the fulfillment or written waiver by the Company prior to the Closing of the following conditions:

(i) The representations and warranties of the Investor contained in this Agreement (except for the representations and warranties contained in Section 5(a)) shall be true and correct (without giving effect to any qualifications or limitations as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect included therein) as of the date of this Agreement and at and as of the Closing Date as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date), except where the failure of such representations and warranties to be true and correct, individually or in the aggregate, has not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have, a material

adverse effect on the ability of the Investor to consummate the Investment, and the representations and warranties of the Investor contained in Section 5(a) shall be true and correct in all respects at and as of the date of this Agreement and at and as of the Closing Date as if made at and

B-4

Table of Contents

as of such time. The Company shall have received a certificate of a senior officer of the Investor, dated as of the Closing Date, certifying to that fact.

(ii) The Investor shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all covenants and obligations in this Agreement that are to be performed or complied with by it at or prior to the Closing.

(iii) The Investor shall have duly executed and delivered to the Company each of the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement and the Indemnification Agreement.

(c) The obligation of the Investor to consummate the Closing is conditioned on the fulfillment or written waiver by the Investor prior to the Closing of the following conditions:

(i) The representations and warranties of the Company contained in Section 4 of this Agreement (except for the representations and warranties contained in Section 4(b) and the first sentence of Section 4(f)) shall be true and correct (without giving effect to any qualifications or limitations as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect included therein) as of the date of this Agreement and at and as of the Closing Date as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date), except where the failure of such representations and warranties to be true and correct, individually or in the aggregate, has not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have, a Material Adverse Effect. The representations and warranties of the Company contained in Section 4(b) shall be true and correct in all but de minimis respects at and as of the date of this Agreement and at and as of the Closing Date as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such earlier date). The representations and warranties of the Company contained in the first sentence of Section 4(f) shall be true and correct in all respects at and as of the Closing Date as if made at and as of such time. The Investor shall have received a certificate of a senior officer of the Company, dated as of the Closing Date, certifying to that fact.

(ii) The Company shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all covenants and obligations in this Agreement that are to be performed or complied with by it at or prior to the Closing. The Investor shall have received a certificate of a senior officer of the Company, dated as of the Closing Date, certifying to that fact.

(iii) The Company shall have received all consents, authorizations or approvals or delivered all notices required under the Material Contracts listed in paragraphs Items 1 and 2 of Section 4(d)(v) of the Disclosure Letter, in each case in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor, and no such consents, authorizations, approvals or notices shall have been revoked.

(iv) The Company shall have duly executed and delivered to the Investor the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement and the Indemnification Agreement.

(v) The Investor shall have received a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certifying the fulfillment of the condition set forth in Section 3(a)(vii), in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor.

(vi) The Company shall have duly authorized, executed and delivered the Amended Credit Agreement for the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be) (i) in the case of the Term Loan Refinancing, in the form of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement or (ii) in the case of the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, on terms and conditions that are (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised

in good faith). The Amended Credit Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents shall be in full force and effect and the Company shall have satisfied all conditions precedent (other than conditions relating to the Investment, if any, and conditions relating to the payment of the principal amount of the term loans outstanding thereunder that shall be due and payable as of the Closing) to the effectiveness of the Amended Credit Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents, without any amendment, waiver or other modification thereto not consented to in writing by the Investor (in its sole discretion). The Investor shall have received true, correct and complete copies of the Amended Credit

B-5

Table of Contents

Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents (including without limitation any amendments, waivers or modifications in respect thereof). Subject only to the making of the Investment, (1) the revolving commitments (if any) under the Credit Agreement shall have terminated in accordance with the terms thereof, and (2) the security interests arising under the Amended Credit Documents with respect to the collateral securing the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be) on a first-priority basis shall have been subordinated to the security interests in such collateral securing the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be) to the extent required by the terms of the Amended Credit Documents and the ABL Documents. The Investor shall have received a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certifying the fulfillment of this condition (vi), in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor.

(vii) Subject to (A) the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set forth in Section 3(a) and Section 3(c) (other than the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions contained in this Section 3(c)(vii)) to the Investor's obligations to make the Investment, (B) the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set forth in Section 3(a) and Section 3(b) to the Company's obligation to accept the Investment and (C) the Investor having indicated at the Closing that it is prepared to make the Investment upon the satisfaction of the conditions set forth in this Section 3(c)(vii), the Company shall have duly authorized, executed and delivered the ABL Agreement for the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be) (i) in the case of the ABL Financing, on terms and conditions that reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet and otherwise (x) are consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or (y) are acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (ii) in the case of Alternative ABL Financing, on terms and conditions that are (1) no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) and (2) otherwise (I) are consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith) or (II) are acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith). After the execution and delivery thereof by the Company, the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents shall be in full force and effect, and the Company shall have satisfied all conditions precedent to the effectiveness of the ABL Agreement, and to the initial borrowings and any other extensions of credit thereunder (whether or not any borrowing or other extension of credit is then made) other than delivery of a borrowing notice, and to the effectiveness of the other ABL Documents, without any amendment, waiver or other modification thereto not consented to in writing by the Investor (in its sole discretion). The Investor shall have received true, correct and complete copies of the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents (including without limitation any amendments, waivers or modifications in respect thereof). The Investor shall have received a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certifying the fulfillment of this condition (vii), in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor.

(viii) Each Ancillary Refinancing Document (a) shall have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and each of its Subsidiaries party thereto and (b) shall be (1) consistent with the ABL Agreement or the Amended Credit Agreement, as applicable, and (2) otherwise consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of such agreement or document for companies sponsored by CD&R Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith) or otherwise acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith).

(ix) On the Closing Date, after giving effect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (including, without limitation, the Investment and the Offer), the ABL Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement and the Ancillary

Refinancing Documents, (A) none of the Company, any applicable Subsidiary of the Company nor any other party thereto shall be in default or breach in any material respect under (or shall be

B-6

Table of Contents

alleged, by a Person or Persons with the right to cause an acceleration of or to exercise any other remedy under the applicable agreement or instrument, to be in default or breach in any material respect under) the terms of, or shall have provided to or received from an authorized party any notice of any intention to terminate, the ABL Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement or the Ancillary Refinancing Documents, and (B) no default shall have occurred and no event or circumstance shall have occurred or exist that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a breach, default or event of default under or result in a termination of or cause or permit the acceleration or any other change of or in any right or obligation or the loss or impairment of any benefit under and of the ABL Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement or the Ancillary Refinancing Documents. The Company shall reasonably believe that the Company and its Subsidiaries will, assuming receipt of the proceeds of the Investment, be able to satisfy on a timely basis all terms and conditions to be satisfied by any of them under the ABL Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement and the Ancillary Refinancing Documents. The Investor shall have received a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certifying the fulfillment of this condition (ix), in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor.

(x) The aggregate principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement shall not be more than \$150 million after giving effect to the Term Loan Refinancing or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be. The aggregate revolving credit commitments under the ABL Agreement shall not be less than \$125 million and there shall have been no borrowings under the ABL Agreement. After giving effect to any issuance of any new letters of credit or rollover or novation of any existing letters of credit and after applying any cash of the Company to the purposes set forth in Section 3(a)(vii), the Company shall have, on a pro forma basis, not less than \$90 million in the aggregate of (x) unutilized and immediately available revolving credit commitments under the ABL Agreement and (y) Unrestricted Cash, and the Company shall be able to satisfy all conditions to borrowings and other extensions of credit under the ABL Agreement. The Investor shall have received a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certifying the fulfillment of this condition (x), in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Investor.

(xi) The Board shall have taken all actions necessary and appropriate to approve this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents and all of the Transactions, including, but not limited to, the full exercise of (A) all rights of the Investor under the terms of the Stockholders Agreement and (B) all rights, powers and preferences of the Investor and its Affiliates as holders of Series B Preferred Stock under the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD, respectively, pursuant to Article TENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation.

(xii) To the extent that the Company has authorized and unissued shares of Common Stock sufficient to permit the conversion of all or a portion of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to be issued at the Closing, (A) such shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock shall have been duly authorized for listing, subject to official notice of issuance, on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted and (B) the number of such shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock that are so duly authorized for listing shall be no less than 67,351,792. The Board shall have adopted and declared advisable, and unanimously approved and recommended to the holders of Common Stock that such holders approve the Authorized Stock Certificate Amendment.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing in this Section 3, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, (i) the conditions set forth in Sections 3(a)(iii), 3(a)(iv), 3(a)(vi) and, to the extent that any Material Contract may be assumed by the Company without consent, authorization or approval pursuant to Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, 3(c)(iii) shall not be applicable and (ii) the obligation of the Investor, on the one hand, and the Company, on the other hand, to consummate the Closing shall be conditioned on the fulfillment or written waiver by both the Company and the Investor prior to the Closing of the following additional conditions:

(i) The Confirmation Order shall be a Final Order.

(ii) All other conditions precedent to the effectiveness of the Prepackaged Plan contained therein shall have been satisfied or waived.

B-7

Table of Contents

Section 4. *Representations and Warranties of the Company.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to the Investor, that, except as otherwise disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 2, 2008 (the 2008 10-K) or its other reports and forms filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) under Sections 12, 13, 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) after November 2, 2008 (excluding disclosures of risks included in any forward-looking statement disclaimers or other statements that are similarly non-specific or forward-looking in nature) and before the date of this Agreement (the SEC Reports), and as set forth in the disclosure letter (the Disclosure Letter) delivered by the Company to the Investor concurrently with the execution of this Agreement, provided, however, that disclosure in any section or subsection of the Disclosure Letter shall apply to any other section or subsection of the Disclosure Letter solely to the extent that it is reasonably apparent from the face of such disclosure that such disclosure is relevant to another section or subsection of the Disclosure Letter:

(a) *Organization, Authority and Subsidiaries.*

(i) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with all corporate power and authority to own its properties and conduct its business as currently conducted, and except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, is duly qualified as a foreign corporation for the transaction of business and is in good standing under the laws of each other jurisdiction in which it owns or leases properties, or conducts any business so as to require such qualification; each Subsidiary of the Company has been duly organized and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, with all corporate power and authority to own its properties and conduct its business as currently conducted and except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, is duly qualified as a foreign corporation for the transaction of business and is in good standing under the laws of each other jurisdiction in which it owns or leases properties, or conducts any business so as to require such qualification.

(ii) All of the outstanding shares of capital stock of and other voting or equity interests in each Subsidiary have been duly authorized and validly issued, are fully paid and nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof, and are owned beneficially and of record by the Company or one of its wholly-owned Subsidiaries, as set forth on Section 4(a)(ii) of the Disclosure Letter, free and clear of any Liens other than Permitted Liens and other than, prior to the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents and, as of the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Amended Credit Documents and the ABL Documents. No Subsidiary has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, contracts, preemptive rights, rights of first refusal, demands, conversion rights or other agreements, arrangements or obligations of any character calling for it to purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, or to issue, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock, any other equity security or Voting Debt of such Subsidiary, or securities or rights convertible into or exchangeable therefor. Except as provided above, neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries owns any shares of capital stock of or equity interests in (including any securities exercisable or exchangeable for or convertible into capital stock of or other voting or equity interests in) any other Person.

(iii) The Company is not in breach or violation of its certificate of incorporation, by-laws or other organizational documents. Each Subsidiary of the Company is, in all material respects, in compliance with its certificate of incorporation, by-laws or other organizational documents. The Company has previously made available to the Investor a complete and correct copy of each of its Certificate of Incorporation, and its by-laws, as amended (the By-Laws), as currently in effect. Section 4(a)(iii) of the Disclosure Letter sets forth a complete and correct list of the Subsidiaries of the Company and their respective jurisdictions of incorporation or organization.

(b) Capitalization. As of the date hereof and on the Closing Date, the authorized capital stock of the Company consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (Common Stock), and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share (Company Preferred Stock, and, together with the Common Stock, the Capital Stock), of which, as of August 2, 2009 (the Capitalization Date), (i) 19,981,667 shares of Common Stock were issued and outstanding of which 648,084 were unvested shares of

B-8

Table of Contents

restricted stock granted as compensation to current or former officers, directors or employees of the Company, (ii) 1,159,280 shares of Common Stock were reserved for issuance in respect of outstanding options, warrants, and convertible securities (other than the Convertible Notes and the options and restricted stock units referred to in clause (v) of this sentence), (iii) 10,851,687 shares of Common Stock were reserved for issuance in respect of the Convertible Notes issued under the Indenture, (iv) no share of Company Preferred Stock was issued and outstanding and (v) (A) 654,203 shares of Common Stock were subject to outstanding options and (B) 1,371 shares of Common Stock were subject to outstanding restricted stock units, in each case under the 2000 Stock Option Plan and the 2003 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan. Except for the foregoing or in connection with the Offer, the Company shall not have (i) issued or authorized the issuance of any shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock, (ii) reserved for issuance any shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock, or (iii) repurchased or redeemed, or authorized the repurchase or redemption of, any shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of Common Stock or Company Preferred Stock. As of the Capitalization Date, the Company held 2,700,992 shares of Common Stock in its treasury. All of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. No bonds, debentures, notes or other indebtedness having the right to vote on any matters on which the stockholders of the Company may vote (Voting Debt) are issued and outstanding. Other than the Convertible Notes, options to purchase Common Stock reserved in respect of outstanding options and Common Stock reserved in respect of restricted stock units as set forth in clauses (ii) and (v) of the first sentence of this Section 4(b), the second sentence of this Section 4(b) and the rights granted pursuant to this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents, the Company does not have and is not bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, contracts, preemptive rights, rights of first refusal, demands, conversion rights or other agreements, arrangements or obligations of any character calling for it to purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, or to issue, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of Common Stock, Company Preferred Stock or any other equity securities of the Company or Voting Debt, or securities or rights convertible into or exchangeable therefor, or any securities representing the right to purchase or redeem or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock of the Company (including any rights plan or agreement). To the extent of the Company's authorized and unissued shares, the Company will reserve prior to the Closing that number of shares of Common Stock sufficient for issuance upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Shares.

(c) Registration Rights; Voting Rights. Except as provided in the Registration Rights Agreement and the Stockholders Agreement or in connection with the Offer or the Prepackaged Plan, (i) the Company has not granted any right that remains in effect as of the Closing Date or agreed to grant any right that will be effective at any time on or after the Closing Date, and is not under any obligation to provide any rights, to register under the Securities Act, nor under any applicable state securities or blue sky laws, any of its presently outstanding securities or any of its securities that may be issued subsequently, and (ii) the Company is not bound, and to the Knowledge of the Company no stockholder of the Company is bound, by any agreement with respect to the voting of equity securities of the Company.

(d) Authorization, Enforceability of Transaction Documents.

(i) Each of the Company and its Subsidiaries has full right, corporate power, authority and capacity to enter into this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents to which it is a party, and to consummate the Transactions (other than, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, the satisfaction of the condition set forth in Section 3(d)(i)) and to carry out its obligations hereunder and thereunder; provided, however, the right, power, authority and capacity of holders of the Series B Preferred Shares to convert into Common Stock and the right, power, authority and capacity of the Company to permit conversion of the Series B Preferred Shares into Common Stock shall be subject to the Company having a sufficient

number of authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock to permit each share of the Series B Preferred Stock to be validly converted into Common Stock pursuant to the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD. Except for any votes required under the Bankruptcy Code or

B-9

Table of Contents

Bankruptcy Rules if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, no vote of the stockholders of the Company is required to authorize, approve or consummate any of the Transactions. The issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement, and the Series B Preferred Stock CoD will be in compliance with the New York Stock Exchange's stockholder approval policy and the exception under Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual or the equivalent policy or rule and the exception to policy or rule of such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, in each case, to the extent applicable to the Company at the time of such issuance and the time of the consummation of each such transaction.

(ii) Neither the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents and any documents ancillary thereto, nor the consummation of the Transactions, nor compliance by the Company with any of the provisions hereof or thereof will (A) violate, conflict with, or result in a breach of any provision of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in the termination of, or result in the loss of any benefit or creation of any right on the part of any third party under, or accelerate the performance required by, or result in a right of termination or acceleration of, or result in the creation of any Lien (other than (1) Permitted Liens and (2) as of the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents and (3) as of the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents) upon any of the properties or assets of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries under any of the terms, conditions or provisions of (x) its Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws or (y) the certificate of incorporation, charter, by-laws, other governing instrument or comparable organizational documents of any of the Company's Subsidiaries or (z) any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, license, lease, contract, agreement or other instrument or obligation to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may be bound, or to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any of the properties, assets, or rights of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may be subject, or (B) subject to compliance with the statutes and regulations referred to in subparagraph (v) below, violate any law, statute, ordinance, rule or regulation, permit, concession, grant, franchise or any judgment, ruling, Order, writ, injunction or decree applicable to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective properties or assets, except in the case of clause (A)(z), if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, for any violations, conflicts and breaches arising solely from the commencement of the Prepackaged Plan Proceedings and, in the case of clause (A)(y), for immaterial violations, conflicts and breaches, and in the case of clauses (A)(z) and (B), for such violations, conflicts and breaches that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(iii) The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by the Company and the consummation of the Investment has been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company, other than the filing of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware pursuant to Section 6(h); provided, however, the right, power, authority and capacity of holders of the Series B Preferred Shares to convert into Common Stock and the right, power, authority and capacity of the Company to permit conversion of the Series B Preferred Shares into Common Stock shall be subject to the Company having a sufficient number of authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock to permit each share of the Series B Preferred Stock to be validly converted into Common Stock pursuant to the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by the other parties hereto, constitutes legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof (A) may be limited by the applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar Laws of general application affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and (B) is subject to general equitable principles, whether considered in a proceeding at Law or in equity (the Bankruptcy Exceptions).

(iv) As of the Closing Date, the execution, delivery and performance of the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement, the ABL

B-10

Table of Contents

Agreement and the Ancillary Refinancing Documents by the Company and each of its Subsidiaries party thereto and the consummation of the Transactions, including, without limitation, the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be) and the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be), will have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company and each of its Subsidiaries (as applicable). Each of the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement, the ABL Agreement and the Ancillary Refinancing Documents will be validly executed and delivered by the Company and each of its Subsidiaries party thereto and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of such agreement by the other parties thereto, will constitute a valid and binding obligation of the Company and such Subsidiaries, enforceable against the Company and such Subsidiaries in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by or subject to the Bankruptcy Exceptions and except as rights to indemnification and contribution under the Registration Rights Agreement or the Indemnification Agreement may be limited under applicable Law or public policy.

(v) Other than (A) the filing of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, (B) the passage of the applicable ten (10) day notice period in compliance with Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange's Listed Company Manual, (C) the filing and approval of subsequent listing applications with the New York Stock Exchange, (D) in connection or in compliance with the HSR Act, (E) the filing with the Commission of the Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and any Other Required Company Filings and the filings with the Commission or any other Governmental Entity pursuant to the applicable requirements of any federal or state securities or Blue Sky laws, (F) such other consents, approvals, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices the failure of which to be obtained or made would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect and (G) in the event the Restructuring is being effectuated through the Prepackaged Plan, notice to, filing with, exemption or review by, or authorization, consent or approval of, the Bankruptcy Court (including entry of the Confirmation Order), no notice to, filing with, exemption or review by, or authorization, consent or approval of, any Governmental Entity or any other Person under any provision of any material agreement or other instrument to which the Company is a party (nor expiration nor termination of any statutory waiting periods) is necessary in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents by the Company and its Subsidiaries (as applicable) and the performance of its and their obligations hereunder and thereunder.

(vi) Assuming that the representations of the Investor set forth in Section 5(a) are true and correct, the offer, sale, and issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares in conformity with the terms of this Agreement are exempt from the registration requirements of Section 5 of the Securities Act, and all applicable state securities laws, and neither the Company nor any authorized agent acting on its behalf will take any action hereafter that would cause the loss of such exemptions.

(e) *Company Financial Statements and Reports.*

(i) The consolidated financial statements of the Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries included or incorporated by reference in the 2008 10-K fairly present in all material respects the consolidated financial position of the Company and its consolidated Subsidiaries as of the dates indicated therein and the consolidated results of their operations and cash flows for the periods specified therein; and except as stated therein, such financial statements were prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applied on a consistent basis.

(ii) The Company and its Subsidiaries do not have any liabilities or obligations (accrued, absolute, contingent, known or unknown or otherwise) that are, individually or in the aggregate, material to the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, other than liabilities or obligations (A) reflected on, reserved against, or disclosed in the notes to, the Company's consolidated balance sheet included in the 2008 10-K, (B) as disclosed in an SEC Report since

November 2, 2008 and filed prior to the date of this Agreement or (C) as incurred since November 2, 2008 in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice.

(iii) Since October 29, 2006, each of the Company and each Subsidiary has timely filed or furnished all forms, statements, reports and other documents (other than the SEC Reports), together with any required

B-11

Table of Contents

amendments thereto, that was required to be filed or furnished by it with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act (the foregoing, collectively, the Company Reports) and has paid all material fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith. As of their respective dates of filing, the Company Reports complied in all material respects with all statutes and applicable rules and regulations of the Commission. To the Knowledge of the Company, there are no outstanding comments from the Commission with respect to any Company Report.

(iv) The SEC Reports, when they became effective or were filed with the Commission, as the case may be, conformed in all material respects to the requirements of the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, as applicable, and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and none of such documents as of its date or as amended contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make such statements, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading. As of the date of this Agreement, to the Knowledge of the Company, there are no outstanding comments from the Commission with respect to the SEC Reports.

(v) Each filing made by the Company with the Commission after the date hereof and prior to the Closing, when filed with the Commission, will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and will not, when filed with the Commission, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

(vi) The Company (A) has implemented and maintains disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated Subsidiaries, is made known to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company by others within those entities, and (B) has disclosed, based on its most recent evaluation prior to the date hereof, to the Company's outside auditors and the Audit Committee of the Board (1) any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information and (2) any fraud Known to the Company, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

(vii) Since October 29, 2006, (A) neither the Company nor any Subsidiary of the Company, nor to the Knowledge of the Company any director, officer, employee, auditor, accountant, or representative of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, has received or otherwise been made aware of any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim, whether written or oral, regarding the accounting or auditing practices, procedures, methodologies or methods of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company or their respective internal accounting controls, including any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim that the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company has engaged in questionable accounting or auditing practices and (B) no attorney representing the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, whether or not employed by the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, has reported evidence of a material violation of securities laws, breach of fiduciary duty or similar violation by the Company or any of its officers, directors, employees or agents to the Company's Board or any committee thereof or to any director or executive officer of the Company.

(viii) The SEC Reports included all certificates required to be included therein pursuant to Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (SOX), and the internal control report and attestation of the Company's outside auditors required by Section 404 of SOX.

(f) Absence of Changes. Since the date of this Agreement, no event or circumstance has occurred that, individually or in the aggregate, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. Other than with respect

to or in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding or as required by the Bankruptcy Code (if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding), since November 2, 2008 to the date hereof, the Company and each of its

B-12

Table of Contents

Subsidiaries has conducted their respective businesses only in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, and neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries has taken any action (other than, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the Prepackaged Plan, in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding or as required under the Bankruptcy Code) that, if taken after the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares, would require the written consent of or vote by holders of such shares pursuant to Section 11 of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD or would require the consent of the Investor pursuant to Article VI of the Stockholders Agreement.

(g) Proceedings. Other than with respect to or in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding (if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding), there is no pending, or to the Company's Knowledge, threatened, action, claim, suit, proceeding or investigation against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or to which any property, assets or rights of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is subject, nor is the Company or any of its Subsidiaries subject to any Order, in each case, except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(h) Compliance with Laws; Permits.

(i) Since October 29, 2006, the Company and each of its Subsidiaries has complied in all material respects and is not in default or violation in any respect of, and none of them is, to the Knowledge of the Company, under investigation with respect to or has been threatened to be charged with or given notice of any material violation of, any applicable domestic (federal, state or local) or foreign Law or applicable stock exchange requirement, except for any noncompliance, defaults or violations that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. Except for Laws of general application, no Governmental Entity has placed any restriction on the business or properties of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries requiring a material modification in the manner in which such business is conducted or such properties are used by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

(ii) The Company and each of its Subsidiaries have all permits, licenses, franchises, authorizations, Orders and approvals of, and have made all filings, applications and registrations with, all Governmental Entities that are required in order to permit them to own, lease or license their properties, assets and rights, and to carry on their business as presently conducted, except where the failure to have such permits, licenses, authorizations, Orders and approvals or the failure to make such filings, applications and registrations that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; and all such permits, licenses, certificates of authority, Orders and approvals are in full force and effect and, to the Knowledge of the Company, no suspension or cancellation of any of them is threatened, and all such filings, applications and registrations are current, except where such absence, suspension or cancellation would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

It is agreed and understood that no representations, warranties or covenants with respect to labor or Environmental Laws are made in this Section 4(h) and that the only representations, warranties or covenants relating to labor and Environmental Laws are the representations and warranties contained in Section 4(l) and Section 4(p), respectively.

(i) Authorization of Common Stock, Series B Preferred Stock. Subject to Section 6(p) in the event the Restructuring is being effectuated through the Prepackaged Plan and the satisfaction of the Prepackaged Plan Conditions, upon the filing of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, the Series B Preferred Stock shall have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action. When issued and sold against receipt of the consideration therefor as provided in this Agreement, the Series B Preferred Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, will not subject the holders thereof to personal liability, will not be subject to preemptive rights of any other stockholder of the Company and will be free of restrictions on transfer other than restrictions on transfer under the Transaction Documents and under applicable state and federal securities laws. Subject to Section 6(p) in the event the Restructuring is being effectuated through the Prepackaged Plan and the satisfaction of the Prepackaged

Plan Conditions, the shares of Series B Preferred Stock issuable as dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock in accordance with the Series B Preferred Stock CoD will, upon filing of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD with the Secretary of State

B-13

Table of Contents

of the State of Delaware, have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action and when so issued will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, will not subject the holders thereof to personal liability, will not be subject to preemptive rights of any stockholder of the Company and will be free of restrictions on transfer other than restrictions on transfer under the Transaction Documents and under applicable state and federal securities laws. As of the Closing Date, 67,351,792 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock will have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action and when so issued will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, will not subject the holders thereof to personal liability, will not be subject to preemptive rights of any stockholder of the Company and will be free of restrictions on transfer other than restrictions on transfer under the Transaction Documents and under applicable state and federal securities laws.

(j) Taxes.

(i) Except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect:

(A) Each of the Company and its Subsidiaries has (A) duly and timely filed (taking into account applicable extensions) all Tax Returns required to be filed by it and (B) paid all Taxes when due or made adequate provision for any such Taxes in accordance with GAAP.

(B) All Taxes required to be withheld, collected or deposited by or with respect to the Company and each of its Subsidiaries have been timely withheld, collected or deposited as the case may be and, to the extent required, have been paid to the relevant taxing authority except with respect to matters for which adequate reserves have been established in accordance with GAAP.

(C) There are no liens or encumbrances for Taxes upon the assets of either the Company or its Subsidiaries except for statutory liens for current Taxes not yet due or liens for Taxes that are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings or for which adequate reserves have been provided.

(ii) No unresolved material deficiencies for any Tax Returns referred to in Section 4(j)(i)(A) have been proposed or assessed against or with respect to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries (and there is no outstanding audit, assessment, dispute or claim concerning any material Tax liability of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries pending or raised) in each case by any taxing authority in writing to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, except with respect to matters for which adequate reserves have been established in accordance with GAAP.

(iii) Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries has participated in a listed transaction within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.6011-4(b)(2).

(iv) The Company has not been a distributing corporation or a controlled corporation in any distribution occurring during the last two years intended to qualify under Section 355 of the Code.

(v) The Company does not believe that it is a United States real property holding corporation as defined in the Code and any applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.

It is agreed and understood that the only representations and warranties of the Company relating to Taxes are the representations and warranties contained in this Section 4(j) and Section 4(k).

(k) Employee Benefit Plans and Related Matters: ERISA.

(i) Section 4(k) of the Disclosure Letter sets forth a true and complete list in all material respects of all the Company Benefit Plans (including a description of any oral Company Benefit Plans), provided there is no obligation to list any

Company Benefit Plan under which the liability is not material to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries. With respect to each Company Benefit Plan set forth in Section 4(k) of the Disclosure Letter, the Company has provided or made available to the Investor, to the extent applicable, true and complete copies of all documents evidencing all of the material terms and conditions of such Company Benefit Plans (or, if applicable, a description in the case of an oral Company Benefit Plan). To the Knowledge of the Company, neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries has communicated to any current or former employee any intention or commitment to amend or modify any Company Benefit Plan in any way that materially increases

B-14

Table of Contents

the liability of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or establish or implement any new Company Benefit Plan (other than any Company Benefit Plan under which the liability is not material to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries).

(ii) Each Company Benefit Plan intended to be qualified under section 401(a) of the Code, and the trust (if any) forming a part thereof, has received a favorable determination letter from the IRS and to the Knowledge of the Company, there are no circumstances or events that could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the qualified status of any such plan. Each Company Benefit Plan has been operated in all material respects in accordance with its terms and applicable Law.

(iii) No material liability under Title IV of ERISA (including plan termination liabilities and withdrawal liabilities with respect to any multiemployer plan as defined in Section 3(37) of ERISA) has been incurred or is reasonably likely to be incurred, in each case which would result in a material liability to the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole. All contributions and premiums required to have been paid by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries to any Company Benefit Plan under the terms of any such plan or its related trust, insurance contract or other funding arrangement, or pursuant to any applicable Law (including ERISA and the Code) or collective bargaining agreement have been paid within the time prescribed by any such plan, agreement or applicable Law. Neither the Company nor any of its Affiliates has at any time during the six-year period preceding the date of this Agreement maintained, contributed to or incurred any liability under any multiemployer plan (as defined in sections 3(37) or 4001(a)(3) of ERISA) or a multiple employer plan within the meaning of section 4063 or 4064 of ERISA.

(iv) Other than routine claims for benefits, there are no pending, or to the Knowledge of the Company, threatened or anticipated claims (A) by or on behalf of any Company Benefit Plan, by an employee or beneficiary covered under any Company Benefit Plan, or otherwise involving any Company Benefit Plan, or (B) by or on behalf of any current or former employee of the Company or any Subsidiary relating to his or her employment, termination of employment, compensation or employee benefits, except, in each case, as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to result in a material liability to the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

(v) To the Knowledge of the Company, no Company Benefit Plans are presently under audit or examination (nor has notice been received of a potential audit or examination) by the IRS, the Department of Labor, or any other Governmental Authority, domestic or foreign.

(vi) Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries has any liability in respect of post-retirement health, medical or life insurance benefits for retired, former or current employees of the Company or its Subsidiaries except as required under applicable Law.

(vii) The execution, delivery, and performance of this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents by the Company and the consummation by the Company of the Transactions will not (alone or in combination with any other event) result in an increase in the amount of compensation or benefits or the acceleration of the vesting or timing of payment of any compensation or benefits payable to or in respect of any current or former employee, officer, director or independent contractor of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any increased or accelerated funding obligation with respect to any Company Benefit Plan.

(viii) No officer, employee, director, consultant or other service provider of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is entitled to receive any tax gross up, indemnity or similar payment from the Company or any of its Subsidiaries as a result of the imposition of any income taxes or excise taxes under Section 409A or 280G of the Code.

(l) Labor and Employment. Since October 29, 2006, the Company and each of its Subsidiaries is in compliance with all applicable Laws respecting labor, employment, fair employment practices, terms and conditions of employment,

workers compensation, occupational safety and health requirements, plant closings, wages and hours, withholding of taxes, employment discrimination, disability rights or benefits, equal opportunity, affirmative action, labor relations, worker classifications, employee leave issues and unemployment insurance and related matters, except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. Except for instances that would not, individually or in the

B-15

Table of Contents

aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect: (A) there is no pending or, to the Knowledge of the Company, threatened labor strike, slowdown or stoppage against or affecting the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company and (B) neither the Company nor any Subsidiary has received notice of (1) any unfair labor practice charge or complaint pending before the National Labor Relations Board or any other Governmental Entity against it, (2) any charge or complaint against it pending before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or any other Governmental Entity responsible for the prevention of unlawful employment practices, or (3) any complaint or lawsuit against the Company or any Subsidiary concerning employees or former employees of the Company or any Subsidiary alleging employment discrimination or violations of occupational safety and health requirements pending before a court of competent jurisdiction. Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to a collective bargaining agreement, and no labor union has been certified to represent any employee of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or, to the Knowledge of the Company, has applied to represent or is attempting to organize so as to represent such employees.

(m) Intellectual Property.

(i) Owned and Licensed Intellectual Property. All material Intellectual Property that is owned by either the Company or its Subsidiaries (Owned Intellectual Property) is owned free and clear of any Liens other than (1) Permitted Liens, (2) as of the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Amended Credit Documents and the ABL Documents and (3) Liens that do not materially interfere with the ownership of or current use by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries of such Owned Intellectual Property. The Company and its Subsidiaries have used commercially reasonable efforts to (A) ensure protection of the material Owned Intellectual Property under applicable Laws (including making and maintaining in full force and effect necessary filings, registrations and issuances) and (B) maintain the secrecy of confidential material Intellectual Property used in the Business. Section 4(m) of the Disclosure Letter sets forth a complete and correct list of all material licenses, assignments, settlement agreements and other contracts or arrangements providing in whole or in part for the use of, or limiting the use of, any material Intellectual Property.

(ii) No Infringement, etc. As of the date hereof, to the Knowledge of the Company, no Person is infringing, misappropriating or otherwise engaging in unauthorized use of any Owned Intellectual Property except for infringements, misappropriations or other unauthorized uses that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. The conduct of the Business does not infringe, violate or constitute a misappropriation of any Intellectual Property of any Person, except for infringements, violations or misappropriations that would not, individually and in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(n) Real Property.

(i) Owned Real Property. Section 4(n)(i) of the Disclosure Letter sets forth a complete and correct list of all real property owned by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries (such property, together with all improvements and fixtures presently or hereafter located thereon or attached or appurtenant thereto or owned by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and located on Leased Real Property, and all easements, licenses, rights and appurtenances relating to the foregoing, the Owned Real Property). Section 4(n)(i) of the Disclosure Letter lists the address and owner of each parcel of Owned Real Property.

(ii) Leased Real Property. Section 4(n)(ii) of the Disclosure Letter sets forth a complete and correct list of the real property leased by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries (the Leased Real Property, and the leases, together with any amendments and modifications thereto, pursuant to which such real property is leased, the Leases), which list sets forth each Lease and the address, landlord and tenant for each Lease. Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is a lessor, sublessor or grantor under any lease, sublease or other instrument granting to any other Person any right to

the possession, lease, occupancy or enjoyment of any Owned Real Property or Leased Real Property, except as set forth in Section 4(n)(ii) of the Disclosure Letter.

(o) *Title to Assets, Etc.* The Company and its Subsidiaries have good and valid (and, in the case of Owned Real Property, good, valid and marketable fee simple) title to, or otherwise have the right to use pursuant to a valid and enforceable lease, license or similar contractual arrangement, all of the assets (real and

B-16

Table of Contents

personal, tangible and intangible) that are used or held for use in connection with the Business or are reflected on the 2008 10-K or were acquired after November 2, 2008, in each case free and clear of any Lien other than Permitted Liens and, as of the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Amended Credit Documents and the ABL Documents, except for (i) inventory, real property or equipment sold in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and (ii) such failure to possess good and valid title or right to use that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to be material to the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

(p) *Environmental Matters.*

(i) The Company and each of its Subsidiaries are, and since March 1, 2004 have been, in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Environmental Laws and have obtained and are in compliance in all material respects with all applicable permits, licenses and authorizations required under applicable Environmental Laws.

(ii) Neither the Company nor any Subsidiary has received a notice of any material violation or notification of any material liability or any potential material liability arising out of any Environmental Law, and there is no Litigation or claim pending or, to the Company's Knowledge, threatened under any Environmental Law.

(iii) No Release of Hazardous Substances has occurred at, on, above, under or from any real property currently or formerly owned, leased, operated or used by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries that has resulted or would reasonably be expected to result in a material investigation or remedial action.

(iv) The Company has made available to the Investor all material environmental site assessments and reports in the possession, custody or control of the Company and its Subsidiaries.

(q) *Material Contracts.*

(i) Except for the Company Benefit Plans and the Contracts filed as exhibits or incorporated by reference in the 2008 10-K or to the SEC Reports (including the matters reflected on, reserved against, or disclosed in the notes to, the Company's financial statements included therein), neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any Contract that: (A) is a material contract (as such term is defined in Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Act) to be performed in full or in part after the date of this Agreement; (B) creates any material partnership, limited liability company agreement, joint venture or similar agreement entered into with any third party; (C) is a voting agreement or registration rights agreement; (D) relates to Indebtedness (whether incurred, assumed, guaranteed or secured by any asset), other than agreements among direct and indirect wholly-owned Subsidiaries of the Company; (E) relates to the acquisition or disposition of any business, a material amount of stock or assets, or any material assets or material real property other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, where such contract contains continuing material obligations or contains continuing indemnity obligations of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries; (F) materially limits the freedom of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or would limit the freedom of the Investor or its Affiliates (other than the Company or any of its Subsidiaries) after the Closing or materially limit the Company or any of its Subsidiaries after the Closing, to compete in any line of business or with any Person or in any area; (G) contains exclusivity obligations or restrictions (x) binding on the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, (y) that would be binding on the Company or any of its Subsidiaries after the Closing or (z) that would be binding on the Investor or any of its Affiliates (other than the Company and its Subsidiaries) after the Closing, and, in the case of subclauses (x) and (y) of this clause (G), that materially affect or limit the Business or the operations of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or (H) is a commitment or agreement to enter into any of the foregoing.

(ii) Except as has not had and would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect or, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the

Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, except for any effects arising from the commencement of the Prepackaged Plan Proceedings, (A) each Contract disclosed in the Disclosure Letter or required to be disclosed therein pursuant to Section 4(q)(i), Section 4(m) or Section 4(n) (each a Material Contract) is a valid and binding agreement of the Company or a Subsidiary of the Company, as the case may be, and is in full

B-17

Table of Contents

force and effect except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by or subject to the Bankruptcy Exceptions, and (B) none of the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company nor, to the Knowledge of the Company, any other party thereto is in default or breach in any material respect under (or is alleged, by a Person or Persons with the right to cause an acceleration of or to exercise any other remedy under the applicable agreement or instrument, to be in default or breach in any material respect under) the terms of, or has provided or received any notice of any intention to terminate, any such Material Contract, and, (C) to the Knowledge of the Company, no event or circumstance has occurred that, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute an event of default thereunder or result in a termination thereof or would cause or permit the acceleration or other changes of any right or obligation or the loss of any benefit thereunder (any event or circumstance described pursuant to clause (B) or (C), a Default). Complete copies of each such Material Contract (including all modifications and amendments thereto and waivers thereunder) have been made available to the Investor.

(r) Finders Fees. Except for J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Greenhill & Co., Inc., and, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through a Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, one (1) claims and noticing agent, the fees and expenses of which will be paid by the Company, and other Persons (i) hired by the Company or the Debtor Subsidiaries with the consent of the Investor (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned) after the date of this Agreement in connection with the Prepackaged Plan Proceedings or (ii) required to be paid by the Company or the Debtor Subsidiaries by the Bankruptcy Code or by an order of the Bankruptcy Court (other than pursuant to a motion or application by the Company or a Debtor Subsidiary), there is, and there has been, no investment banker, broker, financial advisor, finder or other intermediary retained by or authorized to act on behalf of the Company, any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective officers, directors or employees and neither the Company, nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor any of their respective officers, directors or employees have incurred any liability for any financial advisory fees, brokerage fees, commissions or finders fees in connection with this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents or the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby, including, without limitation, the Offer. The Company has delivered to the Investor a true and complete copy of the engagement letter or agreement for J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Greenhill & Co., Inc., respectively, pursuant to which J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Greenhill & Co., Inc., respectively, may receive a fee in connection with this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents or the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby.

(s) Compliance with New York Stock Exchange Continued Listing Requirements. The Common Stock is as of the date of this Agreement listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The Company is as of the date of this Agreement in compliance in all material respects with applicable continued listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, and the Company has not received any notice of the delisting of the Common Stock from the New York Stock Exchange.

(t) Insurance. The Company and each of its Subsidiaries currently maintains, and during each of the last five (5) calendar years (or during such lesser period of time as the Company has owned such Subsidiary) has maintained, insurance with reputable insurance companies of the types and in the amounts that the Company reasonably believes is adequate for its and their respective businesses (taking into account the cost and availability of such insurance).

(u) [Intentionally omitted.]

(v) Acknowledgment Regarding Investor's Purchase of Company Securities. The Company acknowledges and agrees that the Investor is acting solely in the capacity of arm's length purchaser with respect to the Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The Company further acknowledges that the Investor is not acting as a financial advisor or fiduciary of the Company (or in any similar capacity) with respect to the Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby and any advice given by Investor or any of its representatives or agents in connection with the Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby is merely incidental to the Investor's purchase of the Series B Preferred Stock. The Company further represents

to the Investor that the Company's decision to enter into the Transaction Documents has been based solely on the independent evaluation of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby by the Company and its representatives.

B-18

Table of Contents

(w) *State Anti-Takeover Statutes; Certificate of Incorporation.* Assuming that the representations of the Investor set forth in Section 5(d) are accurate, the Board has taken all necessary actions so that the restrictions on business combinations set forth in Section 203 of the DGCL and any other similar applicable Law are not applicable to the Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The Board has taken all necessary actions so that all restrictions set forth in Article TENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation are not applicable to the Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby, including, without limitations, the full exercise of (A) all rights of the Investor under the terms of the Stockholders Agreement and (B) all rights, powers and preferences of the Investor and its Affiliates as holders of the Series B Preferred Stock under the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD.

(x) *Board Approvals.* At a duly held meeting on August 13, 2009, the Board unanimously determined that the Transaction Documents to which the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company is a party and the Transactions applicable to the Company and such Subsidiaries, including without limitation the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares and the compliance with the terms thereof, the compliance with the terms of this Agreement and the Offer, are in the best interests of the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries. Pursuant to and in accordance with Article TENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation, the Disinterested Directors (as defined in the Certificate of Incorporation) have unanimously and expressly approved this Agreement, the Series B Preferred Stock CoD, the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement and the Prepackaged Plan and the transactions contemplated herein and therein, including, without limitation, the full exercise of (1) all rights, including the preemptive rights set forth in Article V of the Stockholders Agreement, of the Investor under the terms of the Stockholders Agreement, (2) all rights, powers and preferences of the Investor and its Affiliates as holders of Series B Preferred Stock under the terms of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD and the performance of the Corporation's obligations with respect thereto and (3) the filing of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding if the Offer Conditions are not satisfied upon the expiration of the Offer and the Requisite Acceptances have been received. As of the Closing Date, effective as of the Closing, the Board will have adopted and declared advisable, and approved and recommended to the Company's stockholders, each of the Certificate of Incorporation Amendments (as defined in the Stockholders Agreement), including, without limitation the Authorized Stock Stockholder Approval. The Audit Committee of the Board has unanimously and expressly approved, and the Board has unanimously concurred with, the Company's reliance on the exception under Paragraph 312.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual to issue the Series B Preferred Shares.

(y) *Offer Documents and Other Required Company Filings.* The Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO (together with all amendments, supplements and exhibits thereto, the Schedule TO) with respect to the Offer containing or incorporating by reference a prospectus and forms of the related letter of transmittal, the registration statement on Form S-4 (the Form S-4) that the Company uses to register the offer and sale of shares of Company Common Stock pursuant to Offer, all other ancillary Offer documents, the Solicitation Materials, newspaper announcements, press releases and other offering materials that the Company may use, prepare, file, distribute, mail, publish, approve or authorize for use in connection with the Offer or the Solicitation (collectively with the prospectus and the letter of transmittal, together with all amendments, supplements and exhibits to each of the foregoing, the Offer Documents), as well as any other document that is required to be filed by the Company with the Commission in connection with the Transactions (each, an Other Required Company Filing and collectively, the Other Required Company Filings), as then amended or supplemented, will, when filed with the Commission or first used, filed, distributed, published or mailed in connection with the Offer and as of the date or dates on which the Convertible Notes are accepted by the Company for purchase pursuant to the Offer (the Tender Date), and on the closing date or dates for the Offer (the Tender Closing Date) comply in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Securities Act (in the case of the Form S-4) and the Exchange Act (in the case of the Schedule TO and the Offer Documents) and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder. Each of the Schedule TO, the Form S-4 and the Offer Documents will not, at the time the Schedule TO, Form S-4 and the Offer Documents, respectively, or any amendments or supplements thereto are filed with the Commission and as of the Tender Date and the Tender Closing Date, as the case

may be, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that notwithstanding

B-19

Table of Contents

the foregoing, no representation or warranty is made by the Company with respect to information supplied, or required to be supplied, in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives, specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the foregoing documents. None of the Other Required Company Filings will, when filed with the Commission and as of the Tender Date, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that notwithstanding the foregoing, no representation or warranty is made by the Company with respect to information supplied, or required to be supplied, in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in any of the Other Required Company Filings.

(z) *Fairness Opinion*. The Board has received the opinion of Greenhill & Co., Inc., dated as of the date of this Agreement, to the effect that, subject to the various assumptions and qualifications set forth therein, the consideration to be received by the Company pursuant to this Agreement is fair from a financial point of view to the Company (the Fairness Opinion). A correct and complete copy of the Fairness Opinion has been, or will promptly be, delivered to the Investor. As of the date of this Agreement, the Fairness Opinion has not been withdrawn or revoked or otherwise modified in any material respect.

(aa) *ABL Agreement*. As of the Closing Date, from and after the execution and delivery of the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents, (1) none of the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents shall have been amended or modified in any respect, (2) each of the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents constitutes legal, valid and binding agreements of the Company and each Subsidiary of the Company party thereto, and is in full force and effect, (3) none of the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company nor, to the Knowledge of the Company, any other party thereto is in default or breach in any material respect under (or is alleged, by a Person or Persons with the right to cause an acceleration of or to exercise any other remedy under the applicable agreement or instrument, to be in default or breach in any material respect under) the terms of, or has provided to or received any notice of any intention to terminate from an authorized party under, the ABL Agreement or the other ABL Documents, and (4) no default has occurred and no event or circumstance has occurred or exists that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a breach, default or event of default thereunder or result in a termination thereof or would cause or permit the acceleration or any other change of or in any right or obligation or the loss or impairment of any benefit thereunder. The Company will pay when due all fees, expenses and other obligations arising under or in connection with the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents.

(bb) *Credit Agreement and Amended Credit Agreement*.

(i) As of the date hereof and as of the time that is immediately prior to the execution of the Amended Credit Agreement (or, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, upon the occurrence of the Closing), (A) the Company has fully paid any and all fees, expenses and other obligations that are due and payable in connection with Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement), and (B) there are no revolving loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement. If the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, subject to the consent or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, the Company will pay when due all other fees, expenses and other obligations arising under or in connection with the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement), and otherwise comply with and timely perform all of its obligations under the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement).

(ii) As of the Closing Date, from and after the execution and delivery of the Amended Credit Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents, (1) none of the Amended Credit Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents have been amended or modified in any respect, (2) each of the Amended Credit Agreement

B-20

Table of Contents

and the other Amended Credit Documents constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of the Company and each Subsidiary of the Company party thereto, and is in full force and effect, (3) none of the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company nor, to the Knowledge of the Company, any other party thereto is in default or breach in any material respect under (or is alleged, by a Person or Persons with the right to cause an acceleration of or to exercise any other remedy under the applicable agreement or instrument, to be in default or breach in any material respect under) the terms of, or has provided to or received any notice of any intention to terminate from an authorized party under, the Amended Credit Agreement or any other Amended Credit Document, and (4) no default has occurred and no event or circumstance has occurred or exists that, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a breach, default or event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement or result in a termination thereof or would cause or permit the acceleration or any other change of or in any right or obligation or the loss or impairment of any benefit thereunder. The Company will pay when due all fees, expenses and other obligations arising under or in connection with the Amended Credit Agreement and the other Amended Credit Documents.

(cc) Solvency. As of the Closing Date, after giving effect to the Transactions thereon and the after giving effect to the payment of the Convertible Notes Expenses, the Company and its Subsidiaries will be Solvent. For purposes of this Section 4(cc), Solvent means, at any time with respect to any Person, that at such time such Person (i) is able to pay its debts as they mature and has sufficient capital (and not unreasonably small capital) to carry on its business, and (ii) the assets and properties of such Person at a fair valuation (and including as assets for this purpose at a fair valuation all rights of subrogation, contribution or indemnification arising pursuant to any guarantees given by such Person) are greater than the indebtedness of such Person, and including subordinated and contingent liabilities computed at the amount which, such Person has a reasonable basis to believe, represents an amount which can reasonably be expected to become an actual or matured liability (and including as to contingent liabilities arising pursuant to any guarantee the face amount of such liability as reduced to reflect the probability of it becoming a matured liability).

(dd) No Other Representation or Warranties. Except for the representations and warranties contained in this Section 4, the Investor acknowledges that none of the Company, its Subsidiaries, or any other Person on behalf of the Company makes any other express or implied representation or warranty in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

Section 5. Representations and Warranties of the Investor. The Investor hereby represents and warrants to the Company that:

(a) Investor Status.

(i) It is (A) an accredited investor within the meaning of Rule 501 of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act, (B) aware that the sale of the Series B Preferred Shares (including the Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Shares, the Securities) to it is being made in reliance on a private placement exemption from registration under the Securities Act and (C) acquiring the Securities for its own account.

(ii) It understands and agrees that the Securities are being offered in a transaction not involving any public offering within the meaning of the Securities Act, that such Securities have not been and, except as contemplated by the Registration Rights Agreement, will not be registered under the Securities Act and that such Securities may be offered, resold, pledged or otherwise transferred only in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Stockholders Agreement (A) in a transaction not involving a public offering, (B) pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act provided by Rule 144 thereunder (if available), (C) pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act, or (D) to the Company or one of its Subsidiaries, in each of cases (A) through (D) in accordance with any applicable securities Laws of any State of the United States, and that it will, and each subsequent holder is required to, notify any subsequent purchaser of Securities from it of the resale restrictions referred to above, as applicable, and will provide the Company and the transfer agent such certificates and other information as they may

reasonably require to confirm that the transfer by it complies with the foregoing restrictions, if applicable.

B-21

Table of Contents

(iii) It understands that, unless sold pursuant to a registration statement that has been declared effective under the Securities Act or in compliance with Rule 144, the Company may require that the Securities will bear a legend or other restriction substantially to the following effect (it being agreed that if the Securities are not certificated, other appropriate restrictions shall be implemented to give effect to the following):

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN A TRANSACTION EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, (THE SECURITIES ACT) AND THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS INSTRUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF EXCEPT WHILE A REGISTRATION STATEMENT RELATING THERETO IS IN EFFECT UNDER SUCH ACT AND APPLICABLE STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION THEREFROM UNDER SUCH ACT OR SUCH LAWS.

(iv) In addition, for so long as the holder of the relevant Securities is subject to transfer restrictions contained in the Stockholders Agreement, the Company may require that the Securities bear a legend or other restriction substantially to the following effect: THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER SET FORTH IN A STOCKHOLDERS AGREEMENT, DATED [], AMONG THE ISSUER OF SUCH SECURITIES (THE COMPANY) AND THE OTHER PARTY OR PARTIES THERETO. A COPY OF THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER IS ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY. Such legend shall be removed at the request of any holder thereof that is not subject to the transfer restrictions contained in the Stockholders Agreement.

(v) It:

(A) is able to fend for itself in the transactions contemplated hereby;

(B) has such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters as to be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of its prospective investment in the Securities;

(C) has the ability to bear the economic risks of its prospective investment and can afford the complete loss of such investment;

(D) acknowledges that (1) it has conducted its own investigation of the Company and the terms of the Securities, (2) it has had access to the Company's public filings with the Commission and to such financial and other information as it deems necessary to make its decision to purchase the Securities, and (3) has been offered the opportunity to ask questions of the Company and received answers thereto, as it deemed necessary in connection with the decision to purchase the Securities; and

(E) understands that the Company will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations, acknowledgements and agreements.

(b) *Investor Acknowledgement.* The Investor acknowledges that the Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Company is required to file reports containing certain business and financial information with the Commission pursuant to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, and that it is able to obtain copies of such reports.

(c) *Authorization, Enforceability of Transaction Documents.*

(i) The Investor has full right, power, authority and capacity to enter into this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents, to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby and to carry out its obligations hereunder and thereunder. The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents by the Investor and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Investor.

(ii) This Agreement has been duly authorized, validly executed and delivered by the Investor, and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by the Company, constitutes a valid and

B-22

Table of Contents

binding obligation of the Investor, enforceable against the Investor in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by or is subject to the Bankruptcy Exceptions.

(iii) As of the Closing Date, each of the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement and the Indemnification Agreement will have been duly authorized by the Investor, and will be validly executed and delivered by the Investor and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of such agreement by the Company, will constitute a valid and binding obligation of the Investor, enforceable against the Investor in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by or subject to the Bankruptcy Exceptions and except as rights to indemnification and contribution under the Registration Rights Agreement or the Indemnification Agreement may be limited under applicable Law or policy.

(iv) Other than (A) in connection or in compliance with the HSR Act and the Austrian Act, and (B) such other consents, approvals, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices the failure of which to be obtained or made would not, individually or in the aggregate, materially impair the ability of the Investor to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to consummate the Investment, no notice to, filing with, exemption or review by, or authorization, consent or approval of, any Governmental Entity or any other Person under any provision of any material agreement or other instrument to which the Investor is a party (nor expiration nor termination of any statutory waiting periods) is necessary in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement, the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement and the Indemnification Agreement by the Investor and the performance of its obligations hereunder and thereunder.

(d) Ownership of Company Capital Stock. This Investor is not, nor at any time during the last three (3) years has it been, an interested stockholder of the Company as defined in Section 203 of the DGCL (other than as contemplated by this Agreement).

(e) Funding. As of the date of this Agreement, the Investor has uncalled capital commitments in excess of the Aggregate Purchase Price and has the unrestricted right to call, subject only to the giving of timely notice, on such commitments for amounts equal to or in excess of the Aggregate Purchase Price, and, at the Closing, the Investor will have available funds sufficient to pay the Aggregate Purchase Price on the terms and conditions contemplated by this Agreement.

(f) Offer Documents and Other Required Company Filings. The information supplied in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the Schedule TO, Form S-4 and the Offer Documents or any amendments or supplements thereto will not, at the time that the applicable document is filed with the Commission or at the time such document is first published, sent or given to the holders of Convertible Notes, as the case may be, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading. The information supplied in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in any of the Other Required Company Filings will not, at the time the applicable Other Required Company Filing is filed with the Commission, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading. The information supplied in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives with respect to the Investor or any of its

partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the Prepackaged Plan Filings or any amendments or supplements thereto will not, at the time that the applicable document is filed with the Bankruptcy Court or at the time such document is or first used, filed, distributed, published or mailed in connection with the Solicitation and as of the Confirmation Date, contain any untrue statement of a material

B-23

Table of Contents

fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

(g) Lack of Competitive Businesses. For purposes of the Notification and Report Form to be filed under the HSR Act in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, Investor is its own ultimate parent entity. To the knowledge of Investor, the Investor does not have any Affiliate that receives a material amount of its revenues from the production or sale of (i) metal building systems or components (including, without limitation, primary and secondary framing systems, roofing panels and/or systems, end or side wall panels, sectional or roll-up doors, insulated metal panels, windows, or other metal components of a building structure), (ii) coated or painted steel or metal coils, or (iii) coil coating or coil painting services.

(h) No Other Representation or Warranties. Except for the representations and warranties contained in this Section 5 or in any Tax form or certificate, the Company acknowledges that neither the Investor nor any other Person on behalf of the Investor makes any other express or implied representation or warranty in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

Section 6. Certain Additional Agreements of the Parties.

(a) Regulatory Filings: Third Party Consents.

(i) Each of the Investor and the Company agrees to cooperate and consult with the other and use its best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions, and to file, or cause to be filed, all documents and to do, or cause to be done, and to help the other party to do, or cause to be done, all things necessary, proper or advisable to cause the Offer Conditions and the Closing to be satisfied as promptly as practicable and to consummate and make effective, in the most expeditious manner practicable, the Transactions, including (A) preparing and filing as promptly as practicable all documentation, effecting all necessary applications, notices, petitions, filings and other documents and obtaining all necessary permits, consents, waivers, clearances, approvals, authorizations, permits, orders, consents of, or any exemptions by, all Governmental Entities, (B) seeking all necessary or advisable consents of third parties to the Transactions and (C) using best efforts to cause the satisfaction, but not waiver, of the conditions to closing of the other party or parties set forth in clause (i) of Section 3(a). In particular, each of the Investor and the Company will use its best efforts to obtain, and will use its best efforts to help the other obtain, as promptly as practicable, all approvals, authorizations, consents, clearances, expirations or terminations of waiting periods or exemptions required from all necessary Governmental Entities for the Transactions, including, but not limited to, filings and notifications with respect to, and expiration or termination of any applicable waiting period under, the HSR Act and any other applicable competition or merger control laws. In furtherance and not in limitation of the foregoing, each party hereto agrees (1) to make or cause to be made an appropriate filing of a Notification and Report Form pursuant to the HSR Act with respect to the Investment as promptly as practicable (and in any event within ten (10) Business Days) after the date hereof and to request and use best efforts to obtain early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act and (2) to supply as promptly as reasonably practicable any additional information and documentary material that may be requested by any Governmental Entity pursuant to the HSR Act. Neither Investor nor the Company shall agree or commit to contest the enforceability of this Agreement under the Bankruptcy Code, or, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, agree or commit to delay or not to close any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, without the express written consent of the other party.

(ii) Without limiting the generality of Section 6(a)(i), each of the parties shall cooperate in all respects with each other in connection with any filing or submission and in connection with any investigation or other inquiry and shall promptly (A) furnish to the other such necessary information and reasonable assistance as the other parties may request in connection with the foregoing, (B) inform the other of any communication from any Governmental Entity regarding any of the Transactions and of any communication received or given in connection with any legal,

administrative, arbitral or other proceeding by a private party or any investigation, proceeding or other action by the New York Stock Exchange, or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, in each case regarding the Investment and the other Transactions and (C) provide counsel for the other parties with copies of all filings made by such party, and all correspondence between such party (and its advisors) with any Governmental Entity, or with the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), and any other information supplied by such party and such party's Subsidiaries to a Governmental Entity, or to the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common

B-24

Table of Contents

Stock is then listed or quoted), or received from such a Governmental Entity, or from the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), in connection with the Transactions; provided, however, that materials may be redacted to remove references concerning valuation of the Company. Each party hereto shall, subject to applicable Law, permit counsel for the other parties to review in advance, and consider in good faith the views of the other parties in connection with, any proposed written communication to any Governmental Entity, or to the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), in connection with the Transactions. The parties agree not to participate, or to permit their Subsidiaries to participate, in any meeting or discussion, either in person or by telephone, with any Governmental Entity, or with the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), in connection with the Transactions unless it consults with the other parties in advance and, to the extent not prohibited by such Governmental Entity, or the New York Stock Exchange (or such other stock exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted), gives the other parties the opportunity to attend and participate.

(iii) The Investor and the Company shall not, and shall not permit any of their Subsidiaries or Affiliates to, acquire or agree to acquire by merger or consolidation, or by purchasing a substantial equity interest in or a substantial portion of the assets of, or by any other manner, any business or any corporation, partnership, association or other business organization or division thereof or otherwise acquire or agree to acquire any assets that would delay or make materially more difficult the obtaining of any approvals, authorizations, consents, clearances, expirations or terminations of waiting periods or exemptions approval or authorization required under the HSR Act for the Investment.

(b) Conduct of Business.

(i) Except as otherwise expressly permitted or required by the Transaction Documents or otherwise consented to by Investor, permitted by Section 6(k), contemplated by Section 6(p) or as set forth on Section 6(b) of the Disclosure Letter and subject to the terms and upon the conditions therein, during the period from the date of this Agreement until the earlier of the Closing Date and the termination of this Agreement in accordance with Section 8, the Company shall conduct its business, and cause its Subsidiaries to conduct their respective businesses, in all material respects in the ordinary course, including, without limitation, paying its obligations, including customer signing bonuses, capital expenditures, Taxes and other accounts payable, in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; provided that if the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding is commenced, the Company may make such changes to the manner in which it conducts business as are required by the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding. Prior to the earlier of the Closing Date and the termination of this Agreement in accordance with Section 8, except as expressly permitted or required by the Transaction Documents, without the prior written consent of the Investor, neither the Company nor its Subsidiaries shall (A) take any action that, if taken after the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares, (x) would require the written consent of or vote by holders of such shares pursuant to Section 11 of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD or would require the consent of the Investor pursuant to Article VI of the Stockholders Agreement, (y) would trigger a redemption right under Section 8 of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD or (z) would result in an adjustment to be made under Section 10 of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD; (B) amend, supplement, modify, waive, terminate or otherwise make any change to, directly or indirectly, the Credit Agreement or any of the other Credit Documents (or obtain any waiver in respect thereof); provided, that the Company may extend the Waiver, dated July 15, 2009, by and among the Company, certain Subsidiaries of the Company party thereto and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as administrative agent for the Lenders party to the Credit Agreement as in effect on the date hereof; (C) other than with respect to the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, consent to, approve of or formally acquiesce to any case, proceeding or other action (x) under any existing or future law of any jurisdiction, relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws relating to relief of debtors, seeking to have an order for relief entered with respect to it, or seeking to adjudicate it a bankrupt or insolvent, seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, winding up, liquidation, dissolution or composition or similar action with respect to it or its debts generally or (y) seeking appointment of a

receiver, trustee, custodian, conservator or other similar official for it or for all or any substantial part of its assets (a Proceeding), whether or not commenced by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or (D) take any action that is in furtherance of the delisting of the Common Stock from the New York Stock Exchange or the listing of the Common Stock on any other stock exchange or automated quotation system.

B-25

Table of Contents

(ii) The Company shall not declare or pay any dividend or distribution on any securities of the Company on or prior to the Closing. If, prior to the Closing, the Company shall take any action that would require any adjustment to be made under Section 10 of the Series B Preferred Stock CoD as if shares of Series B Preferred Stock were issued on the date of this Agreement, the Company must make appropriate and equitable adjustments with respect to the Investor such that the Investor will receive the benefit of such transaction as if all of the Series B Preferred Stock to be acquired by the Investor had been outstanding as of the date of such action.

(c) Governance Matters. The Company shall take all actions necessary (i) (A) to cause all directors serving on the Board immediately prior to the Closing (other than the Company's Chief Executive Officer and two other directors) to resign from the Board, effective as of the Closing and (B) to cause vacancies on the Board to be filled, effective as of the Closing, by persons designated by the Investor (the Investor Directors) no later than three Business Days prior to the Closing, and for the Investor Directors to serve from the Closing until their successors are duly elected and qualified in accordance with the organizational documents of the Company and the Stockholders Agreement, with the Investor Directors divided as nearly evenly as possible among Class I, Class II and Class III of the Board, and to cause the representation of the Investor Directors, effective as of the Closing, on each committee of the Board to be proportionate to the membership of the Investor Directors on the Board, (ii) to ensure that the By-laws, the charters of the committees of the Board and any corporate guidelines of the Company, effective as of the Closing, are consistent with the provisions of the Stockholders Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and (iii) to elect, effective as of the Closing, to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of Paragraphs 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual.

(d) Offer.

(i) Provided that this Agreement shall not have been terminated in accordance with Section 8, the Company shall commence (within the meaning of Rule 13e-4(a)(4) promulgated under the Exchange Act) the Offer to purchase all of the Convertible Notes and solicit acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan with the Solicitation Materials prior to the open of business on the date that is the tenth Business Day after the date of this Agreement. The Investor shall cooperate with the Company and use its best efforts to help the Company do, or cause to be done, all things that the Investor (in its reasonable discretion) determines are necessary, proper or advisable in connection with the Offer and the Solicitation, including in connection with the commencement of the Offer and the Solicitation. The Offer and the Solicitation shall be commenced and conducted on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth on Annex A hereto and such other terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the Investor and the Company in writing prior to the commencement of the Offer. Subject to the right of the parties to terminate this Agreement in accordance with Section 8(a), the Company may extend the Offer beyond the Initial Expiration Date without the prior consent of the Investor for a period of not more than ten (10) business days (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act), if, at such scheduled expiration date of the Offer, any of the Offer Conditions shall not have been satisfied or, with the prior written consent of the Investor, waived.

(ii) The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless the Investor and its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents and other representatives from and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, claims, costs, expenses, interest, awards, judgments and penalties suffered or incurred by them in connection with the Offer and the Transactions and any information utilized in connection therewith, except with respect to information supplied in writing by the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives, with respect to the Investor or any of its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, Affiliates, agents or other representatives, specifically for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the Schedule TO, Form S-4, Offer Documents and any Other Required Company Filings and except with respect to any gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct of the Investor and its partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents and other representatives.

(iii) As soon as practicable on the date of commencement of the Offer, the Company shall file with the Commission the Schedule TO and Form S-4 with respect to the Offer and the Solicitation Materials with respect to the Prepackaged Plan. The Form S-4 and Schedule TO shall contain or incorporate the Offer Documents. The Company shall, or shall cause, the Offer Documents to be disseminated to the holders of the Convertible Notes as and to the extent required by applicable federal securities Laws and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The Company, on the one hand, and the Investor, on the other hand, shall promptly correct any information provided

B-26

Table of Contents

by them for use in the Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and any Other Required Company Filings if and to the extent that it shall be or shall have become false or misleading in any material respect, and the Company shall cause Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and any Other Required Company Filings as so corrected to be filed with the Commission and, in the case of any corrected Offer Documents, disseminated to holders of the Convertible Notes, in each case, as and to the extent required by applicable federal securities Laws and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The Investor and its counsel shall be given a reasonable opportunity to review and comment upon the Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and the Required Company Filings, and, in each case, any amendment, supplement or exhibit thereto, before they are filed with the Commission and disseminated to holders of Convertible Notes, the Company shall consider in good faith the comments of the Investor in connection therewith and shall not file with the Commission, disseminate to holders or otherwise use the Schedule TO, the Form S-4 or any Offer Documents or Required Company Filings, or, in each case, any amendment, supplement or exhibit thereto, without the prior consent of the Investor (which consent shall not be unreasonably delayed or withheld). In addition, the Company shall provide the Investor and its counsel with any comments that the Company or their counsel may receive from time to time from the Commission or its staff with respect to the Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and the Other Required Company Filings promptly after the receipt of such comments, consult with the Investor and its counsel prior to responding to any such comments, and consider in good faith the views of the Investor in connection with, any proposed written communication to the Commission and provide the Investor with copies of all such written responses. Each party agrees not to participate, or to permit its Subsidiaries or Affiliates to participate, in any meeting or discussion, either in person or by telephone, with the Commission, in connection with the Offer unless it consults with the other party in advance and, to the extent not prohibited by the Commission, gives the other party the opportunity to attend and participate. The Company will use reasonable best efforts to respond to any comments from the Commission as promptly as possible and to have the Form S-4 declared effective as promptly as possible.

(iv) The obligation of the Company to accept for exchange and exchange for Convertible Notes tendered pursuant to the Offer shall be subject to the satisfaction of the Offer Conditions.

(v) Subject to (A) the terms of this Agreement and (B) the satisfaction or, with the prior written consent of the Investor, waiver of all of the Offer Conditions as of the expiration of the Offer, if the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, at the Closing, after the receipt by the Company of the proceeds of the Investment, the Company shall accept for exchange all Convertible Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the Offer. If the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, in accordance with Section 6(i)(ii) and Section 6(m), the Company shall pay the cash consideration and issue the Company Common Stock consideration for all Convertible Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the Offer as promptly as practicable following the acceptance for exchange pursuant to the immediately prior sentence (but in no event later than three (3) Business Days after the expiration of the Offer).

(vi) The Investor shall not be responsible or liable for, any payment, damages or obligation arising from the failure of the Company to comply with the provisions of this Section 6(d), including, without limitation, any such failure which would result in the closing of the Offer on terms or conditions other than those consented to by the Investor.

(e) New York Stock Exchange Listing. The Company shall use its best efforts to cause the shares of Common Stock to be issued upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Shares (to the extent of the Company's authorized and unissued stock) to be approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, subject to official notice of issuance, prior to the Closing.

(f) ABL Financing.

(i) The Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken (and the Investor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Company in such efforts), all reasonable actions and to do, or cause to be done, all things reasonably necessary, proper or advisable, to arrange and obtain revolving credit commitments for general corporate purposes from the ABL Lenders on terms and conditions that reflect the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet and otherwise (i) are consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a

B-27

Table of Contents

prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or (ii) are acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) (the ABL Financing).

(ii) In the event the ABL Financing becomes unavailable, as promptly as practicable following the occurrence of such event the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts (and the Investor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Company in such efforts, including by actively assisting the Company in its negotiation of related definitive documentation) to obtain alternative financing from alternative sources that (A) is on terms and conditions that are (1) no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), (2) otherwise (x) are consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) are acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), and (B) provides revolving credit commitments in an aggregate principal amount that is not less than \$125 million (an Alternative ABL Financing), as promptly as practicable following the occurrence of such event but in any event no later than the Outside Date.

(iii) It is understood and agreed that both the Company and the Investor will participate in the negotiation of the ABL Financing or Alternative ABL Financing (including, but not limited to, the negotiation of a definitive revolving credit agreement and other definitive documentation therefor (such definitive revolving credit agreement, the ABL Agreement, and together with such other documentation, the ABL Documents)).

(g) Credit Agreement and Amended Credit Agreement.

(i) The Company will pay when due all interest, fees, expenses and other obligations arising under the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement) as and when they become payable, and otherwise comply with and timely perform all of its obligations under the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement) at all times during the term of this Agreement, including in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding (subject to the consent or approval of the Bankruptcy Court).

(ii) The Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken (and the Investor shall use reasonable best efforts to cooperate with the Company in such efforts), all reasonable actions and to do, or cause to be done, all things reasonably necessary, proper or advisable, to amend and restate the Credit Agreement on the terms and conditions provided in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement or otherwise contemplated thereby.

(iii) In the event the Term Loan Refinancing is not available on the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement for any reason, the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts (and the Investor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Company in such efforts, including by actively assisting the Company in its negotiation of related definitive documentation) to amend and restate the terms of the Credit Agreement (A) on terms and conditions (x) that are no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), and (B) to extend the maturity of \$150 million principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement (an Alternative Term Loan Refinancing), as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than the Outside Date.

(iv) It is understood and agreed that both the Company and the Investor will participate in the negotiation of the Term Loan Refinancing or Alternative Term Loan Refinancing (including, but not limited to, the negotiation of a definitive credit agreement and other definitive documentation therefor (such definitive credit agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement, and together with such other definitive documentation, the Amended Credit Documents)).

B-28

Table of Contents

(h) Series B Preferred Stock Certificate of Designations. Prior to the Closing, the Company shall duly file with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware the Series B Preferred Stock CoD in accordance with all applicable provisions of Law and the Certificate of Incorporation.

(i) Use of Proceeds. If the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, on and after the Closing, the Company shall, as applicable,

(i) apply the funds in the Non-Convertible Notes Account to (w) pay the principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement that shall be due and payable as of Closing and all accrued and unpaid interest thereon, and all other interest due and payable under the Amended Credit Agreement and other Amended Credit Documents, (x) pay all fees, expenses and other obligations payable under the Amended Credit Agreement, the other Amended Credit Documents, and the ABL Agreement and the other ABL Documents, (y) pay all costs, expenses and other obligations relating to or arising out of the Transactions and any related transactions (other than any amounts due the holders of any Convertible Notes and the Convertible Notes Expenses), and (z) cash collateralize letters of credit outstanding under the Amended Credit Agreement that are not backstopped, replaced with, rolled over or novated into letters of credit issued and outstanding under the ABL Agreement; and

(ii) apply the funds in the Convertible Notes Account (A) to pay the full cash consideration due to (w) the holders of all Convertible Notes tendered under the Offer, (x) the holders of any Convertible Notes not tendered under the Offer upon the exercise by any of such remaining holders of the put rights arising under Sections 3.05 or 3.06 of the Indenture, (y) on November 20, 2009, the holders of all Convertible Notes then outstanding upon the exercise by the Company of its redemption right under Section 3.01 of the Indenture and (B) to pay the Convertible Notes Expenses. Any funds remaining in the Convertible Notes Account after the time that all the amounts described in the first sentence of this Section 6(i)(ii) have been paid and none of the Convertible Notes is outstanding may be released from such account and applied for any general corporate purposes.

(j) Employee Benefits Covenants. The Company agrees that, prior to the Closing Date, it will take all actions set forth on Exhibit G.

(k) No Solicitation.

(i) The Company shall, and shall cause its Subsidiaries and its and their respective directors, executive officers, employees, representatives and agents to, immediately cease any discussions or negotiations with any parties that may be ongoing with respect to a Company Transaction Proposal. After the execution and delivery of this Agreement, the Company shall not, nor shall it authorize or permit any of its Subsidiaries, any of its or their respective directors, executive officers, employees, representatives or agents to, directly or indirectly, (A) solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage any inquiry with respect to, or the making, submission or announcement of, any proposal that constitutes or could reasonably be expected to lead to a Company Transaction Proposal, (B) participate in any negotiations regarding a Company Transaction Proposal with, or furnish any nonpublic information relating to a Company Transaction Proposal to, any Person that has made or, to the Knowledge of the Company, is considering making a Company Transaction Proposal, (C) engage in discussions regarding a Company Transaction Proposal with any Person that has made or, to the Knowledge of the Company, is considering making a Company Transaction Proposal, except to notify such Person of the existence of the provisions of this Section 6(k), (D) approve, endorse or recommend any Company Transaction Proposal, (E) enter into any letter of intent or agreement in principle or any agreement providing for any Company Transaction Proposal (except for Qualifying Confidentiality Agreements permitted under Section 6(k)(ii)) or (F) propose or agree to do any of the foregoing. The Company agrees that any violations of the restrictions set forth in Section 6(k) by any representative of the Company shall be deemed to be a breach by the Company.

(ii) Notwithstanding Section 6(k)(i):

(A) If at any time prior to the Closing, the Company receives a bona fide, written and unsolicited Company Transaction Proposal and the Board determines in good faith, after consultation with outside counsel and its independent financial advisor, that such Company Transaction Proposal constitutes a Superior Proposal or is reasonably likely to result in a Superior Proposal, the Company may take the following actions: (I) furnish nonpublic information to the Person making such Company Transaction Proposal, if, and only if, (x) prior to so furnishing such information, the Company has (1) complied with the following sentence of this

B-29

Table of Contents

Section 6(k)(ii), and (2) received from such Person a Qualifying Confidentiality Agreement, and (y) all such information has previously been provided to the Investor or is provided to the Investor prior to or substantially contemporaneously with the time it is provided to the Person making such Company Transaction Proposal or such Person's representative, and (II) engage in discussions or negotiations with such Person with respect to the Company Transaction Proposal. The Company promptly (and in any event within 48 hours) shall advise the Investor orally and in writing of the receipt of (X) any proposal that constitutes or could reasonably be expected to lead to a Company Transaction Proposal, including the identity of the Person(s) making such proposal and the material terms and conditions of such proposal, and providing copies of any document or correspondence evidencing such proposal and (Y) any request for non-public information relating to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries other than requests for information not reasonably expected to be related to a Company Transaction Proposal. The Company shall use its best efforts to keep the Investor fully informed on a current basis of the status of any such proposal (including any material change to the terms and conditions thereof).

(B) If, on or after September 30, 2009, (x) any of the Offer Conditions shall not have been satisfied (or, with the prior written consent of the Investor, waived), the Requisite Acceptances have not been received or any other condition to the Investment has not been satisfied (and in the Company's reasonable judgment, there is material uncertainty as to whether any such condition will be satisfied by the Outside Date) and (y) the Company is not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement, then at any time following September 30, 2009 and prior to the later of (I) any scheduled expiration date of the Offer on which all of the Offer Conditions have been satisfied (or, with the prior written consent of the Investor, waived) or the Requisite Acceptances have been received and (II) the date on which all conditions to the Investment have been satisfied (or in the Company's reasonable judgment, such conditions are reasonably certain to be satisfied by the Outside Date), the Company may, and it may authorize or permit any of its Subsidiaries, any of its or their respective directors, executive officers, employees, representatives or agents to, directly or indirectly, (1) propose a Contingency Plan Proposal to any Person that, to the Knowledge of the Company, is not considering making, and in the case of a Person other than a holder of Convertible Notes or a Term Lender has not since April 1, 2009 made, a Company Transaction Proposal other than a Contingency Plan Proposal, (2) participate in negotiations and engage in discussions regarding a Contingency Plan Proposal with, or furnish nonpublic information relating to a Contingency Plan Proposal to, any Person that, to the Knowledge of the Company, is not considering making, and in the case of a Person other than a holder of Convertible Notes or a Term Lender has not since April 1, 2009 made, a Company Transaction Proposal other than a Contingency Plan Proposal and (3) propose or agree to do any of the foregoing, in each case set forth in clauses (1) through (3), if, and only if, the Company complies with the following two sentences of this Section 6(k)(ii)(B). Prior to furnishing any nonpublic information in connection with a Contingency Plan Proposal, (x) the Company shall have received a Qualifying Confidentiality Agreement from the Person to whom such nonpublic information is being furnished, and (y) all such information shall have previously been provided to the Investor or shall be provided to the Investor substantially contemporaneously with the time it is provided to the Person to whom such nonpublic information is being furnished. The Company promptly (and in any event within 48 hours) shall advise the Investor orally and in writing of any Contingency Plan Proposal, including the identity of the Person(s) to whom such proposal is being made and the material terms and conditions of such proposal, and provide copies of any document or correspondence evidencing such proposal. The Company shall use its best efforts to keep the Investor reasonably fully informed on a current basis of the status of any such proposal (including any material change to the terms and conditions thereof).

(C) After the Filing Date the Company may take any action otherwise restricted by such Section to the extent ordered by the Bankruptcy Court (entered other than pursuant to a motion or application by the Company or a Debtor Subsidiary).

(iii) At any time prior to the Closing, if the Company has received a Superior Proposal (after giving effect to the terms of any revised offer by the Investor pursuant to this Section 6(k)(iii)), the Board may terminate this Agreement to substantially contemporaneously enter into a definitive agreement with respect to such Superior Proposal, provided

that the Board may not take such actions unless:

(A) the Company shall have provided prior written notice to the Investor at least five (5) calendar days in advance (the Notice Period), of its intention to take such actions, which notice shall specify the terms and

B-30

Table of Contents

conditions of any such Superior Proposal (including the identity of the party making such Superior Proposal and copies of any documents or correspondence evidencing such Superior Proposal) and any material modifications to any of the foregoing,

(B) during the Notice Period, the Company shall, and shall cause its independent financial advisor and outside counsel to, negotiate with the Investor in good faith (to the extent the Investor desires to negotiate) to make such adjustments in the terms and conditions of this Agreement so that such Company Transaction Proposal ceases to constitute a Superior Proposal, and

(C) at or prior to the time of termination of this Agreement, the Company shall have paid the Termination Fee pursuant to Section 8(b).

In the event of any material revisions to the Superior Proposal, the Company shall deliver a new written notice to the Investor and shall comply with the requirements of this Section 6(k)(iii) with respect to such new written notice, except that the new Notice Period shall be two (2) calendar days.

(iv) [*Intentionally Ommitted.*]

(v) Nothing contained in this Section 6(k) shall prohibit the Company from complying with Rule 14a-9, 14d-9 or 14e-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

(vi) As used in this Agreement, the terms:

(A) *Company Transaction Proposal* means any inquiry, proposal or offer from any person or group of persons other than the Investor or its Affiliates relating to any (1) direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of a business that constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or 20% or more of any class or series of equity securities (or any indebtedness or other obligation that is exchangeable for or convertible into any such security, or any other right to acquire any such security, contingent or otherwise) of the Company, any tender offer or exchange offer or (2) any merger, reorganization, restructuring, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, equity infusion or similar transaction involving the Company (or any Subsidiary or Subsidiaries of the Company whose business constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole) that, in the case of either clause (1) or clause (2), if consummated would result in any person or group of persons beneficially owning 20% or more of the voting rights of any class or series of capital stock of the Company;

(B) *Contingency Plan Proposal* means any proposal relating to any merger, restructuring, reorganization, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction involving the Company or any Subsidiary that the Board in good faith determines, does not constitute a Superior Proposal or a Superior Lender Proposal and is not reasonably likely to result in a Superior Proposal or a Superior Lender Proposal, which determination is made after consultation with outside counsel and its independent financial advisor and assumes consummation of the Transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(C) *Superior Lender Proposal* means any proposal involving any Person making more than a *de minimus* investment or commitment (other than a Person who is as of the date hereof a holder of Convertible Notes or a Term Lender) relating to a restructuring, reorganization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction pursuant to which (x) the holders of the Convertible Notes would receive consideration in respect of the Convertible Notes that is of equal or greater total market value (measured per \$1,000 face amount of the Convertible Notes and at the time such consideration is delivered) than such holders would receive pursuant to the Offer, assuming that all of the outstanding Convertible Notes participated in such transaction or in the Offer, as applicable or (y) the Term Lenders would receive

cash in repayment of the outstanding borrowings under the Credit Agreement in an amount equal to or greater than pursuant to the Term Loan Refinancing, or would receive consideration in respect of their rights under the Credit Agreement and other Credit Documents (as defined in the Credit Agreement) that is of equal or greater total market value and security than such Term Lenders would receive pursuant to the Term Loan Refinancing and that does not include any equity security;

B-31

Table of Contents

(D) *Superior Proposal* means a bona fide written proposal or offer from any person or group of persons other than the Investor or its Affiliates not solicited in violation of Section 6(k) relating to any direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of a business that constitutes 50% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or 50% or more of any class or series of securities of the Company, any tender offer or exchange offer that if consummated would result in any person or group of persons beneficially owning 50% or more of the voting rights of any class or series of capital stock of the Company, any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, equity infusion or similar transaction involving the Company (or any Subsidiary or Subsidiaries of the Company whose business constitutes 50% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole) or any restructuring or reorganization of the Company, in each case, that the Board in good faith determines, would, if consummated, result in a transaction that is more favorable to the Company and its existing stockholders than the transactions contemplated hereby (after given effect to the terms of any revised offer by the Investor pursuant to Section 6(k)(iii)), which determination is made, (x) after receiving the advice of its independent financial advisor, (y) after taking into account the likelihood (and likely timing) of consummation of such transaction on the terms set forth therein (as compared to the terms herein) and (z) after taking into account all relevant legal (with the advice of outside counsel), financial (including the financing terms of any such proposal, the additional transaction costs and the effect of any termination fee, expenses or amounts payable hereunder), regulatory or other aspects of such proposal and any other relevant factors permitted by applicable Law; and

(E) *Qualifying Confidentiality Agreement* means an executed agreement with provisions requiring any Person receiving nonpublic information with respect to the Company to keep such information confidential, which provisions to keep such information confidential are no less restrictive to such Person than the Confidentiality Agreement is to the Investor, its Affiliates, and their respective personnel and representatives, provided that no such confidentiality agreement shall conflict with any rights of the Company or obligations of the Company and its Subsidiaries under this Agreement.

(I) *Tax Matters.* All transfer, documentary, sales, use, stamp, registration, value-added and other such Taxes (including any penalties and interest) imposed on or as a result of the Investment, except for any such Taxes that may be imposed by the Cayman Islands, shall be paid by the Company when due, and the Company will, at its own expense, file all necessary Tax returns and other documentation with respect to all such Taxes and fees and, if required by law, the Investor will, and will cause its Affiliates to, join in the execution of any such Tax returns and other documentation.

(m) *Convertible Notes Account.* The Company agrees that before the wire transfer into the Convertible Notes Account described in Section 2(b)(i), the balance of the Convertible Notes Account shall be zero dollars (\$0.00), and that until the time that all of the amounts described in Section 6(i)(ii) have been paid and none of the Convertible Notes is outstanding, it shall not (i) deposit or cause to be deposited any funds into the Convertible Notes Account or (ii) withdraw or cause to be withdrawn any funds from the Convertible Notes Account for any purpose other than to pay any cash consideration due to the holders of the Convertible Notes. The Company further agrees that it shall not use any funds other than funds from the Convertible Notes Account to pay the holders of the Convertible Notes any of the amounts described in clause (A) of the first sentence of Section 6(i)(ii) or to pay the Convertible Notes Expenses, or, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, to apply the proceeds of the Investment in accordance with the Prepackaged Plan.

(n) [*Intentionally omitted.*]

(o) *Insurance Policy.* At the Company's option, the Company may purchase, prior to the Closing Date, a six-year prepaid tail policy on terms and conditions providing equivalent benefits to those provided by the current policies of directors' and officers' liability insurance and fiduciary liability insurance maintained by the Company and its

Subsidiaries with respect to matters arising on or before the Closing Date, covering without limitation the transactions contemplated hereby; provided that the cost of such tail policy shall not exceed three (3) times the current annual premium paid by the Company for directors and officers liability insurance and fiduciary liability insurance. If such tail prepaid policy has been obtained by the Company, the Investor shall cooperate with the

B-32

Table of Contents

Company after the Closing to cause such policy to be maintained in full force and effect, for its full term, and shall not interfere with the Company's honoring of all obligations thereunder after the Closing.

(p) *Prepackaged Plan.*

(i) As promptly as practicable after the date hereof, the Company shall, with the cooperation and assistance of the Investor, prepare the Solicitation Materials and the Prepackaged Plan Filings and provide drafts of such documents to the Investor sufficiently in advance of the Prepackaged Plan Filing such that the Investor has the opportunity to review and provide comments to the Company and its Subsidiaries. The Investor will provide all information regarding the Investor and its Subsidiaries, officers and directors that is necessary to permit the Company to prepare the Disclosure Statement. As soon as possible after the Prepackaged Plan and Disclosure Statement and such other documents are finalized, the Company shall mail such documents to the Term Lenders and the holders of the Convertible Notes. The solicitation period shall expire on a date no later than the minimum period required by the Bankruptcy Code and the rules under the Bankruptcy Code (the Bankruptcy Rules) for solicitation of acceptances of a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization. The Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to receive acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan from a sufficient number of creditors in a sufficient number of classes of creditors to allow the Prepackaged Plan to be confirmed under the Bankruptcy Code, including confirmation through the cramdown provisions of Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to non-accepting creditor classes (the Requisite Acceptances).

(ii) As promptly as practicable after the date on which the Company mails the Solicitation Materials to its creditors, the Company shall, with the cooperation and assistance of the Investor, prepare (A) petitions for relief under the Bankruptcy Code (the Chapter 11 Petitions) for the Company and the Debtor Subsidiaries, (B) motions for customary first-day orders and such orders as described in the Disclosure Statement including but not limited to an order authorizing the Company to pay to the Investor the fees and Transaction Expenses payable to the Investor pursuant to Section 8 and Section 6(n) hereof (the Investment Motion and, collectively, the First Day Orders) and (C) notices to creditors and other parties required by the Bankruptcy Code with respect to the filing of the Chapter 11 Petitions, the hearing for confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan and other matters (the Bankruptcy Notices and, collectively with the Solicitation Materials, Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Orders, the Prepackaged Plan Filings). Such documents shall be prepared in sufficient time to provide the Investor and its legal and financial advisors with adequate time to review all such documents prior to the Filing Date and provide comments thereon, provided that the Investment Motion and order with respect thereto shall (i) approve the payment of the Termination Fee and the reimbursement of Transaction Expenses on the terms set forth in Section 8, (ii) be consistent in all respect with this Agreement and (iii) otherwise be acceptable to the Investor in its reasonable discretion.

(iii) In the event that the Offer Conditions are not satisfied or waived, with the prior written consent of the Investor, by the Restructuring Deadline:

(A) On the day following the Restructuring Deadline, the Company shall, and, subject to the terms of the Prepackaged Plan, shall cause each of the Debtor Subsidiaries to, (1) file the Chapter 11 Petitions in the Bankruptcy Court and commence cases under the Bankruptcy Code (the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding) in the Bankruptcy Court (the date on which such Chapter 11 Petitions is filed, the Filing Date), (B) file the motions relating to the First Day Orders and seek to obtain entry of the First Day Orders by the Bankruptcy Court and (C) schedule a hearing (the Confirmation Hearing) in the Bankruptcy Court on the earliest date possible to consider confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan and approve the Disclosure Statement. As soon as practicable after the Filing Date, the Company shall send the Bankruptcy Notices to all Persons to whom such notices are required to be sent under the Bankruptcy Code and such to other Persons to whom it is ordered by the Bankruptcy Court to send the Bankruptcy Notices.

(B) The Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to obtain confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan by the Bankruptcy Court at the Confirmation Hearing. Upon entry of an order confirming the Prepackaged Plan (the

Confirmation Order), the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to obtain the dismissal of any and all appeals and motions for reconsideration filed with respect to the Prepackaged Plan or with respect to the Confirmation Order. The date on which the Prepackaged Plan is confirmed is referred to herein as the Confirmation Date.

B-33

Table of Contents

(C) The Company shall cause the Prepackaged Plan to become effective and the distributions provided for under the Prepackaged Plan (the Distributions) to be commenced as promptly as possible on or following the day on which the Confirmation Order is entered if no stay of the Confirmation Order pending appeal has been entered and all other conditions to effectiveness set forth in the Prepackaged Plan shall have been satisfied or waived. The date on which the Prepackaged Plan becomes effective is referred to herein as the Effective Date.

(q) Company Approvals. At the request of the Investor, the Board shall approve (i) the Amended Credit Documents so long as (A) in the case of the Term Loan Refinancing, the Amended Credit Agreement is in the form of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement or (B) in the case of the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, the Amended Credit Agreement is on terms and conditions that are (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld; (ii) the ABL Documents so long as the ABL Agreement is on terms and conditions that are no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) and are otherwise (1) consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or (2) consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld and (iii) the Ancillary Refinancing Agreements are consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of the respective document or agreement for companies sponsored by CD&R, Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

Section 7. Indemnity.

(a) In the case of clauses (i) and (ii) below, from and after the Closing and, in the case of clause (iii) below, from and after the date of this Agreement, subject to this Section 7, the Company shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Investor and its Affiliates and each of their respective officers, directors, partners, employees and agents, and each person who controls the Investor within the meaning of the Exchange Act and the regulations thereunder (the Investor Indemnified Parties and each, an Investor Indemnified Party) from and against, and pay or reimburse the Investor Indemnified Parties for, any and all losses, liabilities, damages, and expenses (including reasonable expenses of investigation, enforcement, and collection and reasonable attorney s and accountants fees and expenses in connection with any Litigation, any incidental, indirect or consequential damages, losses, liabilities or expenses, any amounts paid in settlement, and any lost profits or diminution in value), whether or not involving a Third Party Claim (collectively, Losses) (i) arising from or relating to any inaccuracy in or breach of any representation or warranty when made or deemed made by the Company in or pursuant to this Agreement, (ii) arising from or relating to the failure of the Company to perform any covenant or agreement under this Agreement or (iii) arising out of or resulting from the Company s authorization and approval and the Company s and/or the Investor s execution, delivery, performance or termination of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby (other than any Losses attributable to acts, errors or omissions (other than acts or omissions in conformity with this Agreement) on the part of the Investor or any Investor Indemnified Parties and other than any Losses attributable to the economic risks of the Investor s investment decision)), in the event (in the case of this clause (iii) only) that the Investor or Investor Indemnified Parties are subject to, named in or made party to any Litigation by any Governmental Entity, stockholder of the Company or any other Person (other than the Company).

(b) From and after the Closing, and subject to this Section 7, the Investor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company and its Affiliates and each of their respective officers, directors, partners, employees and agents (the Company Indemnified Parties and each, an Company Indemnified Party) from and against, and pay or reimburse the Company Indemnified Parties for, any and all Losses arising from or relating to (i) any inaccuracy

B-34

Table of Contents

in or breach of any representation or warranty when made or deemed made by the Investor in or pursuant to this Agreement, or (ii) the failure of the Investor to perform any covenant or agreement under this Agreement.

(c) An Investor Indemnified Party or Company Indemnified Party (each, an Indemnified Party) seeking indemnification pursuant to this Section 7 in respect of, arising out of or involving any claim or demand asserted by a third party (a Third Party Claim) against such Indemnified Party entitled to indemnification under this Agreement shall give written notice to the Company or the Investor, as applicable (each, as applicable, an Indemnifying Party), as promptly as practicable after receipt by such Indemnified Party of written notice of such third party's Litigation in the case of a Litigation, or as promptly as practicable after the Indemnified Party has reasonably determined that the pending or threatened claim has given or would reasonably be expected to give rise to a right of indemnification hereunder in the case of any pending or threatened claim; provided that the failure of any Indemnified Party to give notice as provided herein shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of its obligations under this Section 7 except to the extent such Indemnifying Party is actually prejudiced by such failure to give notice. Such notice shall describe in reasonable detail such Third Party Claim. The Indemnified Party shall permit the Indemnifying Party (at the expense of the Indemnifying Party and so long as the Indemnifying Party acknowledges in writing its obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for Losses related to such Third Party Claim) to assume the defense of such Third Party Claim; provided that counsel for the Indemnifying Party who shall conduct the defense of such Third Party Claim shall be reasonably satisfactory to the Indemnified Party, and the Indemnified Party may participate in such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense. If the Indemnifying Party does not timely assume the defense of such Third Party Claim following notice thereof, the Indemnified Party shall be entitled to assume and control such defense and to settle or agree to pay in full such Third Party Claim without the consent of the Indemnifying Party without prejudice to the ability of the Indemnified Party to enforce its claim for indemnification against the Indemnifying Party hereunder. Except with the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party (which shall not be unreasonably withheld), the Indemnifying Party, in the defense of any such Third Party Claim, shall not consent to a settlement, compromise or discharge of, or the entry of any judgment arising from, such Third Party Claim, unless such settlement, compromise or discharge does not involve any finding or admission of any violation of Law or admission of any wrongdoing by the Indemnified Party and the Indemnifying Party shall (i) pay or cause to be paid all amounts arising out of such settlement or judgment concurrently with the effectiveness of such settlement, (ii) not encumber any of the assets of any Indemnified Party or agree to any restriction or condition that would apply to or adversely affect and Indemnified Party and (iii) obtain, as a condition of any settlement or other resolution, a complete and unconditional release of each Indemnified Party from any and all liability in respect of such Third Party Claim. If the Indemnified Party in good faith determines that the conduct of the defense or any proposed settlement of any Third Party Claim would reasonably be expected to affect adversely the Indemnified Party's Tax liability, or that the Indemnified Party may have available to it one or more defenses or counterclaims that are inconsistent with one or more of those that may be available to the Company in respect of such Third Party Claim, the Indemnified Party shall have the right at all times to take over and control the defense, settlement, negotiation or litigation relating to any such Third Party Claim at the sole cost of the Indemnifying Party; provided that if the Indemnified Party does so take over and control, the Indemnified Party shall not settle such Third Party Claim without the written consent of the Indemnifying Party, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. In any event, the Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Party shall cooperate in the defense of any Third Party Claim subject to this Section 7 and the records of each shall be reasonably available to the other with respect to such defense.

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Company shall be required to indemnify and hold harmless the Investor Indemnified Parties pursuant to Section 7(a) with respect to Losses only:

(i) in the event that the aggregate amount of Losses in connection with or related to any individual claim (or any series of related claims (including any class action)) exceeds \$50,000 (the De Minimis Amount), which amount is intended to be a qualifying claim threshold, and shall not operate as a deductible;

(ii) in the event that the aggregate amount of Losses (other than Losses excluded by the immediately preceding clause (i) because they do not meet the De Minimis Amount) exceeds \$5,000,000 (the Threshold Amount), following which time all Losses above the Threshold Amount shall be subject to indemnification (other than Losses excluded by the immediately preceding clause (i) because they do not meet the De Minimis Amount); and

B-35

Table of Contents

(iii) up to (and not exceeding) the point at which the aggregate amount of the indemnification payments actually made by the Company equals \$75,000,000 (the Cap);

provided, however, that (x) Losses payable in connection with clause (i) of Section 7(a) with respect to an inaccuracy in or breach of any Fundamental Representation or payable in connection with clauses (ii) and (iii) of Section 7(a) shall be payable without regard to the Cap; provided that Losses payable in connection with clause (i) of Section 7(a) with respect to an inaccuracy in or breach of any Fundamental Representation and Losses payable in connection with clauses (ii) of Section 7(a) shall be taken into account in determining whether the Cap has been reached, and (y) Losses payable in connection with clause (iii) of Section 7(a) shall be payable without regard to whether the Threshold Amount has been reached and shall not be taken into account in determining, with respect to other Losses, whether the Threshold Amount has been reached. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Company's aggregate obligations to make indemnification payments pursuant to Section 7(a), and to pay any Termination Fee or Deal Fee or Transaction Expenses shall be limited to and shall not exceed the Aggregate Purchase Price, and in no event shall the Company be required to pay any amounts that would cause the total amount paid by the Company in the aggregate with respect to all such matters in the aggregate to exceed the Aggregate Purchase Price.

(e) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Investor shall be required to indemnify and hold harmless the Company Indemnified Parties pursuant to Section 7(b) with respect to Losses only:

(i) in the event that the aggregate amount of Losses in connection with or related to any individual claim (or any series of related claims (including any class action)) exceeds the De Minimis Amount;

(ii) in the event that the aggregate amount of Losses (other than Losses excluded by the immediately preceding clause (i) because they do not meet the De Minimis Amount) exceeds the Threshold Amount, following which time all Losses above the Threshold Amount shall be subject to indemnification (other than Losses excluded by the immediately preceding clause (i) because they do not meet the De Minimis Amount); and

(iii) up to (and not exceeding) the point at which the aggregate amount of the indemnification payments actually made by the Investor equals the Cap;

provided, however, Losses payable in connection with clause (i) of Section 7(b) with respect to an inaccuracy in or breach of any Fundamental Representation or payable in connection with clause (ii) of Section 7(b) shall be payable without regard to the Cap; provided that such Losses shall be taken into account in determining whether the Cap has been reached. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Investor's aggregate obligations to make indemnification payments pursuant to Section 7(b) shall be limited to and shall not exceed the Aggregate Purchase Price.

(f) Any Indemnified Party seeking indemnification hereunder shall give to the Indemnifying Party a notice (a Claim Notice) describing in reasonable detail, to the extent known by the Indemnified Party at the time, the facts giving rise to the claim for indemnification hereunder and shall include in such Claim Notice (if then known) the amount or the method of computation of the amount of such claim, and a reference to the provision of this Agreement upon which such claim is based; provided, however, that a Claim Notice in respect of any action at law or suit in equity by or against a third Person as to which indemnification will be sought shall be given no later than promptly after the action or suit is commenced; provided, further, that to the extent an Indemnified Party first pursues recoveries from third parties with respect to a claim for indemnification, such claim shall be deemed timely and validly given pursuant to this Section 7(f), so long as a Claim Notice stating only that the Indemnified Party is currently seeking recoveries from third parties shall be given within the time periods required by this Section 7.

(g) The obligations of the Indemnifying Party under this Section 7 shall survive the transfer, redemption or conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock issued pursuant to this Agreement or the Series B Preferred Stock CoD (and the transfer of the Common Stock issued upon conversion of such Series B Preferred Stock) or the closing or termination of this Agreement and any other Transaction Document. The agreements contained in this Section 7 shall be in addition to any other rights of the Indemnified Party against the Indemnifying Party or others, at common law or otherwise, including as set forth in Section 23 hereof.

B-36

Table of Contents

(h) Any Indemnified Party who brings an action against an Indemnifying Party to enforce an indemnity set forth in subparagraph Section 7(a) or Section 7(b) and who is successful in such action shall also be entitled to recover, from the Indemnifying Party, the reasonable costs and attorneys' fees actually incurred in prosecuting such action.

Section 8. *Termination.*

(a) This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the Closing:

(i) by either the Investor or the Company if (x) by November 12, 2009 (the "Outside Date") (A) the Closing with respect to the Offer shall not have occurred and (B) the Requisite Acceptances have not been received or (y) the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding has been commenced pursuant to Section 6(p)(iii) and the Effective Date has not occurred by a date that is no later than four (4) weeks and 10 days after the entry of the Confirmation Order; provided, that the party seeking to terminate this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8(a)(i) shall not have breached in any material respect its obligations under this Agreement in any manner that shall have been a proximate cause of the failure to consummate the Investment on or before such date;

(ii) by either the Investor or the Company in the event that any Governmental Entity shall have issued an Order or taken any other action restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the Closing or prohibiting or restricting the Investor or its Affiliates from owning, and exercising in full all exchange, conversion and voting rights of the Series B Preferred Stock contemplated to be exercisable by the Investor or prohibiting or restricting the Investor from exercising its consent rights pursuant to Article VI of the Stockholders Agreement and such Order or other action shall have become final and nonappealable; provided that the party seeking to terminate this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8(a)(ii) shall not have breached in any material respect its obligations under this Agreement in any manner that shall have been a proximate cause of such Order or action;

(iii) by the Investor if (A) the Company shall have terminated the Offer or (B) the Offer shall have expired in accordance with the terms of this Agreement without the Company having accepted for purchase the Convertible Notes pursuant to the Offer, unless in either case the Prepackaged Plan shall have been commenced by the day following the Restructuring Deadline or if the Offer shall have expired on or after the Outside Date and the Offer Conditions shall not have been satisfied and the Requisite Acceptances shall not have been received;

(iv) by the Investor, and in the case of clause (I), the Company, if:

(A) the Board shall have (v) approved or recommended to the stockholders of the Company a Superior Proposal, (w) formally withdrawn its support for the Offer, (x) made a recommendation against the Offer or the Prepackaged Plan, (y) recommended another Company Transaction Proposal or (z) resolved to effect any of the foregoing;

(B) any of the Company and its Subsidiaries shall have commenced any Proceeding other than the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding;

(C) there shall have been commenced any Proceeding against any of the Company and its Subsidiaries other than the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding and such Proceeding has not been dismissed within 30 days of such commencement;

(D) any of the Company and its Subsidiaries shall become unable, admit in writing its inability or fail generally to pay its debts as they become due, in each case, assuming the Transactions contemplated hereby are consummated;

(E) any of the Company and its Subsidiaries shall make a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors;

(F) the Company fails to comply with Section 6(p)(iii)(A) hereof;

(G) at any time after twenty-five days after the filing of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding if the Bankruptcy Court has not entered the order approving the Investment Fee Motion on or prior to such date;

B-37

Table of Contents

(H) at any time after eight (8) weeks after the filing of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding if the Bankruptcy Court has not entered the Confirmation Order with respect to the Prepackaged Plan on or prior to such date;

(I) the Bankruptcy Court shall have entered an order denying confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan or the Confirmation Order is vacated or reversed and does not become a Final Order within four (4) weeks and ten (10) days after the entry of the Confirmation Order;

(J) upon the dismissal of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding or conversion of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding from a case under Chapter 11 to one under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, or the Company files a motion or other pleading with the Bankruptcy Court seeking the dismissal or conversion of any of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding;

(K) if at any time the Company or any of its Subsidiaries file a plan of reorganization or liquidation other than the Prepackaged Plan and the Disclosure Statement; or

(L) at any time, if the Bankruptcy Court (x) grants relief that is materially inconsistent with this Agreement or the Prepackaged Plan in any respect or (y) enters an order confirming any plan of reorganization other than the Prepackaged Plan.

(v) by the Company, in accordance with, and subject to the terms and conditions of Section 6(k)(iii) or if the Bankruptcy Court has ordered the Company to terminate this Agreement in order to accept any Qualifying Transaction; or

(vi) by the mutual written consent of the Investor and the Company.

(b) In the event that (i) this Agreement is terminated (x) by the Company pursuant to Section 8(a)(v) or (y) by the Investor pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv)(A) or (ii) (A) this Agreement (1) is terminated pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv) (other than pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv)(A)) or pursuant to Section 8(a)(iii) and at the time of such termination the Investor was not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement or its representations and warranties contained in this Agreement or (2) is terminated by the Investor pursuant to Section 8(a)(i) and at the time of such termination the conditions set forth in Section 3(a)(i) and Section 3(a)(ii) shall have been satisfied and the Investor was not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement or its representations and warranties contained in this Agreement and (B) the Company enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates, a transaction contemplated by any Qualified Transaction within twelve months of the date this Agreement is terminated, then the Company shall pay the Termination Fee and the Company shall reimburse the Investor for all of the Transaction Expenses (net of any amounts previously paid or reimbursed pursuant to Section 8(c) and net of the Pre-Signing Expenses that have been previously paid or reimbursed by the Company), to the accounts specified on Schedule 8(b) hereto, with such Termination Fee being paid (I) at or prior to the time of termination in the case of a termination pursuant to Section 8(a)(v) or (II) on the earlier of entering into a definitive agreement with respect to or consummating a transaction contemplated by a Qualifying Transaction in the case of a termination for any of the reasons specified in clause (ii) of this paragraph and, in each case, such Transaction Expenses paid not later than two (2) Business Days after submission of reasonable supporting documentation thereof. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, in no event shall the Company be required to pay the Termination Fee on more than one occasion.

(c) If (1) this Agreement is terminated in accordance with Section 8(a) (other than 8(a)(vi)) for any reason other than solely as a result of the failure of the parties hereto to obtain the clearance or approval under the HSR Act and (2) the Investor has not taken any action, or failed to take any action, in breach of this Agreement which proximately caused the event, condition or passage of time giving rise to the termination of this Agreement or the failure of the Closing to occur, then the Company shall reimburse the Investor for all of the Transaction Expenses (net of any amounts

previously paid or reimbursed pursuant to Section 8(c) and net of the Pre-Signing Expenses that have been previously paid or reimbursed by the Company) not later than two (2) Business Days after submission of reasonable supporting documentation thereof.

(d) Each of the parties hereto acknowledges that (i) the agreements contained in Section 8(b) and Section 8(c) are an integral part of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement; (ii) the damages resulting from termination

B-38

Table of Contents

of this Agreement under circumstances where a Termination Fee is payable are uncertain and incapable of accurate calculation and therefore, the amounts payable pursuant to Section 8(b) are not a penalty, but rather are liquidated damages in a reasonable amount that will compensate the Investor for the efforts and resources expended and opportunities foregone while negotiating this Agreement and in reliance on this Agreement and on the expectation of the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, which amount would otherwise be impossible to calculate with precision; and (iii) without the agreements contained in Section 8(b) and Section 8(c), the Investor would not have entered into this Agreement. Accordingly, if the Company fails to promptly pay any amount due pursuant to Section 8(b) or Section 8(c) and, in order to obtain such payment, the Investor commences a suit that results in a judgment against the Company for the amount set forth in Section 8(b) or Section 8(c) or any portion thereof, the Company shall pay to the Investor costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by the Investor and its Affiliates in connection with such suit, together with interest on the amount of such amount or portion thereof at the prime rate of Citibank N.A. in effect on the date such payment was required to be made through the date of payment. Following payment of the Termination Fee and/or Transaction Expenses, if, as and when provided for in Section 8(b) or Section 8(c), the Company shall have no further liability to Investor of any nature or for any reason under this Agreement other than pursuant to Section 7(iii) and other than liability arising out of or related to the willful breach of this Agreement on the part of the Company.

(e) In the event of termination of this Agreement as provided in Section 8(a), this Agreement shall forthwith become void and there shall be no liability on the part of either party hereto except that nothing herein shall relieve either party from liability for any breach of any covenant of this Agreement and except that the provisions of this Section 8 and Sections 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 will survive any termination of this Agreement.

Section 9. Certain Definitions. For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms will have the following meanings when used herein with initial capital letters:

- (1) *2008 10-K* has the meaning set forth in Section 4.
- (2) *ABL Agreement* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(f)(iii).
- (3) *ABL Documents* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(f)(iii).
- (4) *ABL Financing* has the meaning set forth in the Section 6(f)(i).
- (5) *ABL Lenders* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (6) *ABL Term Sheet* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (7) *Affiliate* means, with respect to any Person, any other Person that directly, or through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by or is under common control with such Person. For purposes of this Agreement, control shall mean, as to any Person, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of such Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise (and the terms controlled by and under common control with shall have correlative meanings).
- (8) *Aggregate Purchase Price* has the meaning set forth in Section 1.
- (9) *Agreement* has the meaning set forth in the Preamble.
- (10) *Alternative ABL Financing* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(f)(ii).

(11) *Alternative Term Loan Refinancing* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(g)(iii).

(12) *Amended Credit Agreement* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(g)(iv).

(13) *Amended Credit Documents* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(g)(iv).

(14) *Ancillary Refinancing Documents* means the ABL Documents (other than the ABL Agreement), the Amended Credit Documents (other than the Amended Credit Agreement) and any and all other agreements, instruments and documents (other than the ABL Agreement and the Amended Credit Agreement) entered into or delivered pursuant to or in connection with any of the transactions contemplated by the ABL

Table of Contents

Agreement and the Amended Credit Agreement, including but not limited to any intercreditor agreement between the agents and/or the lenders party to the ABL Agreement and the Amended Credit Agreement.

(15) *Austrian Act* has the meaning set forth in Section 3(a)(i).

(16) *Authorized Stock Certificate Amendment* means the amendment set forth in paragraph 1 of Exhibit A of the Stockholders Agreement.

(17) *Authorized Stock Stockholder Approval* means the affirmative vote (in person or in proxy) by the holders of at least a majority in voting power of the outstanding shares of Common Stock voting as a separate class, at the Stockholders Meeting (as defined in the Stockholders Agreement) or any adjournment or postponement of the Stockholders Meeting, in favor of Authorized Stock Certificate Amendment.

(18) *Bankruptcy Code* means Title 11 of the United States Code.

(19) *Bankruptcy Court* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(20) *Bankruptcy Exceptions* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(d)(iii).

(21) *Bankruptcy Notices* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(i).

(22) *Bankruptcy Rules* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(i).

(23) *Beneficially Own* shall mean, with respect to any securities, having beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Rule 13d-3 or 13d-5 under the Exchange Act as in effect on the date hereof.

(24) *Board* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(25) *Business* means the business and operations of the Company and its Subsidiaries as conducted as of the date hereof and at any time between the date hereof and the Closing.

(26) *Business Day* means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday in New York City or Houston, or any other day on which commercial banks in New York City or Houston are authorized or required by Law or government decree to close.

(27) *By-Laws* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(a)(iii).

(28) *Cap* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(d)(iii).

(29) *Capital Stock* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(b).

(30) *Capitalization Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(b).

(31) *CD&R Inc.* means Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc., a Delaware corporation and investment manager with respect to the Investor, and its successors and assigns.

(32) *Certificate of Incorporation* means the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended from time to time.

- (33) *Chapter 11 Petitions* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(ii).
- (34) *Claim Notice* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(f).
- (35) *Closing* means (a) if the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby but excluding the transactions contemplated by the Prepackaged Plan and (b) if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Prepackaged Plan.
- (36) *Closing Date* means the date on which the Closing occurs, which, if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, shall be the Effective Date.
- (37) *Code* means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Table of Contents

- (38) *Commission* has the meaning set forth in Section 4.
- (39) *Common Stock* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(b).
- (40) *Company* has means NCI Building Systems, Inc. and if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, during the pendency of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, NCI Building Systems, Inc., as debtor and debtor-in-possession, and from and after the Closing, the Reorganized Debtor (as defined in the Prepackaged Plan).
- (41) *Company Benefit Plan* means each employee benefit plan within the meaning of Section 3(3) of ERISA, including multiemployer plans within the meaning of Section 3(37) of ERISA, and each other stock purchase, stock option, restricted stock, severance, retention, employment, consulting, advisory, change-of-control, termination, supplemental retirement benefit, collective bargaining, bonus, incentive, deferred compensation, employee loan, fringe benefit and other benefit plan, agreement, program, policy, commitment or other arrangement, whether or not subject to ERISA (including any related funding mechanism now in effect or required in the future), whether formal or informal, oral or written, sponsored or maintained by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries contributes or is obligated to contribute or could have any liability, in each case under which any past or present director, officer, employee, consultant or independent contractor of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or of any Person acquired by the Company or any of such Person's Subsidiaries, has any present or future right to benefits.
- (42) *Company Indemnified Party* and *Company Indemnified Parties* have the meanings set forth in Section 7(b).
- (43) *Company Preferred Stock* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(b).
- (44) *Company Reports* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(e)(iii).
- (45) *Company Transaction Proposal* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(vi)(A).
- (46) *Confidentiality Agreement* has the meaning set forth in Section 22.
- (47) *Confirmation Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(B).
- (48) *Confirmation Hearing* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(A).
- (49) *Confirmation Order* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(B).
- (50) *Contingency Plan Proposal* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(vi)(B).
- (51) *Contract* means any agreement, arrangement, commitment, plan or other instrument or obligation.
- (52) *Convertible Notes* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (53) *Convertible Notes Account* means a separate account of the Company at a Qualified Bank set forth on Section 2(b)(i) of the Disclosure Letter or such other segregated account of the Company at a Qualified Bank designated in writing to the Investor not less than two (2) Business Days prior to the Closing or such escrow account or other separate account of the Company required by the lenders party to the Amended Credit Agreement which meets the requirements specified by such lenders with respect to such account.

- (54) *Convertible Notes Expenses* has the meaning set forth in the Section 2(b)(i).
- (55) *Convertible Notes Portion* has the meaning set forth in the Section 2(b)(i).
- (56) *Credit Agreement* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (57) *Credit Documents* has the meaning set forth in the Credit Agreement.
- (58) *De Minimis Amount* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(d)(i).
- (59) *Deal Fee* means an amount equal to \$8,250,000.

B-41

Table of Contents

- (60) *Debtor Subsidiaries* means any Subsidiaries of the Company that are debtors under the Prepackaged Plan.
- (61) *Default* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(q)(ii).
- (62) *Disbursing Agent* has the meaning set forth in Section 2(i).
- (63) *Disclosure Letter* has the meaning set forth in Section 4.
- (64) *Disclosure Statement* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (65) *Distributions* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(C).
- (66) *Effective Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(C).
- (67) *Environmental Law* means any Law regulating or relating to the protection of human health, safety, natural resources or the environment.
- (68) *ERISA* means the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.
- (69) *Exchange Act* has the meaning set forth in Section 4.
- (70) *Fairness Opinion* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(z).
- (71) *Filing Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(A).
- (72) *Final Order* means an order or judgment of the Bankruptcy Court which has not been reversed, stayed or modified or amended in a manner inconsistent with this Agreement.
- (73) *First Day Orders* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(ii).
- (74) *Form of Amended Credit Agreement* means the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, with such additions, modifications, alterations, corrections or other changes as the Investor deems advisable in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) (i) to add, provide or complete any schedule, annex, exhibit, numerical amount or other information that is omitted, missing or incomplete, or to modify, alter, correct or change (including without limitation by deleting or replacing) any wording that is in brackets, (ii) to cure any ambiguity, mistake, omission or defect, (iii) to cure any inconsistency, including with any other provision of the same agreement or of the ABL Agreement or any other Transaction Document, (iv) to address a material risk that (x) the Company will be unable to comply with the terms or conditions of the agreement or (y) by complying with the terms and conditions of the agreement the Company will be subject to a material risk of not complying with the terms and conditions of the ABL Agreement or any other Transaction Document, (v) to effect the intent evidenced by the form attached hereto as Exhibit A or (vi) to avoid adverse tax consequences to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, in each case under clauses (i) through (vi) above, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith).
- (75) *Form S-4* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(y).
- (76) *Fundamental Representations* has the meaning set forth in Section 10.
- (77) *GAAP* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(e)(i).

(78) *Governmental Entity* means any international, national, federal, state, provincial or local governmental, regulatory or administrative authority, agency, commission, court, tribunal, arbitral body, self regulated entity or similar body, whether domestic or foreign.

(79) *Hazardous Substances* means any substance that: (i) is or contains asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, petroleum or petroleum products, (ii) requires investigation or remedial action pursuant to any Environmental Law, or is defined, listed or identified as a hazardous waste, hazardous substance, toxic substance or words of similar import thereunder, or (iii) is regulated under any Environmental Law.

(80) *HSR Act* has the meaning set forth in Section 3(a)(i).

Table of Contents

(81) *Indebtedness* means, with respect to any Person, without duplication, (i) all obligations of such Person for borrowed money, (ii) all obligations of such Person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or similar instruments, (iii) all obligations of such Person upon which interest charges are customarily paid (other than trade payables incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices), (iv) all obligations of such Person under conditional sale or other title retention agreements relating to any property purchased by such Person, (v) all obligations of such Person incurred or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services (excluding obligations of such Person to creditors for raw materials, inventory, services and supplies incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices), (vi) all lease obligations of such Person capitalized on the books and records of such Person, (vii) all obligations of others secured by a Lien on property or assets owned or acquired by such Person, whether or not the obligations secured thereby have been assumed, (viii) all obligations of such Person under interest rate, currency or commodity derivatives or hedging transactions, (ix) all letters of credit or performance bonds issued for the account of such Person (excluding (a) letters of credit issued for the benefit of suppliers to support accounts payable to suppliers incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices, (b) standby letters of credit relating to workers compensation insurance and (c) surety bonds and customs bonds) and (x) all guaranties and arrangements having the economic effect of a guaranty by such Person of any Indebtedness of any other Person.

For purposes of Section 4(q)(i), *Indebtedness* shall be limited to those obligations, guaranties and arrangements described in (A) clauses (i), (ii), (v), (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x) of the foregoing definition, in each case, in excess of amounts agreed between the parties as of the date of this Agreement and (B) clauses (iii), (iv) and (vi) of the foregoing definition, in each case, in excess of amounts agreed between the parties as of the date of this Agreement.

(82) *Indemnification Agreement* means an Indemnification Agreement substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit D.

(83) *Indemnified Party* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(c).

(84) *Indenture* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(85) *Initial Expiration Date* means 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on the 20th business day (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act) following the commencement of the Offer; provided, that if the Offer Condition set forth in clause 4 under the caption *Conditions to the Offer* set forth in Annex A hereto has not been satisfied by 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on the 20th business day (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act) following the commencement of the Offer, the Company shall, subject to the provisions of Section 8(a), extend the Offer until the Offer Condition set forth in clause 3 under the caption *Conditions to the Offer* set forth in Annex A hereto has been satisfied and the *Initial Expiration Date* shall mean the first scheduled expiration date following the date on which such Offer Condition shall have been satisfied.

(86) *Intellectual Property* means all trademarks, service marks, trade names, trade dress, including all goodwill associated with the foregoing, domain names, copyrights, Software and Internet websites, and registrations and applications to register or renew the registration of any of the foregoing, patents and patent applications, Trade Secrets and all similar intellectual property rights.

(87) *Investment* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(88) *Investor* has the meaning set forth in the Preamble.

(89) *Investor Indemnified Party* and *Investor Indemnified Parties* have the meanings set forth in Section 7(a).

(90) *Knowledge* means (i) in the case of the Company, the actual knowledge, after due inquiry, of the Company's the President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer or General Counsel and (ii) in the case of the Investor, the actual knowledge, after due inquiry, of any principal or partner of the Investor.

B-43

Table of Contents

- (91) *Laws* mean federal, state, local or foreign Law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, writ, judgment, order, injunction, decree, agency requirement, license or permit of any Governmental Entity.
- (92) *Leased Real Property* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(n)(ii).
- (93) *Leases* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(n)(ii).
- (94) *Liability Cap* has the meaning set forth in Section 16(a).
- (95) *Lien* means, with respect to any property or asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest, lease, encumbrance or other adverse claim of any kind in respect of such property or asset. For purposes of this Agreement, a Person shall be deemed to own subject to a Lien any property or asset that it has acquired or holds subject to the interest of a vendor or lessor under any conditional sale agreement, capital lease or other title retention agreement relating to such property or asset.
- (96) *Litigation* means any action, cause of action, claim, cease and desist letter, demand, suit, arbitration proceeding, citation, summons, subpoena or investigation or proceeding of any nature, civil, criminal, regulatory or otherwise, in law or in equity.
- (97) *Losses* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(a).
- (98) *Material Adverse Effect* means any event, change, development, effect or occurrence that (1) is material and adverse to the business, assets, results of operations or financial condition of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (2) would materially impair the ability of the Company to perform its obligations under this Agreement or the other Transaction Documents or to consummate the Investment, the other Transactions or the other transactions contemplated by the Transaction Documents; provided, however, that in determining whether a Material Adverse Effect has occurred, there shall be excluded any effect to the extent resulting from the following: (A) any change, development, occurrence or event affecting the businesses or industries in which the Company and its Subsidiaries operate (including general pricing changes), (B) changes in general domestic economic conditions, including changes in the financial, securities or credit markets, or changes in such conditions in any area in which the Company or its Subsidiaries operate, (C) changes in global or national political conditions (including any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declared or undeclared acts of war or terrorism), (D) the announcement of this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby, (E) the failure of the Company to meet any internal or published projections, forecasts or revenue or earning predictions for any period (provided that the underlying causes of such failure may be considered in determining whether there is a Material Adverse Effect on the Company), (F) any change in the trading prices of the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange or of the Convertible Notes (provided that the underlying causes of such change may be considered in determining whether there is a Material Adverse Effect on the Company) or (G) the announcement or commencement of the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding; except, with respect to clauses (A), (B), or (C), to the extent that the effects of such changes have a disproportionate impact on the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to other businesses supplying to the non-residential construction industry.
- (99) *Material Contract* shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4(q)(ii).
- (100) *Minimum Condition* shall have the meaning set forth in Annex A hereto.
- (101) *Non-Convertible Note Account* means the account of the Company at a Qualified Bank set forth on Section 2(b)(ii) of the Disclosure Letter or such other account of the Company at a Qualified Bank as is designated in writing to the Investor not less than two (2) Business Days prior to the Closing, in each case, provided that such

account is different from the Convertible Notes Account.

(102) *Notice Period* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(iii)(A).

(103) *Offer* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(104) *Offer Conditions* has the meaning set forth in Annex A hereto.

(105) *Offer Documents* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(y).

B-44

Table of Contents

(106) *Order* means any injunction, judgment, decree or other order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(107) *Organizational Documents* means the articles of incorporation, certificate of incorporation, charter, bylaws, articles of formation, certificate of formation, regulations, operating agreement, certificate of limited partnership, partnership agreement, and all other similar documents, instruments or certificates executed, adopted, or filed in connection with the creation, formation, or organization of a Person, including any amendments thereto.

(108) *Other Required Company Filing* and *Other Required Company Filings* have the meanings set forth in Section 4(y).

(109) *Outside Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 8(a)(i).

(110) *Owned Intellectual Property* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(m)(i).

(111) *Owned Real Property* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(n)(i).

(112) *Owned Software* means all Software owned by either the Company or its Subsidiaries and used or held for use in connection with, necessary for the conduct of, or otherwise material to, the Business.

(113) *Permitted Investor Assignee* has the meaning set forth in Section 12.

(114) *Permitted Liens* means (i) Liens for Taxes and other governmental charges and assessments not yet due and payable or that are being contested in good faith and for which adequate accruals or reserves have been established on the financial statements of the Company or the applicable Subsidiary, (ii) Liens of carriers, warehousemen, mechanics, materialmen and other like Liens arising in the ordinary course of business that are being contested in good faith and for which adequate accruals or reserves have been established on the financial statements of the Company or the applicable Subsidiary, (iii) easements, rights of way, zoning ordinances and other similar encumbrances affecting real property, (iv) prior to the Closing, Liens granted pursuant to the Credit Agreement and the other Credit Documents and (v) statutory Liens in favor of lessors arising in connection with any property leased to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, which Liens and other encumbrances described in clauses (i) (v) do not materially interfere with the current use by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries of the assets, properties or rights affected thereby and would not reasonably be expected to have or result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(115) *Person* means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, company, limited liability company, trust, joint venture, association, Governmental Entity or other entity or group (as defined in the Exchange Act).

(116) *Prepackaged Plan* means a prepackaged joint plan of reorganization of the Company and the Debtor Subsidiaries that will effectuate, consistent with the Bankruptcy Code, the Restructuring on the terms set forth on Exhibit I hereto and otherwise as contemplated by this Agreement and the Transaction Documents and containing such other terms and provisions, not inconsistent with the foregoing, as may be reasonably agreed by the Company and the Investor.

(117) *Prepackaged Plan Conditions* means the conditions set forth in Sections 3(a), 3(b), 3(c) and 3(d) other than Sections 3(a)(iii), 3(a)(iv), 3(a)(vi) and, to the extent that any Material Contract may be assumed and assigned by the Company without consent, authorization or approval pursuant to Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, 3(c)(iii).

(118) *Prepackaged Plan Filings* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(ii).

(119) *Prepackaged Plan Proceeding* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(iii)(A).

(120) *Pre-Signing Transaction Expenses* means any Transaction Expenses reimbursed by and paid to the Company pursuant to this Agreement (other than pursuant to Section 8(b), Section 8(c) or Section 2(g)) or any other agreement of even-date herewith to which Investor and the Company are a party.

(121) *Proceeding* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(b)(i).

B-45

Table of Contents

(122) *Qualified Bank* means any commercial bank organized under the laws of the United States of America or any state thereof or the District of Columbia that (a) is at least adequately capitalized (as defined in the regulations of its primary Federal banking regulator), (b) has Tier 1 capital (as defined in such regulations) of not less than \$1,000,000,000 and (c) has a rating of at least AA- from S&P and Aa3 from Moody's.

(123) *Qualifying Confidentiality Agreement* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(vi)(E).

(124) *Qualifying Transaction* means any Company Transaction Proposal, which, in the case of Company Transaction Proposal that is a restructuring, reorganization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction, is a Superior Lender Proposal (determined without giving effect to the first parenthetical in the definition thereof).

(125) *Registration Rights Agreement* a Registration Rights Agreement having the terms set forth in Exhibit E hereto and such other terms as are reasonably and mutually acceptable to the Investor and the Company.

(126) *Release* means any releasing, disposing, discharging, injecting, spilling, leaking, leaching, pumping, dumping, emitting, escaping, emptying, seeping, dispersal, migration, transporting, placing and the like, including without limitation, the moving of any materials through, into or upon, any land, soil, surface water, groundwater or air, or otherwise entering into the indoor or outdoor environment.

(127) *Representatives* has the meaning set forth in Section 16.

(128) *Requisite Acceptances* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(p)(i).

(129) *Restructuring* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(130) *Restructuring Deadline* means the date on which the Requisite Acceptances have been received and the Offer has expired pursuant to Section 6(d)(i) hereof.

(131) *Schedule TO* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(y).

(132) *SEC Reports* has the meaning set forth in Section 4.

(133) *Securities* has the meaning set forth in Section 5(a)(i).

(134) *Securities Act* means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

(135) *Series B Preferred Shares* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(136) *Series B Preferred Stock* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(137) *Series B Preferred Stock CoD* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(138) *Software* means all computer software, including but not limited to, application software, system software and firmware, including all source code and object code versions thereof, in any and all forms and media, and all related documentation.

(139) *Solicitation* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(140) *Solicitation Materials* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

(141) *SOX* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(e)(viii).

(142) *Stockholders Agreement* means a Stockholders Agreement substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C.

(143) *Subsidiary* means, with respect to any Person, any corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company or other entity of which a majority of the voting securities or other voting interests, or a majority of the securities or other interests of which having by their terms ordinary voting power to elect a majority of the board of directors or persons performing similar functions with respect to such entity, is, directly or indirectly, owned by such Person and/or one or more Subsidiaries thereof.

B-46

Table of Contents

- (144) *Superior Lender Proposal* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(vi)(C).
- (145) *Superior Proposal* has the meaning set forth in Section 6(k)(vi)(D).
- (146) *Tax Returns* means any and all reports, returns, declarations, disclosures, or statements supplied or required to be supplied to a taxing authority in connection with Taxes, including any schedule, attachment or amendment thereto.
- (147) *Taxes* means any and all federal, state, local or foreign taxes, imposts, levies or other like assessments, including all net income, gross receipts, capital, sales, use, ad valorem, value added, transfer, franchise, profits, inventory, capital stock, license, withholding, payroll, employment, social security, unemployment, excise, severance, stamp, occupation, property and estimated taxes, customs duties, and other taxes of any kind whatsoever, including any and all interest, penalties, additions to tax or additional amounts imposed by any Governmental Entity in connection or with respect thereto, in all cases whether disputed or not.
- (148) *Tender Closing Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(y).
- (149) *Tender Date* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(y).
- (150) *Term Lenders* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (151) *Term Loan Refinancing* has the meaning set forth in the Recitals.
- (152) *Termination Fee* means \$8,250,000.
- (153) *Third Party Claim* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(c).
- (154) *Threshold Amount* has the meaning set forth in Section 7(d)(ii).
- (155) *Trade Secrets* means all inventions, processes, designs, formulae, trade secrets, know-how, ideas, research and development, data, databases and confidential information.
- (156) *Transaction Documents* refers (a) if the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, collectively to this Agreement, the Stockholders Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement, the Series B Preferred Stock CoD, the ABL Agreement, the Amended Credit Agreement and the Ancillary Refinancing Documents (b) if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, the Prepackaged Plan and Exhibit I to the Prepackaged Plan.
- (157) *Transaction Expenses* means all out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by the Investor or on its behalf in connection with the Investor's due diligence on the Company, the negotiation, preparation, execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the other Transaction Documents and the undertaking, structuring and consummation of the Transactions (including, without limitation, in connection with obtaining the consents, approvals, authorizations of or delivering any notices or filings in connection therewith to, Governmental Entities necessary in connection with the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, the other Transaction Documents or the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby), including, without limitation, fees and expenses of legal, accounting and financial advisors, up to a maximum of (i) with respect to Section 2(g), \$14,500,000 and (ii) with respect to Section 8(b) and Section 8(c), \$9,500,000 in the aggregate.

(158) *Transactions* refers (a) if the Restructuring is not being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, collectively to this Agreement, the transactions contemplated hereby to take place on or before the Closing Date, including, without limitation, the Investment and the Offer, the other Transaction Documents and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be) and the ABL Financing (or the Alternative ABL Financing, as the case may be) but excluding the transactions contemplated by the Prepackaged Plan and (b) if the Restructuring is being effectuated through the confirmation of the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, the transactions contemplated by the Prepackaged Plan.

B-47

Table of Contents

(159) *Unrestricted Cash* means aggregate cash and cash equivalents excluding any cash or cash equivalents that are used in the determination of the borrowing base under the ABL Agreement.

(160) *Voting Debt* has the meaning set forth in Section 4(b).

Section 10. *Survival of Representations, Warranties and Agreements.* Each of the representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement (or in any instrument delivered pursuant hereto) shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Closing but only for a period of twelve (12) months following the Closing Date and thereafter shall expire and have no further force and effect; provided that the representations and warranties set forth in Section 4(a), Section 4(b), Section 4(d), Section 4(w), Section 4(x) and Section 5(a) and Section 5(c) (collectively, the Fundamental Representations) and any corresponding representations and warranties in any instrument delivered pursuant hereto, shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Closing indefinitely or until the latest date permitted by law. Except as otherwise provided herein, all covenants and agreements contained herein shall survive for the duration of any statutes of limitations applicable thereto or until, by their respective terms, they are no longer operative. Notwithstanding the preceding sentences, any breach of representation, warranty, covenant or agreement in respect of which indemnity may be sought under this Agreement shall survive the time at which it would otherwise terminate pursuant to the preceding sentences, if notice of the inaccuracy or breach thereof giving rise to such right of indemnity shall have been given to the party against whom such indemnity may be sought prior to such time. The Confidentiality Agreement will survive termination of this Agreement in accordance with its terms.

Section 11. *Notices.* Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices, requests, claims, demands, waivers and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered by hand or overnight courier service, or when received by facsimile transmission if promptly confirmed, as follows:

(a) if to the Company, to it at:

NCI Building Systems, Inc.
Attention: General Counsel
10943 North Sam Houston Parkway West
Houston, Texas 77064
Fax: (281) 477-9674

with a copy to (which shall not constitute notice):

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Attention: Mark Gordon
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019
Fax: (212) 403-2000

(b) if to the Investor, to it at:

Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund VIII, L.P.
c/o Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc.
Attention: Theresa Gore
375 Park Avenue, 18th Floor
New York NY 10152
Fax: (212) 407-5252

with a copy to (which shall not constitute notice):

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attention: Franci J. Blassberg
Fax: (212) 909-6836

B-48

Table of Contents

or to such other address, facsimile number or telephone as either party may, from time to time, designate in a written notice given in a like manner.

Section 12. Successors and Assigns. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be assigned by any of the parties hereto, in whole or in part (whether by operation of law or otherwise), without the prior written consent of each of the other parties; provided that, following the Closing, the Company may assign the rights and obligations under this Agreement to a successor and the Investor may, without the prior written consent of the Company, assign all or a portion of its rights and obligations to purchase shares of Series B Preferred Stock at the Closing to one or more parallel or co-invest vehicles under common control or management with the Investor (each assignee parallel or co-invest vehicles, a Permitted Investor Assignee), in which case such parallel or co-invest vehicle(s) shall become party to this Agreement by execution of a joinder hereto and each such parallel or co-invest vehicle shall thereafter be included in the term Investor with respect to such rights; provided, further, that any assignment pursuant to the preceding proviso shall not relieve the assigning Investor of its obligations to purchase shares of Series B Preferred Stock at the Closing until the Closing has occurred and the assignee has funded its obligation to purchase Series B Preferred Stock hereunder. The number of Permitted Investor Assignees shall not exceed two (2). Subject to the first and second sentences of this Section 12, this Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties and their respective successors and assigns. Any attempted assignment in violation of this Section 12 shall be void. For purposes of this Agreement, successor for any entity other than a natural person shall mean a successor to such entity as a result of such entity's merger, consolidation, sale of substantially all of its assets, or similar transaction.

Section 13. Amendments; Waiver. This Agreement may not be modified or amended except pursuant to an instrument in writing signed by the Company and the Investor. Any party may waive in whole or in part any benefit or right provided to it under this Agreement, such waiver being effective only if contained in a writing executed by the waiving party. No failure by any party to insist upon the strict performance of any covenant, duty, agreement or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or remedy consequent upon breach thereof shall constitute a waiver of any such breach or of any other covenant, duty, agreement or condition, nor shall any delay or omission of any party to exercise any right hereunder in any manner impair the exercise of any such right accruing to it thereafter.

Section 14. Headings. The descriptive headings of the several sections in this Agreement are for convenience only and do not constitute a part of this Agreement and shall not be deemed to limit or affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

Section 15. Severability. If any term or provision of this Agreement or any application thereof shall be declared or held invalid, illegal or unenforceable, in whole or in part, whether generally or in any particular jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed amended to the extent, but only to the extent, necessary to cure such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions, both generally and in every other jurisdiction, shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

Section 16. Liability Limitations.

(a) No former current or future director, officer, employee, incorporator, shareholder, managing member, member, manager, general partner, limited partner, stockholder, principal agent, other representative or Affiliate (collectively, Representatives) of any of the Investor or the Company and no former, current, or future Representative of any of the foregoing shall have any liability for any obligations of the Investor or the Company, as applicable, under this Agreement or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, the performance of the respective obligations of the Investor or the Company hereunder or the negotiation, execution or delivery of this Agreement whether by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding, or by virtue of any statute, regulation or other

applicable law or otherwise. Each party hereto hereby waives and releases all such liability. This waiver and release is a material inducement to each party's entry into this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, (i) in no event shall the Investor's aggregate liability under this Agreement in connection with a failure by the Investor to close on the Investment in violation of this Agreement exceed an amount equal to the Aggregate Purchase Price (Liability Cap) and (ii) in no event shall the Investor be liable for any consequential, incidental, indirect or punitive damages. In addition, the Investor shall not be liable for diminution of value, loss of business opportunity or loss of future revenue, income or profits (except to the extent

B-49

Table of Contents

that such items constitute direct damages sought by the Company for breach of contract rather than indirect or consequential damages (subject to the limitations in clause (i) of this sentence)).

(b) In the event that the Company or any of its Affiliates (i) asserts in any Litigation that the provisions of this Section 16 are illegal, invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part, or that the Investor is liable under this Agreement in connection with a failure by the Investor to close on the Investment in violation of this Agreement in excess of the Liability Cap or (ii) asserts any theory of liability against any of the Investor's Representatives or any Representative of Investor's Representatives with respect to the performance of the obligations of the Investor hereunder or the negotiation, execution or delivery of this Agreement, then none of the Investor, any Representative of the Investor or any Representative of the Investor's Representatives shall have any liability to the Company or any of its Affiliates with respect to the performance of the obligations of the Investor hereunder, including in connection with a failure by the Investor to close on the Investment in violation of this Agreement, or the negotiation, execution or delivery of this Agreement.

Section 17. Integration. This Agreement, the Confidentiality Agreement, the other Transaction Documents and the schedules and exhibits attached to any such documents constitute the entire agreement and understanding between the Company and the Investor with respect to the matters referred to herein and supersede all prior agreements (but not any even-dated agreements), understandings or representations, in each case among the parties, with respect to such matters.

Section 18. Governing Law. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of Delaware applicable to contracts made and to be performed within the State of Delaware, without giving effect to conflicts of law rules that would require or permit the application of the laws of another jurisdiction.

Section 19. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

Section 20. Access; Information. From the date hereof until the Closing Date or the termination of this Agreement, the Company hereby agrees that it shall ensure that upon reasonable notice, the Company and its Subsidiaries (i) will afford to the Investor and its representatives (including, without limitation, officers and employees of the Investor, and counsel, accountants and other professionals retained by the Investor) such reasonable access during normal business hours to its books, records (including, without limitation, Tax Returns and appropriate work papers of independent auditors under normal professional courtesy), properties, personnel (but not including directors who are not employees of the Company), accountants and other professional retained by the Company and to such other information as such Investor may reasonably request; (ii) will furnish the Investor such financial and operating data and other information with respect to the business and properties of the Company as the Company prepares and compiles for members of its Board in the ordinary course and as such Investor may from time to time reasonably request; and (iii) permit such Investor to discuss the affairs, finances and accounts of the Company, and to furnish advice with respect thereto, with the principal officers of the Company within thirty days after the end of each fiscal quarter of the Company. All requests for access and information shall be coordinated through senior corporate officers of the Company. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Company shall not be required to afford such access if it would unreasonably disrupt the operations of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, would cause a violation of any agreement to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is a party, would cause a loss of privilege to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or would constitute a violation of any applicable Law, nor shall Investor or any of its representatives be permitted to perform any onsite procedure with respect to any property of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

Section 21. Publicity. On the date hereof, the Company shall issue a press release substantially in the form of Exhibit F hereto. No other written public release or written announcement concerning the execution of this Agreement or concerning any of the Transactions shall be issued by any party without the prior written consent of the other party

(which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), except as such release or announcement may be required by Law or the rules or regulations of any securities exchange, in which case the party required to make the release or announcement shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, allow the other party reasonable time to comment on such release or announcement in advance of such issuance. The provisions of this Section 21 shall not restrict the ability of a party to summarize or describe the Transactions contemplated by this Agreement in any

B-50

Table of Contents

prospectus or similar offering document so long as the other party is provided a reasonable opportunity to review such disclosure in advance.

Section 22. Confidentiality Agreement. The Investor will treat as strictly confidential all information provided to it by or on behalf of the Company in connection with the matters contemplated hereby in accordance with the Confidentiality Agreement, dated December 23, 2008, by and between the Company and CD&R Inc. (the Confidentiality Agreement).

Section 23. Specific Performance; Jurisdiction.

(a) The parties agree that irreparable damage would occur for which money damages would not suffice in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached and that the parties would not have any adequate remedy at Law. It is accordingly agreed that the non-breaching party shall be entitled to an injunction, temporary restraining order or other equitable relief exclusively (i) if the Company has commenced a case under the Bankruptcy Code, in the Bankruptcy Court or (ii) if the Company has not commenced a case under the Bankruptcy Code, in the Delaware Court of Chancery enjoining any such breach and enforcing specifically the terms and provisions hereof, or in the event (but only in the event) that such court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over such action or proceeding, in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware or another court sitting in the state of Delaware. The foregoing is in addition to any other remedy to which any party is entitled at Law, in equity or otherwise.

(b) Each of the parties hereto irrevocably agrees that any legal action or proceeding with respect to this Agreement and the rights and obligations arising hereunder, or for recognition and enforcement of any judgment in respect of this Agreement and the rights and obligations arising hereunder brought by the other party hereto or its successors or assigns shall be brought and determined exclusively (i) if the Company has commenced a case under the Bankruptcy Code, in the Bankruptcy Court or (ii) if the Company has not commenced a case under the Bankruptcy Code, in the Delaware Court of Chancery, or in the event (but only in the event) that such court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over such action or proceeding, in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware or another court sitting in the state of Delaware. Each of the parties hereto hereby irrevocably submits with regard to any such action or proceeding for itself and in respect of its property, generally and unconditionally, to the personal jurisdiction of the aforesaid courts and agrees that it will not bring any action relating to this Agreement or any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement in any court other than the aforesaid courts. Each of the parties hereto hereby irrevocably waives, and agrees not to assert, by way of motion, as a defense, counterclaim or otherwise, in any action or proceeding with respect to this Agreement, (i) any claim that it is not personally subject to the jurisdiction of the above-named courts for any reason other than the failure to serve in accordance with this Section 23, (ii) any claim that it or its property is exempt or immune from jurisdiction of any such court or from any legal process commenced in such courts (whether through service of notice, attachment prior to judgment, attachment in aid of execution of judgment, execution of judgment or otherwise) and (iii) to the fullest extent permitted by the applicable Law, any claim that (A) the suit, action or proceeding in such court is brought in an inconvenient forum, (B) the venue of such suit, action or proceeding is improper or (C) this Agreement, or the subject matter hereof, may not be enforced in or by such courts.

(c) Each of the parties hereto irrevocably consents to the service of any summons and complaint and any other process in any other action relating to this Agreement, on behalf of itself or its property, by the personal delivery of copies of such process to such party or by sending or delivering a copy of the process to the party to be served at the address and in the manner provided for the giving of notices in Section 11. Nothing in this Section 23 shall affect the right of any party hereto to serve legal process in any other manner permitted by Law.

Section 24. Waiver of Jury Trial. Each party hereby waives, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any right it may have to a trial by jury in respect of any suit, action or other proceeding arising out of this Agreement or any transaction contemplated hereby. Each party (i) certifies and acknowledges that no representative, agent or attorney of any other party has represented, expressly or otherwise, that such other party would not, in the event of litigation, seek to enforce the foregoing waiver, and (ii) acknowledges that it understands and has considered the implications of this waiver and makes this waiver voluntarily, and that it and the other parties have been induced to enter into the Agreement by, among other things, the mutual waivers and certifications in this Section 24.

B-51

Table of Contents

Section 25. *Interpretation.*

(a) When a reference is made in this Agreement to a Section, such reference shall be to a Section of this Agreement unless otherwise indicated. Whenever the words include, includes or including are used in this Agreement, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words without limitation. The words hereof, herein and hereunder and words of similar import when used in this Agreement shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement. The word or shall be deemed to mean and/or. All terms defined in this Agreement shall have the defined meanings when used in any certificate or other document made or delivered pursuant thereto unless otherwise defined therein. The definitions contained in this Agreement are applicable to the singular as well as the plural forms of such terms and to the masculine as well as to the feminine and neuter genders of such term. Any agreement, instrument or statute defined or referred to herein or in any agreement or instrument that is referred to herein means such agreement, instrument or statute as from time to time amended, modified or supplemented, including (in the case of agreements or instruments) by waiver or consent and (in the case of statutes) by succession of comparable successor statutes and references to all attachments thereto and instruments incorporated therein. Each of the parties has participated in the drafting and negotiation of this Agreement. If an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises, this Agreement must be construed as if it is drafted by all the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any party by virtue of authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

(b) It is understood and agreed that in each instance in which, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, the Investor is entitled to act in the Investor's sole discretion (exercised in good faith), or otherwise act in good faith, good faith shall not prevent the Investor from acting in its own interests as a prospective shareholder of the Company, but shall require that the Investor refrain from engaging in arbitrary or commercially unreasonable conduct having as its purpose (as opposed to its possible result) avoiding closing under this Agreement.

Section 26. *No Third Party Beneficiaries.* Nothing in this Agreement, expressed or implied, is intended to confer upon any Person, other than the parties hereto, permitted assignees of the Investor and their respective successors, any rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities under or by reason of this Agreement, except, solely with respect to the payment of the payment of the Deal Fee in accordance with Section 2(g), CD&R Inc. and the provisions of Section 6(d)(ii), Section 7 and Section 16 shall inure to the benefit of the persons referred to in such Sections.

Section 27. *Certain Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy.* It is the intention of the parties hereto that this Agreement be enforceable in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding, and in furtherance of this intent the Investor and the Company each hereby waive, to the fullest extent permissible under law, the provisions of Section 365(c)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Table of Contents

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between us by signing in the space provided below for that purpose.

CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

By: CD&R Associates VIII, Ltd., its general partner

By: /s/ Theresa A. Gore

Name: Theresa A. Gore

Title: Vice President, Treasurer and

Assistant Secretary

B-53

Table of Contents

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

Name: Norman C. Chambers

By: /s/ Norman C. Chambers

Title: Chief Executive Officer

B-54

Table of Contents

Annex C

**AMENDMENT
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.**

Dated as of August 28, 2009

Table of Contents

**AMENDMENT
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT**

This AMENDMENT (this Amendment), dated as of August 28, 2009, to the Investment Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009 (the Investment Agreement), by and between NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., a Delaware corporation, and CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (the Investor).

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the Investment Agreement provides for the amendment of the Investment Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth therein;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to amend the Investment Agreement to provide (A) that the commencement of the Offer and of the solicitation for acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan be on or prior to 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 9, 2009, rather than prior to the open of business on the date that is the tenth Business Day after the date of the Investment Agreement and (B) for certain other matters set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Investment Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions; References. Unless otherwise specifically defined herein, each term used herein shall have the meaning assigned to such term in the Investment Agreement. Each reference in the Investment Agreement to hereof, herein, hereunder, hereby, hereto and this Agreement shall, from and after the date hereof, refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment, and each reference in the Transaction Documents (other than the Investment Agreement) and in the Disclosure Letter to the Investment Agreement shall refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 6(d)(i). The first sentence of Section 6(d)(i) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

Provided that this Agreement shall not have been terminated in accordance with Section 8, the Company shall commence (within the meaning of Rule 13e-4(a)(4) promulgated under the Exchange Act) the Offer to purchase all of the Convertible Notes and solicit acceptances of the Prepackaged Plan with the Solicitation Materials on or prior to 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 9, 2009.

Section 3. Amendment to Section 6(k)(ii)(B). Each reference in Section 6(k)(ii)(B) of the Investment Agreement to September 30, 2009 is amended to refer to 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on the 10th Business day (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act) following the commencement of the Offer.

Section 4. Amendment to Section 6(k)(vi)(A). Section 6(k)(vi)(A) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

Company Transaction Proposal means any inquiry, proposal or offer from any person or group of persons other than the Investor or its Affiliates relating to any (1) direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of a business that constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or 20% or more of any class or series of equity securities (or any indebtedness or other obligation that is exchangeable for or convertible into any such security, or any other right to acquire any such security, contingent or otherwise) of the Company, or (2) any tender offer or exchange offer, merger, reorganization, restructuring, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, equity infusion or similar transaction involving the Company (or any Subsidiary or Subsidiaries of the Company whose business constitutes 20% or more of the net revenues, net income or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole) that if consummated would result in any person or group of persons beneficially owning 20% or more of the voting rights of any class or series of capital stock of the Company;

C-2

Table of Contents

Section 5. Amendment to Section 8(b). Section 8(b) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

In the event that (i) this Agreement is terminated (x) by the Company pursuant to Section 8(a)(v) or (y) by the Investor pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv)(A) or (ii) (A) this Agreement (1) is terminated pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv) (other than pursuant to Section 8(a)(iv)(A)) or pursuant to Section 8(a)(iii) and at the time of such termination the Investor was not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement or its representations and warranties contained in this Agreement or (2) is terminated pursuant to Section 8(a)(i) and at the time of such termination the conditions set forth in Section 3(a)(i) and Section 3(a)(ii) shall have been satisfied and the Investor was not in material breach of any of its material covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement or its representations and warranties contained in this Agreement and (B) the Company enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates, a transaction contemplated by any Qualifying Transaction within twelve months of the date this Agreement is terminated, then the Company shall pay the Termination Fee and the Company shall reimburse the Investor for all of the Transaction Expenses (net of any amounts previously paid or reimbursed pursuant to Section 8(c) and net of the Pre-Signing Expenses that have been previously paid or reimbursed by the Company), to the accounts specified on Schedule 8(b) hereto, with such Termination Fee being paid (I) at or prior to the time of termination in the case of a termination pursuant to Section 8(a)(v) or (II) on the earlier of entering into a definitive agreement with respect to or consummating a transaction contemplated by a Qualifying Transaction in the case of a termination for any of the reasons specified in clause (ii) of this paragraph and, in each case, such Transaction Expenses paid not later than two (2) Business Days after submission of reasonable supporting documentation thereof. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, in no event shall the Company be required to pay the Termination Fee on more than one occasion.

Section 6. Amendment to Section 8(d). The final sentence of Section 8(d) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

Following payment of the Termination Fee and/or Transaction Expenses, if, as and when provided for in Section 8(b) or Section 8(c), the Company shall have no further liability to Investor of any nature or for any reason under this Agreement other than pursuant to Section 7(a)(iii) and other than liability arising out of or related to the willful breach of this Agreement on the part of the Company.

Section 7. No Further Amendment. Except as expressly amended hereby, the Investment Agreement is in all respects ratified and confirmed and all the terms, conditions, and provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. This Amendment is limited precisely as written and shall not be deemed to be an amendment to any other term or condition of the Investment Agreement or any of the documents referred to therein.

Section 8. Effect of Amendment. This Amendment shall form a part of the Investment Agreement for all purposes, and each party thereto and hereto shall be bound hereby. From and after the execution of this Amendment by the parties hereto, any reference to the Investment Agreement shall be deemed a reference to the Investment Agreement as amended hereby. This Amendment shall be deemed to be in full force and effect from and after the execution of this Amendment by the parties hereto.

Section 9. Miscellaneous. Section 12 (Successors and Assign); Section 13 (Amendments; Waiver); Section 14 (Headings); Section 15 (Severability); Section 16 (Liability Limitations); Section 17 (Integration); Section 18 (Governing Law); Section 19 (Counterparts); Section 23 (Specific Performance; Jurisdiction); Section 24 (Waiver of Jury Trial); Section 25 (Interpretation); Section 26 (No Third Party Beneficiaries); and Section 27 (Certain Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy) of the Investment Agreement shall apply to this Amendment, *mutatis mutandis*.

[Signature Page Follows]

C-3

Table of Contents

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between us by signing in the space provided below for that purpose.

CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

By: CD&R Associates VIII, Ltd., its general partner

By: /s/ Theresa A. Gore

Name: Theresa A. Gore

Title: Vice President, Treasurer and

Assistant Secretary

[Signature Page to the Amendment to the Investment Agreement]

C-4

Table of Contents

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ Todd R. Moore

Name: Todd R. Moore

Title: Executive Vice President, General

Counsel and Secretary

[Signature Page to the Amendment to the Investment Agreement]

C-5

Table of Contents

Annex D

**AMENDMENT No. 2
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.**

Dated as of August 31, 2009

Table of Contents

**AMENDMENT No. 2
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT**

This AMENDMENT No. 2 (this Amendment No. 2), dated as of August 31, 2009, to the Investment Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009, by and between NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., a Delaware corporation, and CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (the Investor), as amended by that Amendment, dated August 28, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor (as so amended, the Investment Agreement).

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the Investment Agreement provides for the amendment of the Investment Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth therein;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to amend the Investment Agreement to provide that the Offer (as defined in the Investment Agreement) be commenced and conducted on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth on an amended Annex A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Investment Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions; References. Unless otherwise specifically defined herein, each term used herein shall have the meaning assigned to such term in the Investment Agreement. Each reference in the Investment Agreement to hereof, herein, hereunder, hereby, hereto and this Agreement shall, from and after the date hereof, refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 2, and each reference in the Transaction Documents (other than the Investment Agreement) and in the Disclosure Letter to the Investment Agreement shall refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 2.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 3(c)(xii). The first sentence of Section 3(c)(xii) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

To the extent that the Company has authorized and unissued shares of Common Stock sufficient to permit the conversion of all or a portion of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to be issued at the Closing, (A) such shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock shall have been duly authorized for listing, subject to official notice of issuance, on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted and (B) the number of such shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock that are so duly authorized for listing shall be no less than 7,800,000.

Section 3. Amendment to Section 4. The beginning paragraph of Section 4 of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended by inserting the following language immediately prior to the proviso:

, and as contemplated by that Lock-Up and Voting Agreement, dated August 31, 2009, by and among the Company and the other signatories thereto,

Section 4. Amendment to Section 4(i). The last sentence of Section 4(i) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

As of the Closing Date, 7,800,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock will have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action and when so issued will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, will not subject the holders thereof to personal liability, will not be subject to preemptive rights of any stockholder of the Company and will be free of restrictions on transfer other than restrictions on transfer under the Transaction Documents and under applicable state and federal securities laws.

Section 5. Amendment to Section 6(b)(i). The first sentence of Section 6(b)(i) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended by inserting the following language between Except as otherwise expressly permitted or
D-1

Table of Contents

required by the Transaction Documents or otherwise consented to by Investor, and permitted by Section 6(k), contemplated by Section 6(p) or as set forth on Section 6(b) of the Disclosure Letter and subject to the terms and upon the conditions therein,

contemplated by that Lock-Up and Voting Agreement, dated August 31, 2009, by and among the Company and the other signatories thereto,

Section 6. Amendment to Section 9(85). The definition of Initial Expiration Date in Section 9(85) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

Initial Expiration Date means 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on the 20th business day (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act) following the commencement of the Offer; provided, that if the Offer Condition set forth in clause (3) under the caption Conditions to the Offer set forth in Annex A hereto has not been satisfied by 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on the 20th business day (as defined in Rule 14d-1 under the Exchange Act) following the commencement of the Offer, the Company shall, subject to the provisions of Section 8(a), extend the Offer until the Offer Condition set forth in clause (3) under the caption Conditions to the Offer set forth in Annex A hereto has been satisfied and the Initial Expiration Date shall mean the first scheduled expiration date following the date on which such Offer Condition shall have been satisfied.

Section 7. Amendment to Exhibit B. Exhibit B to the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as Exhibit B attached hereto.

Section 8. Amendment to Exhibit I. The row with the heading Claims Under Convertible Notes in Exhibit I to the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

Claims Under Convertible Notes: Impaired; entitled to vote. Holders of Convertible Notes shall receive, on the Effective Date, in consideration of their claims (including accrued interest), cash and common stock in amounts calculated as follows: for each \$1,000 of principal amount of Convertible Notes held by them a) cash in an amount equal to \$500 and b) 390 shares of common stock of the reorganized Company.

Section 9. Amendment to Annex A. Annex A to the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as Annex A attached hereto.

Section 10. No Further Amendment. Except as expressly amended hereby, the Investment Agreement is in all respects ratified and confirmed and all the terms, conditions, and provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. This Amendment is limited precisely as written and shall not be deemed to be an amendment to any other term or condition of the Investment Agreement or any of the documents referred to therein.

Section 11. Effect of Amendment. This Amendment No. 2 shall form a part of the Investment Agreement for all purposes, and each party thereto and hereto shall be bound hereby. From and after the execution of this Amendment No. 2 by the parties hereto, any reference to the Investment Agreement shall be deemed a reference to the Investment Agreement as amended hereby. This Amendment No. 2 shall be deemed to be in full force and effect from and after the execution of this Amendment No. 2 by the parties hereto.

Section 12. Miscellaneous. Section 12 (Successors and Assign); Section 13 (Amendments; Waiver); Section 14 (Headings); Section 15 (Severability); Section 16 (Liability Limitations); Section 17 (Integration); Section 18 (Governing Law); Section 19 (Counterparts); Section 23 (Specific Performance; Jurisdiction); Section 24 (Waiver of Jury Trial); Section 25 (Interpretation); Section 26 (No Third Party Beneficiaries); and Section 27 (Certain

Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy) of the Investment Agreement shall apply to this Amendment No. 2, *mutatis mutandis*.

[Signature Page Follows]

D-2

Table of Contents

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between us by signing in the space provided below for that purpose.

CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

By: CD&R Associates VIII, Ltd., its general partner

By: /s/ Theresa A. Gore

Name: Theresa A. Gore

Title: Vice President, Treasurer and

Assistant Secretary

[Signature Page to the Amendment No. 2 to the Investment Agreement]

D-3

Table of Contents

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ Norman C. Chambers

Name: Norman C. Chambers

Title: Chief Executive Officer

[Signature Page to the Amendment No. 2 to the Investment Agreement]

D-4

Table of Contents

Annex A

Terms and Conditions of the Offer

Section 1. Terms of the Offer.

Transaction:	Exchange offer to any and all holders of the Convertible Notes.
Type of Offer:	Registered with the Commission on Form S-4 and filed with the Commission on Schedule TO.
Pricing:	Tendering holders shall receive, for each \$1,000 of principal amount Convertible Notes surrendered for exchange, a combination of (A) \$500.00, in cash, and (B) 390 shares of Common Stock of the Company.
Launch Date:	On or prior to 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 9, 2009.
Expiration Date:	The Initial Expiration Date, extended as provided in Section 6(d)(i) of the Agreement.
Withdrawal Rights:	Tendering holders may withdraw tendered Convertible Notes at any time prior to the Expiration Date.
Settlement:	The Closing Date.
Exchange Offer Materials:	Schedule TO, the Form S-4, the Offer Documents and the Required Company Filings, subject to Section 6(d)(iii) of the Agreement.

Section 2. Conditions to the Offer.

The Company's obligation to accept for exchange Convertible Notes in the Offer shall be conditioned upon satisfaction of each of the following conditions at the expiration of the Offer (collectively, the Offer Conditions):

- (1) At least 95% of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Convertible Notes must have been validly tendered and not withdrawn prior to the expiration of the Offer (the Minimum Condition).
- (2) The Company shall have received the proceeds from the Investment.
- (3) The Form S-4 shall have become effective and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Form S-4 shall have been instituted by the SEC.
- (4) No provision of any applicable Law and no Order prohibit consummation of the Offer.

AMENDMENT No. 3
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

Dated as of October 8, 2009

Table of Contents

**AMENDMENT No. 3
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT**

This AMENDMENT No. 3 (this Amendment No. 3), dated as of October 8, 2009, to the Investment Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009, by and between NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., a Delaware corporation, and CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (the Investor), as amended by that Amendment, dated August 28, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor and by that Amendment No. 2, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor (as so amended, the Investment Agreement).

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the Investment Agreement provides for the amendment of the Investment Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Investment Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions; References. Unless otherwise specifically defined herein, each term used herein shall have the meaning assigned to such term in the Investment Agreement. Each reference in the Investment Agreement to hereof, herein, hereunder, hereby, hereto and this Agreement shall, from and after the date hereof, refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 3, and each reference in the Transaction Documents (other than the Investment Agreement) and in the Disclosure Letter to the Investment Agreement shall refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 3.

Section 2. Addition of Exhibit J. A new Exhibit J is hereby added to the Investment Agreement in the form of Exhibit J attached hereto.

Section 3. Amendment to Section 9(74). The definition of Form of Amended Credit Agreement in Section 9(74) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated as follows:

(74) Form of Amended Credit Agreement means the form attached hereto as Exhibit A after giving effect to the matters referred to in Exhibit J, with such additions, modifications, alterations, corrections or other changes as the Investor deems advisable in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) (i) to add, provide or complete any schedule, annex, exhibit, numerical amount or other information that is omitted, missing or incomplete, or to modify, alter, correct or change (including without limitation by deleting or replacing) any wording that is in brackets, (ii) to cure any ambiguity, mistake, omission or defect, (iii) to cure any inconsistency, including with any other provision of the same agreement or of the ABL Agreement or any other Transaction Document, (iv) to address a material risk that (x) the Company will be unable to comply with the terms or conditions of the agreement or (y) by complying with the terms and conditions of the agreement the Company will be subject to a material risk of not complying with the terms and conditions of the ABL Agreement or any other Transaction Document, (v) to effect the intent evidenced by the form attached hereto as Exhibit A after giving effect to the matters referred to in Exhibit J or (vi) to avoid adverse tax consequences to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, in each case under clauses (i) through (vi) above, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith).

Section 4. Amendment to Section 3(c)(vi). The first sentence of Section 3(c)(vi) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated as follows:

The Company shall have duly authorized, executed and delivered the Amended Credit Agreement for the Term Loan Refinancing (or the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, as the case may be) (i) in the case of the Term Loan Refinancing, in the form of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement or (ii) in the case of the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, on terms and conditions that are (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement without giving effect to the matters referred to in Exhibit J, as determined by the Investor in

E-1

Table of Contents

its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith).

Section 5. Amendment to Section 6(g)(iii). Section 6(g)(iii) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated as follows:

(iii) In the event the Term Loan Refinancing is not available on the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement for any reason, the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts (and the Investor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Company in such efforts, including by actively assisting the Company in its negotiation of related definitive documentation) to amend and restate the terms of the Credit Agreement (A) on terms and conditions (x) that are no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement without giving effect to the matters referred to in Exhibit J, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise acceptable to the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith), and (B) to extend the maturity of \$150 million principal amount of the term loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement (an Alternative Term Loan Refinancing), as promptly as practicable but in any event no later than the Outside Date.

Section 6. Amendment to Section 6(q). Section 6(q) of the Investment Agreement is hereby amended and restated as follows:

At the request of the Investor, the Board shall approve (i) the Amended Credit Documents so long as (A) in the case of the Term Loan Refinancing, the Amended Credit Agreement is in the form of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement or (B) in the case of the Alternative Term Loan Refinancing, the Amended Credit Agreement is on terms and conditions that are (x) no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions contemplated in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement without giving effect to the matters referred to in Exhibit J, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) or (y) otherwise consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld; (ii) the ABL Documents so long as the ABL Agreement is on terms and conditions that are no less favorable (as to each item and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions summarized in the ABL Term Sheet, as determined by the Investor in its sole discretion (exercised in good faith) and are otherwise (1) consistent with and no less favorable to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of asset-based revolving credit financing transactions for companies sponsored by CD&R, Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or (2) consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld and (iii) the Ancillary Refinancing Agreements are consistent with and no less favorable (as to each item (other than immaterial items) and in the aggregate) to the Company and the Investor in its capacity as a prospective shareholder of the Company than the terms and conditions of the respective document or agreement for companies sponsored by CD&R, Inc., as determined by the Investor in its reasonable discretion (exercised in good faith), or consented to by the Company, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

Section 7. No Further Amendment. Except as expressly amended hereby, the Investment Agreement is in all respects ratified and confirmed and all the terms, conditions, and provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. This Amendment No. 3 is limited precisely as written and shall not be deemed to be an amendment to any other term or condition of the Investment Agreement or any of the documents referred to therein.

Section 8. Effect of Amendment. This Amendment No. 3 shall form a part of the Investment Agreement for all purposes, and each party thereto and hereto shall be bound hereby. From and after the execution of this Amendment

No. 3 by the parties hereto, any reference to the Investment Agreement shall be deemed a reference to the Investment Agreement as amended hereby. This Amendment No. 3 shall be deemed to be in full force and effect from and after the execution of this Amendment No. 3 by the parties hereto.

E-2

Table of Contents

*Section 9. Miscellaneous. Section 12 (Successors and Assign); Section 13 (Amendments; Waiver); Section 14 (Headings); Section 15 (Severability); Section 16 (Liability Limitations); Section 17 (Integration); Section 18 (Governing Law); Section 19 (Counterparts); Section 23 (Specific Performance; Jurisdiction); Section 24 (Waiver of Jury Trial); Section 25 (Interpretation); Section 26 (No Third Party Beneficiaries); and Section 27 (Certain Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy) of the Investment Agreement shall apply to this Amendment No. 3, *mutatis mutandis*.*

[Signature Page Follows]

E-3

Table of Contents

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between us by signing in the space provided below for that purpose.

CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

By: CD&R Associates VIII, Ltd., its general partner

By: /s/ Theresa A. Gore

Name: Theresa A. Gore

Title: Vice President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

[Signature Page to the Amendment No. 3 to the Investment Agreement]

E-4

Table of Contents

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ Norman C. Chambers

Name: Norman C. Chambers

Title: Chief Executive Officer

[Signature Page to the Amendment No. 3 to the Investment Agreement]

E-5

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT J

1. [Intentionally omitted]

2. The definition of the term Applicable Margin in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified (a) to substitute 5.00% per annum for 4.00% per annum with respect to ABR Loans, and 6.00% per annum for 5.00% per annum with respect to Eurocurrency Loans, respectively, in clause (i) thereof, and (b) to insert the phrase ending on or after October 30, 2011 after the phrase most recently completed fiscal quarter of the Borrower in clause (ii) thereof.

3. The following definition will be added to the Form of Amended Credit Agreement in appropriate alphabetical order:

2009 Tax Refund : any U.S. federal or state income tax refund received by the Borrower or any Subsidiary thereof (including the amount of such refund that would have been received by the Borrower or such Subsidiary but for being utilized to offset any tax liability otherwise payable by the Borrower or such Subsidiary) to the extent attributable to (and that would not have been so received but for) any carryback of net operating losses, capital losses, tax credits or similar tax attributes, if any, of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries for the taxable year ended on November 1, 2009 to any prior taxable year, provided that, for these purposes, (i) the amount of any state income tax refund shall be net of U.S. federal income tax cost thereof to the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries, (ii) a 2009 Tax Refund shall not include any refund of state income taxes as a result of an audit or examination of any tax return of the Borrower or any Subsidiary thereof and (iii) a 2009 Tax Refund shall not include any refund of U.S. federal income taxes as a result of an audit or examination of any tax return of the Borrower or any Subsidiary thereof unless the amount of such refund exceeds \$4,000,000.

Tax Refund Calculation Date: (i) each day on which the Borrower or any Subsidiary receives a 2009 Tax Refund of U.S. federal income taxes and (ii) the last day of any fiscal quarter of the Borrower if during such fiscal quarter the Borrower and its Subsidiaries have received 2009 Tax Refunds of state income taxes, in the aggregate, in excess of \$100,000, provided that if, during any fiscal quarter, the Borrower and its Subsidiaries have received 2009 Tax Refunds of state income taxes that, in the aggregate, do not exceed \$100,000, then the amount of such 2009 Tax Refunds received in such fiscal quarter shall be treated as being received by the Borrower and its Subsidiaries in the immediately following fiscal quarter for the purpose of this clause (ii).

4. The definition of Excess Cash Flow in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to delete the words plus (m) in the last line thereof and insert in lieu thereof the words minus (m) to the extent included in calculating EBITDA for such period, any 2009 Tax Refund or any portion thereof, plus (n).

5. Section 3.4(c) of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to renumber paragraph (iii) as paragraph (iv).

6. Section 3.4(c) of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to insert a new paragraph (iii) in numerical order as follows:

(iii) On or before the date (each such date, a Tax Refund Prepayment Date) that is 45 calendar days after each Tax Refund Calculation Date, the Borrower shall, in accordance with Section 3.4(d) and Section 3.4(e), prepay the Term Loans in an amount equal to the Tax Refund Prepayment Amount (if greater than zero) with respect to such Tax Refund Calculation Date. As used herein, the term Tax Refund Prepayment Amount with respect to any Tax Refund Calculation Date means the amount equal to the excess of (1) the greater of (x) \$10 million and (y) 50% of the aggregate amount of all 2009 Tax Refunds received by the Borrower and its Subsidiaries from the date of this Agreement to such Tax Refund Calculation Date over (2) the aggregate principal amount of Term Loans prepaid

pursuant to Section 3.4(a) (other than any principal amount of Term Loans so prepaid that has previously been applied by the Borrower pursuant to Section 3.4(c)(ii) to reduce the amount of any prepayment of Term Loans otherwise required pursuant to Section 3.4(c)(ii)), repurchased pursuant to Section 3.4(b) or prepaid pursuant to this Section 3.4(c)(iii), in each case from the date of this Agreement to the Tax Refund Prepayment Date corresponding to such Tax Refund Calculation Date.

Table of Contents

7. Section 3.4(c)(ii) will be modified to insert the phrase (other than any principal amount of Term Loans so prepaid that has previously been applied by the Borrower pursuant to Section 3.4(c)(iii) to reduce the amount of any prepayment of Term Loans otherwise required pursuant to Section 3.4(c)(iii)) after the phrase the aggregate principal amount of Term Loans prepaid pursuant to Section 3.4(a) where it appears twice in Section 3.4(c)(ii).

8. Article VI of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to add the following:

Section 6.11 2009 Tax Refund.

The Borrower shall use reasonable best efforts to obtain the maximum amount of any 2009 Tax Refund of U.S. federal income taxes and shall use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain any 2009 Tax Refund of state income taxes, in each case that is legally due to the Borrower or any Subsidiary thereof, as soon as reasonably practicable and based on positions determined by the Borrower in good faith and consistent with past practice of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries in the ordinary course, provided that this Section 6.11 shall not apply to any 2009 Tax Refund of state income taxes that, in the good faith judgment of the Borrower, is not expected to be greater than \$25,000, and provided, further, that neither the Borrower nor any Subsidiary thereof shall be required to file any tax return prior to the due date (taking into account applicable extensions) for filing such tax return.

9. Article VI of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to add a new affirmative covenant that will read as follows:

Section 6.12 Notice of Any ABL Refinancing.

If the Borrower shall have determined to replace or refinance the ABL Facility Agreement, the Borrower shall give notice to the Administrative Agent of such determination (and the Administrative Agent agrees to so notify the Lenders). The Lenders shall have an opportunity (for such period of time as the Borrower shall in good faith determine to be reasonable) to make a proposal to provide such replacement or refinancing of the ABL Facility Agreement, provided that (i) the Borrower shall not have any obligation to accept any such proposal or to enter into, continue or consummate any discussions, negotiations, understanding or agreement with any of the Lenders or any other Person with respect to any such proposal or any replacement or refinancing of the ABL Facility Agreement, (ii) if the Borrower elects to enter into any discussions or negotiations with any of the Lenders or any other Person with respect to any such proposal or any replacement or refinancing of the ABL Facility Agreement, the Borrower shall have the right in its sole discretion to suspend, discontinue or terminate such discussions or negotiations at any time or from time to time, and (iii) notwithstanding any other provision hereof, the Borrower shall not have any liability to any of the Lenders with respect to any fees, expenses or other obligations or liabilities that any of the Lenders or any other Person may incur in making any such proposal or in entering into or continuing any such discussions or negotiations.

10. Section 9.10 of the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to read as follows:

(a) Subject to the appointment of a successor as set forth herein, the Administrative Agent and the Collateral Agent may resign or be removed as Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, respectively, under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, as follows:

(i) The Administrative Agent and the Collateral Agent may resign as Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, respectively, upon 10 days notice to the Lenders and the Borrower.

(ii) If the Administrative Agent or the Collateral Agent is a Defaulting Lender or an Affiliate of a Defaulting Lender, either the Required Lenders or the Borrower may, upon 10 days notice to the Administrative Agent or Collateral

Agent, as applicable, remove such agent.

(iii) If an ABL Default Event shall have occurred and be continuing, and the Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, as applicable, is an Affiliate of or the same Person as the administrative agent or collateral agent under the ABL Facility Agreement, the Required Lenders may, upon 10 days notice to the Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, as applicable, remove such agent.

(b) If the Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent shall resign or be removed as Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, as applicable, under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, then the Required

E-7

Table of Contents

Lenders shall appoint from among the Lenders a successor agent for the Lenders, which successor agent shall be subject to approval by the Borrower, whereupon such successor agent shall succeed to the rights, powers and duties of the Administrative Agent or the Collateral Agent, as applicable, and the term "Administrative Agent" or "Collateral Agent," as applicable, shall mean such successor agent effective upon such appointment and approval, and the former Agent's rights, powers and duties as Administrative Agent or Collateral Agent, as applicable, shall be terminated, without any other or further act or deed on the part of such former Agent or any of the parties to this Agreement or any holders of the Term Loans. After any retiring Agent's resignation or removal as Agent, the provisions of this Article IX shall inure to its benefit as to any actions taken or omitted to be taken by it while it was Agent under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents. Additionally, after any retiring Agent's resignation as such Agent, the provisions of this Section shall inure to its benefit as to any actions taken or omitted to be taken by it while it was such Agent under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents.

(c) Any successor agent shall be subject to approval by the Borrower, which approval (i) shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed in the case of any successor agent that is a commercial bank with a combined capital and surplus of at least \$500,000,000 and (ii) may otherwise be withheld by the Borrower in its sole discretion. It is understood and agreed that the Borrower shall have no obligation to pay any fee to any successor agent that is greater than or in addition to the fees payable to the Administrative Agent on the date hereof.

11. The Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to include a definition of "ABL Default Event" that will provide that an ABL Default Event will have occurred if any of certain specified major events of default has occurred and is continuing, and the administrative agent or collateral agent under the ABL Facility Agreement shall have exercised any remedy provided for thereunder and shall not have rescinded such action (it being understood and agreed that the definitive wording of such definition shall be determined in accordance with the definition of the term "Form of Amended Credit Agreement," including clause (i) of such definition).

Table of Contents

Annex F

**AMENDMENT No. 4
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.**

Dated as of October 16, 2009

Table of Contents

**AMENDMENT No. 4
TO
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT**

This AMENDMENT No. 4 (this Amendment No. 4), dated as of October 16, 2009, to the Investment Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2009, by and between NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC., a Delaware corporation, and CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (the Investor), as amended by that Amendment, dated August 28, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor, by that Amendment No. 2, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor and by that Amendment No. 3, dated as of October 8, 2009, by and between the Company and the Investor (as so amended, the Investment Agreement).

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the Investment Agreement provides for the amendment of the Investment Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Investment Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions; References. Unless otherwise specifically defined herein, each term used herein shall have the meaning assigned to such term in the Investment Agreement. Each reference in the Investment Agreement to hereof, herein, hereunder, hereby, hereto and this Agreement shall, from and after the date hereof, refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 4, and each reference in the Transaction Documents (other than the Investment Agreement) and in the Disclosure Letter to the Investment Agreement shall refer to the Investment Agreement as amended by this Amendment No. 4.

Section 2. Amendment to Exhibit J. A new Item 12 is hereby added to Exhibit J to the Investment Agreement to read as follows:

12. If the Restructuring is effectuated other than (i) through the Prepackaged Plan in the Prepackaged Plan Proceeding or (ii) through any other Proceeding, the definition of the term Termination Date in the Form of Amended Credit Agreement will be modified to delete the words the fifth anniversary of and insert in lieu thereof the words the date that is four years and six months from.

Section 3. No Further Amendment. Except as expressly amended hereby, the Investment Agreement is in all respects ratified and confirmed and all the terms, conditions, and provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. This Amendment No. 4 is limited precisely as written and shall not be deemed to be an amendment to any other term or condition of the Investment Agreement or any of the documents referred to therein.

Section 4. Effect of Amendment. This Amendment No. 4 shall form a part of the Investment Agreement for all purposes, and each party thereto and hereto shall be bound hereby. From and after the execution of this Amendment No. 4 by the parties hereto, any reference to the Investment Agreement shall be deemed a reference to the Investment Agreement as amended hereby. This Amendment No. 4 shall be deemed to be in full force and effect from and after

the execution of this Amendment No. 4 by the parties hereto.

Section 5. *Miscellaneous*. Section 12 (Successors and Assign); Section 13 (Amendments; Waiver); Section 14 (Headings); Section 15 (Severability); Section 16 (Liability Limitations); Section 17 (Integration); Section 18 (Governing Law); Section 19 (Counterparts); Section 23 (Specific Performance; Jurisdiction); Section 24 (Waiver of Jury Trial); Section 25 (Interpretation); Section 26 (No Third Party Beneficiaries); and Section 27 (Certain Considerations Relating to Bankruptcy) of the Investment Agreement shall apply to this Amendment No. 4, *mutatis mutandis*.

[Signature Page Follows]

F-1

Table of Contents

Please confirm that the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between us by signing in the space provided below for that purpose.

CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.

By: CD&R Associates VIII, Ltd., its general partner

By: /s/ Theresa A. Gore

Name: Theresa A. Gore

Title: Vice President, Treasurer and

Assistant Secretary

[Signature Page to Amendment No. 4 to the Investment Agreement]

F-2

Table of Contents

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ Todd R. Moore

Name: Todd R. Moore

Title: Executive Vice President, General Counsel and
Secretary

[Signature Page to Amendment No. 4 to the Investment Agreement]

F-3

Table of Contents

Annex G

**FORM OF
STOCKHOLDERS AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
AND
CLAYTON, DUBILIER & RICE FUND VIII, L.P.
DATED AS OF [], 2009**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS	G-1
Section 1.1 Certain Definitions	G-1
ARTICLE II REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES	G-8
Section 2.1 Representations and Warranties of the Company	G-8
Section 2.2 Representations and Warranties of CD&R Fund VIII.	G-8
ARTICLE III GOVERNANCE MATTERS; VOTING; STANDSTILL PROVISIONS	G-9
Section 3.1 Board of Directors	G-9
Section 3.2 Voting	G-13
Section 3.3 Standstill and Other Restrictions	G-13
ARTICLE IV TRANSFER AND HEDGING RESTRICTIONS	G-14
Section 4.1 Transfer Restrictions	G-14
Section 4.2 Hedging Restrictions	G-16
ARTICLE V SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS	G-16
Section 5.1 Subscription Rights	G-16
Section 5.2 Notice	G-16
Section 5.3 Purchase Mechanism	G-17
Section 5.4 Failure to Purchase	G-17
Section 5.5 Certain Qualified Offerings	G-18
Section 5.6 Cooperation	G-18
Section 5.7 Limitation of Rights	G-18
Section 5.8 Termination of Subscription Rights	G-18
ARTICLE VI CONSENT RIGHTS	G-19
Section 6.1 Investor Consent Rights	G-19
Section 6.2 Certificate of Incorporation Amendments	G-20
ARTICLE VII EFFECTIVENESS AND TERMINATION	G-21
Section 7.1 Termination	G-21
ARTICLE VIII ACCESS, INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY	G-21
Section 8.1 Confidentiality	G-21
Section 8.2 Access and Information	G-22
ARTICLE IX MISCELLANEOUS	G-22
Section 9.1 Tax Matters	G-22
Section 9.2 Successors and Assigns	G-23
Section 9.3 Amendments; Waiver; Company Action	G-23
Section 9.4 Notices	G-24
Section 9.5 Governing Law	G-24

Section 9.6	Specific Performance; Jurisdiction	G-24
Section 9.7	Waiver of Jury Trial	G-25
Section 9.8	Headings	G-25
Section 9.9	Entire Agreement	G-25
Section 9.10	Severability	G-25
Section 9.11	Counterparts	G-25
Section 9.12	Interpretation	G-25
Section 9.13	No Third Party Beneficiaries	G-26
Section 9.14	Investor Portfolio Companies	G-26
Section 9.15	Conflicting Agreements	G-26

Table of Contents

THIS STOCKHOLDERS AGREEMENT (this Agreement), dated as of [], 2009, is made by and between NCI Building Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund VIII, L.P., a Cayman exempted limited partnership (CD&R Fund VIII¹).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Company (as herein defined) and CD&R Fund VIII have entered into an Investment Agreement, dated August 14, 2009 (as it may be amended from time to time, the Investment Agreement), pursuant to which CD&R Fund VIII purchased and acquired from the Company, and the Company issued and sold to CD&R Fund VIII (the Investment), shares (the Series B Preferred Shares) of a newly created series of preferred stock designated the Series B Cumulative Convertible Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share of the Company (the Series B Preferred Stock), which is convertible into shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share of the Company (the Common Stock); and

WHEREAS, the Investor (as defined herein) and the Company desire to set forth certain terms and conditions regarding the Investment and the ownership of the shares of the Series B Preferred Stock, including certain restrictions on the Transfer (as defined herein) of the Series B Preferred Stock and the Common Stock issuable upon conversion thereof and on certain actions of the Investor and its Affiliates with respect to the Company, and to provide for, among other things, subscription rights, corporate governance rights and consent rights and other obligations and rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the respective representations, warranties, covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1 Certain Definitions. In addition to other terms defined elsewhere in this Agreement, as used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them below. All terms used and not defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Investment Agreement.

10% Holder shall mean a Person or Group Beneficially Owning securities of the Company entitling such Person or Group to cast a number of votes in excess of 10% of the Aggregate Voting Power.

Affiliate shall mean, with respect to any Person, any other Person that directly, or through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by or is under common control with such Person. For purposes of this Agreement, control shall mean, as to any Person, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of such Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise (and the terms controlled by and under common control with shall have correlative meanings).

Affiliate Transactions shall mean any transactions between the Company and its Controlled Affiliates, on the one hand, and the Investor and its Affiliates (other than the Company and its Controlled Affiliates), on the other hand; provided, that none of the following shall constitute an Affiliate Transaction:

(i) acquisitions of securities, or payments, transactions, Board of Director rights, access rights, anti-dilution rights, registration rights, subscription rights and the other matters governed by this Agreement, the Investment Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement or the Series B Certificate, including, without limitation, the rights, powers and preferences of the Holders (as defined in the Series B Certificate) under the terms of the Series B Certificate;

(ii) customary compensation arrangements (whether in the form of cash or equity awards), expense reimbursement, D&O insurance coverage, and indemnification arrangements (and related advancement of expenses) in each case for Investor Directors and Board Observers; or

¹ This Form of Stockholders Agreement assumes that CD&R Fund VIII is the signatory under the Investment Agreement and that it has not assigned any portion of its rights and obligations under the Investment Agreement.

G-1

Table of Contents

(iii) transactions and arrangements in the ordinary course of business and on arm's length third-party terms with any portfolio company held or managed by the Investor or the Parent Controlled Affiliates and not involving in excess of \$1 million per annum with respect to any such portfolio company and \$5 million per annum with respect to all such portfolio companies.

Aggregate Voting Power means, as of any date, the number of votes that may be cast by all holders of Common Stock and all holders of Non-Common Voting Stock voting together as a single class on any matter on which the holders of Common Stock are entitled to vote.

Agreement shall have the meaning set forth in the Preamble.

Amended Credit Agreement shall mean the Amended Credit Agreement, as the same may be amended, supplemented, waived, restated, otherwise modified, extended, renewed, refinanced or replaced, in whole or in part, from time to time.

Amendment Recommendation shall have the meaning set forth in Section 6.2.

Authorized Stock Certificate Amendment means the amendment set forth in paragraph 1 of Exhibit A attached hereto.

Authorized Stock Stockholder Approval means the affirmative vote (in person or in proxy) by the holders of at least a majority in voting power of the outstanding shares of Common Stock voting as a separate class, at the Stockholders Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Stockholders Meeting, in favor of Authorized Stock Certificate Amendment.

Stockholders Meeting shall have the meaning set forth in Section 6.2.

Bankruptcy Exceptions shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.1(c).

Beneficially Own shall mean, with respect to any securities, having beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Rule 13d-3 or 13d-5 under the Exchange Act as in effect on the date hereof, and Beneficial Ownership shall have the corresponding meaning; provided, that the Investor and its Affiliates shall not be deemed to Beneficially Own any securities of the Company held or owned by an Investor Portfolio Company.

Board shall mean the Board of Directors the Company.

Board Observer shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.1(b)(iii).

Business Combination means (i) any reorganization, consolidation, merger, share exchange, tender or exchange offer or other business combination or similar transaction involving the Company with any Person or (ii) the sale, assignment, conveyance, transfer, exchange, lease or other disposition (including by liquidation or dissolution of the Company) by the Company of all or substantially all of its assets to any Person.

Business Day shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday in New York City or Houston, or any other day on which commercial banks in New York City or Houston are authorized or required by Law or government decree to close.

By-laws means the By-laws of the Company, as amended from time to time (subject to Section 6.1(a)(x)).

CD&R shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble.

CD&R Director shall mean any CD&R Nominee elected or appointed to the Board, from time to time, and the principals or partners of the Investor who are designated as such on Schedule 3.1(a).

CD&R Nominee shall mean a principal or partner of the Investor or Parent who is designated by the Investor in writing to the Company as a nominee for election to the Board, or is designated as a replacement director for appointment to the Board, pursuant to Section 3.1(b)(i) or Section 3.1(b)(ii).

Certificate of Incorporation shall mean the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended from time to time (subject to Section 6.1(a)(x)).

G-2

Table of Contents

Certificate of Incorporation Amendment shall have the meaning set forth in Section 6.2.

Change in Circumstances means an action taken with the consent of the Investor pursuant to Section 6.1(b) that causes Section 305(a) of the Code not to apply to any actual or deemed PIK Distribution.

Change of Control shall mean, with respect to the Company, the occurrence of any one of the following events:

- (i) any Person or Group (other than the Investor and its Affiliates) holds or acquires, directly or indirectly, a Voting Interest greater than 50%;
- (ii) the consummation of a Non-Qualified Business Combination; or
- (iii) the number of votes that can be cast by individuals, who are not Continuing Directors and who are nominated by any Person or Group other than the Investor and its Affiliates, constitute at least a majority of the aggregate number of votes that can be cast by all of the directors then on the Board.

Change of Control Event shall mean any of the following: (a) the Company executes definitive documentation for a transaction that will result in or has resulted in a Change of Control, (b) the Board approves, accepts or recommends to the stockholders of the Company a transaction that upon consummation will result in a Change of Control, (c) the stockholders of the Company approve a transaction that upon consummation will result in a Change of Control or (d) a Change of Control has been consummated; provided that no Change of Control Event shall be deemed to have occurred if (x) with respect to a Change of Control of the types set forth in clauses (i) and (ii) of the definition of Change of Control, at the time of the event or action set forth in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d) hereof, as applicable, (A) the Investor Voting Interest is equal to or greater than 45% and (B) the aggregate number of votes that the Investor Directors are entitled to cast do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that can be cast by all of the members of the Board of Directors or the aggregate number of votes that are cast by Investor Directors do not constitute a majority of the total number of votes that could be cast by the directors constituting the quorum granting such approval or recommendation of the consummation of such Non-Qualified Business Combination and (y) with respect to a Change of Control of the type set forth in clause (iii) of the definition of Change of Control, at the time of election of any such individual, the Investor Voting Interest is equal to or greater than 45%; provided that if the Investor Transfers any of the Investor Voting Interest and the effect thereof is to make an event or action which would not be a Change of Control Event prior to such Transfer into a Change of Control Event, such Transfer shall not be effective for purposes of determining whether a Change of Control Event has occurred.

Closing shall have the meaning assigned in the Investment Agreement.

Closing Date shall have the meaning assigned in the Investment Agreement.

Code shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Common Stock shall have the meaning set forth in the recitals hereto.

Company shall mean NCI Building Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its successors and assigns.

Company Default Event shall mean, at any time prior to an Investor Rights Termination Event, either of the following events:

- (i) the failure of any Investor Nominee to be elected to the Board within 45 calendar days following any annual or special meeting of stockholders of the Company at which such individual stood for election but was nevertheless not

elected, provided that there shall be no Company Default Event as a result of this clause (i) if such individual (or an alternate designated by the Investor) is elected or appointed to the Board (regardless of whether such individual accepts such appointment or complies with any obligations relating to such individual's appointment or service) prior to the expiration of such 45-day period; or

(ii) the removal of an Investor Director from the Board without cause other than by action, or at the request or direction, directly or indirectly, of the Investor.

Competitor shall mean any Person that manufactures, engineers, markets, sells or provides, within North America, (i) metal building systems or components (including, without limitation, primary and secondary framing

G-3

Table of Contents

systems, roofing panels and/or systems, end or side wall panels, sectional or roll-up doors, insulated metal panels, windows, or other metal components of a building structure), (ii) coated or painted steel or metal coils, or (iii) coil coating or coil painting services, and the engineering, marketing, selling and providing of the items referred to in clauses (i) (iii) in the aggregate either (x) is the primary business of such Person or (y) such Person and its Affiliates generated revenue from such items for the twelve (12) months comprising its most recently completed four fiscal quarters equal to or greater than 50% of the aggregate revenue of the Company during such period.

Continuing Directors shall mean (i) the directors who constitute the Initial Board, (ii) any person becoming a director subsequent to the date of this Agreement whose election or nomination for election was approved by the affirmative majority vote of the directors who are Continuing Directors at the time of such election or nomination (either by a specific vote or by approval of the proxy statement of the relevant party in which such person is named as a nominee for director, without written objection to such nomination), (iii) all Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors nominated or selected in accordance with Section 3.1(c)(ii) or (iii) hereof, and (iv) all Investor Directors, even if the individuals serving as Investor Directors should change.

Controlled Affiliate shall mean any Affiliate of the specified Person that is, directly or indirectly, controlled (as defined in the definition of Affiliate) by the specified Person.

Covered Securities shall mean any equity of the Company (including Common Stock, preferred stock or restricted stock), or any Equity Equivalents, in each case, other than Excluded Securities.

Designated Securities shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.2(a).

Determination shall have the meaning given thereto in Section 1313(a) of the Code.

Directed Offer means any so-called registered direct sale, block trade or other similar offering or Transfer that is not widely distributed.

Equity Equivalents shall mean any securities, options or debt of the Company that are convertible or exchangeable into equity of the Company (or securities, options or debt convertible into or exercisable therefor) or that include an equity component (such as an equity kicker) (including any hybrid security).

Exchange Act shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or any successor federal statute, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, all as amended, and as the same may be in effect from time to time.

Excluded Securities shall mean any securities that are (i) issued by the Company pursuant to any employment contract, employee or benefit plan, stock purchase plan, stock ownership plan, stock option or equity compensation plan or other similar plan, to or for the benefit of any employees (including new employees), officers or directors of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, (ii) issued by the Company in connection with business combinations, mergers, or acquisitions of assets or securities of another Person, or (iii) issued upon the conversion, exchange or exercise of any security or right or purchase obligation that either (x) is outstanding as of the date hereof in accordance with its terms as such terms exist as of the date hereof or (y) becomes outstanding after the date hereof if the security being converted, exchanged or exercised was issued after the date hereof and was a Covered Security at the time of its issuance.

Group shall mean any group as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

Hedge shall mean to enter into any agreement, arrangement, transaction or series of transactions, including any swap or any repurchase or similar so-called stock borrowing agreement or arrangement, that hedges, mitigates or

transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of Common Stock or any other security of the Company, or which provides, directly or indirectly, the opportunity to profit or share in any profit derived from any decrease in the price or value of the Common Stock or any other security of the Company, in each case regardless of whether any such agreement, arrangement transaction or series of transactions is to be settled by delivery of securities, in cash or otherwise.

Hedging Limitation Period shall mean the period from the date hereof until the later of (i) the 30-month anniversary of the Closing Date and (ii) the occurrence of an Investor Rights Termination Event.

G-4

Table of Contents

Independent Director shall mean a director who is (i) not an Affiliate of the Investor or of the Company and (ii) would qualify as an Independent Director pursuant to the listing standards of the NYSE, or, if the securities of the Company are not quoted or listed for trading on the NYSE, pursuant to the rules of the stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are then quoted or listed for trading, with respect to (x) the Investor and its Affiliates (as if such Persons were listed on the NYSE or such other stock exchange) and (y) to the Company (including that such individual has, and in the period starting three (3) years prior to the date of determination and ending on the date of determination, has had, no material relationship with either the Investor, its Affiliates or the Company (excluding such individual's service, if any, as a director on the board of (1) not more than one of the Investor's portfolio companies, or (2) the Company)).

Independent Non-Investor Directors shall mean the Independent Directors on the Board who are not Investor Directors.

Initial Board shall mean the directors who are members of the Board effective as of the Closing.

Investment Agreement shall have the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

Investor means CD&R and any Parent Controlled Affiliates that are either transferees or assignees of Series B Preferred Stock in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.1(a) and Section 9.2, respectively.

Investor Consent Action shall mean any of the actions of the Company requiring the consent of the Investor pursuant to Article VI.

Investor Director shall mean any Investor Nominee who is elected or appointed to the Board.

Investor Director Number shall mean a number of directors that is proportionate to the Investor Voting Interest, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Investor Independent Director shall mean any Investor Independent Nominee who is elected or appointed to the Board, from time to time, and the directors on the Initial Board who are designated as such on Schedule 3.1(a).

Investor Independent Nominee shall mean an individual who (i) is designated by the Investor in writing to the Company for election to the Board, or is designated as a replacement director for appointment to the Board, pursuant to Section 3.1(b)(i) or Section 3.1(b)(ii) and (ii) would be an Independent Director upon such individual's appointment or election to the Board.

Investor Nominee shall mean a CD&R Nominee, an Investor Independent Nominee or an Other Investor Nominee.

Investor Portfolio Company shall mean any portfolio company of Parent or the Investor with respect to which neither Parent, the Investor nor any of their respective Affiliates (excluding the portfolio company and its Controlled Affiliates) exercises control over investment decisions with respect to the Company's securities, or encouraged, influenced or facilitated any such decision or action by such portfolio company with respect to the Company's securities; provided, that (a) neither Parent, the Investor nor any of their respective Affiliates (excluding the portfolio company and its Controlled Affiliates) shall provide or have provided to such portfolio company or any of its Controlled Affiliates any non-public information concerning the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company and (b) such portfolio company is not acting at the request or direction of or in coordination with any of Parent, the Investor or any of their respective Controlled Affiliates (excluding the portfolio company and its Controlled Affiliates).

Investor Rights Period shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.1(b)(i).

Investor Rights Termination Event shall be deemed to have occurred if, at any time following the Closing Date, the Percentage Interest is less than 10%.

Investor Voting Interest shall mean, as of any date, with respect to the Investor, the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of (i) the aggregate number of votes that may be cast by holders of Common Stock and Non-Common Voting Stock Beneficially Owned by the Investor at the relevant time divided by (ii) the Aggregate Voting Power at the relevant time.

Table of Contents

Law shall mean applicable federal, state, local or foreign law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, judgment, order, injunction, decree or agency requirement of any United States or foreign governmental or regulatory agency, commission, court, body, entity, authority or self-regulatory organization.

Non-Common Voting Stock shall mean (i) Series B Preferred Stock and (ii) any other class or series of capital stock of the Company entitled to vote together with the Common Stock as a single class with respect to the election of directors to the Board.

Non-Qualified Business Combination shall mean a Business Combination that is not a Qualified Business Combination.

NYSE means the New York Stock Exchange.

Other Investor Director shall mean any Other Investor Nominee who is elected or appointed to the Board, from time to time, and the directors on the Initial Board who are designated as such on Schedule 3.1(a).

Other Investor Nominee shall mean an individual who (i) is designated by the Investor in writing to the Company for election to the Board, or is designated as a replacement director for appointment to the Board, pursuant to Section 3.1(b)(i) or Section 3.1(b)(ii), and (ii) is neither a CD&R Nominee nor an Investor Independent Nominee.

Parent shall mean any entity that is or performs the functions of, directly or indirectly, the managing member or general partner of the Investor or is the investment manager with respect to such entity and all such entities collectively.

Parent Controlled Affiliate shall mean Parent and any individuals that are partners, managing members or have similar titles with respect thereto, together with the Controlled Affiliates of any of them or of the Investor or any entity with respect to which Parent is the investment manager.

Percentage Interest shall mean, as of any date, the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of (i) the Investor Voting Interest as of such date (determined as if there had been no issuances of Common Stock or Non-Common Voting Stock following the Closing to any Person(s)) by (ii) the Investor Voting Interest immediately following the Closing.

Permitted Increase shall mean (i) an acquisition of Qualified Debt or (ii) an acquisition of securities of the Company or its Subsidiaries as the result of (A) the payment of dividends in kind in additional shares of Series B Preferred Stock pursuant to the Series B Certificate, (B) the exercise of subscription rights pursuant to Article V, (C) the adjustment of the Conversion Price (as defined in the Series B Certificate) pursuant to the terms of the Series B Certificate, (D) any repurchase or redemption of securities by the Company or (E) any other right of the Investor or transaction contemplated by this Agreement or the other Transaction Documents.

Permitted Third Party Transferee shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.1(b).

Person shall mean a legal person, including any individual, corporation, company, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, limited liability company or unincorporated association or any other entity or organization, including a government or any agency or political subdivision thereof, or any other entity of whatever nature.

PIK Distribution shall have the meaning set forth in Section 6.1(b).

Private Placement shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.2(b).

Proceeds means, for purposes of Section 6.1(a)(iii), the cash proceeds to the Company from the issuance or sale of any capital stock, other than options and warrants, plus, with respect to options and warrants, the aggregate exercise price and/or conversion price that would be received by the Company if all of such options were to be exercised or converted in full.

Proprietary Information shall have the meaning set forth in Section 8.1.

Qualified Business Combination shall mean a Business Combination immediately following which: (i) the individuals and entities that were the Beneficial Owners of the Common Stock and Non-Common Voting Stock outstanding immediately prior to such Business Combination Beneficially Own, directly or indirectly, more than

Table of Contents

50% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of the entity resulting from such Business Combination (including, without limitation, a corporation that, as a result of such transaction, owns the Company or all or substantially all of the Company's assets either directly or indirectly through one or more Subsidiaries) in substantially the same proportions as their ownership immediately prior to such Business Combination of the voting power of the Common Stock and Non-Common Voting Stock, and (ii) no Person or Group (excluding the Investor and its Affiliates) either (x) Beneficially Owns, directly or indirectly, more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity than the Investor and its Affiliates so Beneficially Own, and, solely in the case of the application of this definition for purposes of clauses (iii) and (iv) of Section 4.1(a), the Investor and its Affiliates shall Beneficially Own, directly or indirectly, more than 17.5% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity, or (y) Beneficially Owns, directly or indirectly, 25% or more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (or equivalent) of such entity.

Qualified Debt means the term loans advanced pursuant to, or outstanding under, the Amended Credit Agreement.

Qualified Debt Holder means, at any time, any of the Investor and its Parent Controlled Affiliates that is a holder of record of Qualified Debt at such time.

Qualified Offering shall mean any public or nonpublic offering of Covered Securities.

Registrable Shares shall have the meaning set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement.

Registration Rights Agreement shall mean the Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of [], 2009, executed and delivered between the Company and CD&R concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Agreement.

Resulting Entity Preferred Stock shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.1(a).

Securities shall mean (i) Series B Preferred Shares, (ii) shares of Series B Preferred Stock issued as payment of dividends in kind pursuant to the Series B Certificate and (iii) the Registrable Shares.

Securities Act shall mean the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, and any similar or successor federal statute, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, all as amended, and as the same may be in effect from time to time.

Series B Certificate shall mean the Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Rights of Series B Preferred Stock in the form contemplated by the Investment Agreement and filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on [], 2009.

Series B Preferred Shares shall have the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

Series B Preferred Stock shall have the meaning set forth in the Recitals.

Tax Returns shall mean any return, report or similar filing (including the attached schedules) filed or required to be filed with respect to Taxes (and any amendments thereto), including any information return, claim for refund or declaration of estimated Taxes.

Taxes shall mean any and all domestic or foreign, federal, state, local or other taxes of any kind (together with any and all interest, penalties, additions to tax and additional amounts imposed with respect thereto) imposed by any Governmental Entity, including taxes on or with respect to income, franchises, windfall or other profits, gross receipts, property, sales, use, capital stock, payroll, employment, unemployment, social security, workers' compensation or net

worth, and taxes in the nature of excise, withholding, ad valorem or value added, and including any liability in respect of any items described above as a transferee or successor, or pursuant to Section 1.1502-6 of the Treasury Regulations (or any similar provision of state, local or foreign Law), or as an indemnitor, guarantor, surety or in a similar capacity under any contract, arrangement, agreement, understanding or commitment (whether oral or written).

G-7

Table of Contents

Transfer shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.1(a).

Transfer Exception shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.1(a).

Transfer Limitation Period shall mean any time during the period from the Closing Date to the 30-month anniversary of the Closing Date during which the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest is equal to or greater than 5%; provided that the Transfer Limitation Period shall terminate upon the occurrence of (x) a Company Default Event or (y) a Change of Control Event.

Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.1(c)(i).

Unaffiliated Shareholders shall mean the stockholders of the Company not Affiliated, and not a member of a Group, with the Investor.

Underlying Sale shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.5.

Voting Agreement Termination Event shall mean any of the following: (i) a Change of Control Event or (ii) the later of (x) the 6-month anniversary of an Investor Rights Termination Event and (y) the 30-month anniversary of the Closing Date.

Voting Interest shall mean, as of any date, with respect to a specified Person(s), the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of (i) the aggregate number of votes that may be cast by holders of Common Stock and Non-Common Voting Stock Beneficially Owned by such Person(s) at the relevant time divided by (ii) the Aggregate Voting Power at the relevant time.

ARTICLE II

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

Section 2.1 Representations and Warranties of the Company. The Company represents and warrants to CD&R as of the date hereof as follows:

(a) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the Laws of the State of Delaware, and has full right, power, authority and capacity to enter into this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by the Company and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company.

(c) This Agreement has been duly authorized, validly executed and delivered by the Company, and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by CD&R, constitutes a valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar Laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and general equitable principles, regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding at Law or in equity (Bankruptcy Exceptions).

Section 2.2 Representations and Warranties of CD&R Fund VIII. CD&R Fund VIII represents and warrants to the Company as of the date hereof as follows:

(a) CD&R Fund VIII has been duly organized and is validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of the jurisdiction of its organization, and has full right, power, authority and capacity to enter into this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by the Investor and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of the Investor.

G-8

Table of Contents

(c) This Agreement has been duly authorized, validly executed and delivered by CD&R Fund VIII, and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by the Company, constitutes a valid and binding obligation of CD&R Fund VIII, enforceable against CD&R Fund VIII in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that the enforcement thereof may be limited by the Bankruptcy Exceptions.

ARTICLE III

GOVERNANCE MATTERS; VOTING; STANDSTILL PROVISIONS

Section 3.1 *Board of Directors.*

(a) *Initial Board.* The Initial Board shall consist of the individuals set forth on Schedule 3.1(a), each serving, effective as of the Closing, in the class and on the committees of the Board set forth beside their name on such schedule.

(b) *Investor Directors.*

(i) *Investor Director Nomination, Appointment and Election.* From and after the Closing until an Investor Rights Termination Event (the Investor Rights Period), subject to Section 3.1(c), the Investor shall be entitled to nominate for election and appoint replacements for a number of Investor Directors up to the Investor Director Number. Subject to (A) limitations and requirements imposed by Law, regulation or the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading and (B) the preceding sentence, there shall be no limit on the number of, and the number of votes that can be cast by, Investor Directors that are CD&R Directors or Other Investor Directors. At each annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders during the Investor Rights Period at which any directors of the Company are to be elected, the Company shall take all corporate and other actions necessary to cause the applicable Investor Nominees to be nominated for election as directors on the Board and will use its reasonable best efforts to solicit proxies in favor of the election of such Investor Nominees to be elected at such meeting, in each case for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders at which the term for directors in such Investor Nominee's class of directors shall expire and until such Investor Nominee's successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or at such earlier time (if any) as such Investor Nominee may resign, retire, die or be removed as a director of the Company. During the Investor Rights Period, (1) if the number of Investor Directors exceeds the Investor Director Number, unless otherwise requested by the Company by action of the Independent Non-Investor Directors, the Investor shall promptly (and in any event, if so requested, prior to the time at which the Board next takes any action, whether at a meeting or by written consent) cause one or more of the CD&R Directors or the Other Investor Directors to resign such that, following the resignations of such individuals, the number of Investor Directors no longer exceeds the Investor Director Number at such time and (2) if the limitations and requirements imposed by Law, regulation or the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading require a change to the number of Investor Directors that are not Investor Independent Directors (including the number of votes that can be cast by such directors), following consultation with the Board, the Investor shall promptly cause one or more of the CD&R Directors or the Other Investor Directors to resign and, if, following such resignations, the number of Investor Directors falls below the Investor Director Number, Investor Independent Nominees shall be designated and appointed to the Board in accordance with the terms of Section 3(b)(ii) so that, following such appointments, the number of Investor Directors equals the Investor Director Number. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, at all times during the Investor Rights Period, the Investor Director Number shall not be less than one.

(ii) *Investor Director Replacements.* The CD&R Directors who are members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (or if none serve thereon, the remaining CD&R Directors or, if no CD&R Directors remain in office, the Investor) shall have the right to designate any replacement for an Investor Director upon the death, resignation, retirement or removal from office of such director, and the Company and the Board will use its reasonable

best efforts to take all corporate and other actions necessary to cause the Investor Nominees designated pursuant to this sentence to be appointed to the Board.

(iii) *Board Observer*. Upon the occurrence of any Company Default Event, the Investor shall have the right to designate an individual (a Board Observer) to attend (without voting rights) each meeting of the Board or any committee thereof (and to receive from the Company, subject to the execution and delivery of a customary

G-9

Table of Contents

confidentiality agreement, copies of all notices, information and other material it provides to the Board and committees thereof) until such time as such Company Default Event is cured. The Company agrees that each Board Observer shall be entitled to reimbursement for its participation and related expenses as if such Board Observer were a director of the Company.

(iv) *Non-Participation of CD&R Directors and Other Investor Directors With Respect to Certain Actions.* Solely with respect to any action to be taken, or any determination to be made, with respect to whether dividends payable on the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock are to be paid in cash or by issuing shares of Series B Preferred Stock pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Series B Certificate, (A) such action shall be taken or determination shall be made on behalf of the Company by a majority of the directors (though less than a quorum) who are not CD&R Directors or Other Investor Directors and (B) no CD&R Director or Other Investor Director shall have any right to vote upon, and by a decision of the remaining directors may be excluded from participating in any discussion of, such action or determination; provided, however, (x) the CD&R Directors and the Other Investor Directors shall have the right prior to any vote upon or discussion of any such action or determination to present to the remaining directors their opinion, and the basis for such opinion, with respect to such action or determination and (y) the remaining directors shall reasonably believe that the action taken or determination made by the remaining directors will not (1) constitute a Default under any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any of the Refinancing Agreements or any other material financing or loan agreement, contract or other instrument or obligation to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries are bound, or to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any of the properties, assets, or rights of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may be subject or (2) result in the Company having insufficient liquidity to operate its business in the ordinary course, consistent with past practice. Each CD&R Director and Other Investor Director shall, if requested by the remaining directors, appear at any properly called meeting if their presence is required to establish a quorum. Except as set forth in this Section 3.1(b)(iv), Section 3.3(a), Section 3.3(b) and Section 9.3(b), CD&R Directors and Other Investor Directors shall have the right to vote upon, and be present for any discussion concerning, all actions and determinations made by the Board.

(v) *Investor Director Title and Position.* Until such time as the Investor Voting Interest is less than 20%, the Investor shall have the right, in its sole discretion, either (A) to cause one of the Investor Directors serving on the Executive Committee of the Board to have the title of Chairman of the Executive Committee or (B) to cause one of the Investor Directors serving on the Board to have the title Lead Director.

(vi) *D&O Insurance.* During the Investor Rights Period, the Company (A) agrees that the Investor Directors shall be entitled to the same rights, privileges and compensation as the other members of the Board in their capacity as such, including with respect to insurance coverage and reimbursement for Board participation and related expenses and (B) shall purchase and maintain, at its own expense, directors and officers liability insurance, from reputable carriers agreed upon prior to Closing by the Company and the Investor, in at least the amounts set forth on Schedule 3.1(b)(vi) hereto (or in a lesser amount agreed upon, from time to time, by the Company and the Investor), on behalf of and covering the individuals who at any time on or after the Closing are or become directors of the Company, against expenses, liabilities or losses asserted against or incurred by such individual in such capacity or arising out of such individual's status as such, subject to customary exclusions.

(vii) *Investor Obligations With Respect to Investor Nominees.* With respect to each annual meeting of stockholders of the Company occurring during the Investor Rights Period, the Investor shall notify the Company of the individuals it nominates as the applicable Investor Nominees in writing and shall provide, or cause such individuals to provide, to the Company, such information about such individuals and the nomination to the Company, at such times as the Company may reasonably request in order to ensure compliance with applicable securities Laws and the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading, and to enable the Board to make determinations with respect to the qualifications of the individuals to be Investor Nominees. The Company shall

not be obligated to take actions to elect or appoint to the Board any Investor Nominee until such Investor Nominee has been identified and has provided the information required by the preceding sentence to the Company.

(viii) *Termination of Investor Rights.* All obligations of the Company pursuant to this Section 3.1(b) shall terminate, and the Investor shall, upon request by the Company by action of the Independent Non-Investor

G-10

Table of Contents

Directors, cause each CD&R Director and Other Investor Director to resign from the Board, promptly upon the occurrence of an Investor Rights Termination Event (and in any event prior to the time at which the Board next takes any action, whether at a meeting or by written consent). As a condition to the nomination, election or appointment of any CD&R Nominee or Other Investor Nominee, each such individual shall agree in writing with the Company to offer to resign from the Board and/or any committees thereof promptly upon the occurrence of an Investor Rights Termination Event (and in any event prior to the time at which the Board next takes any action, whether at a meeting or by written consent) or as otherwise required pursuant to this Section 3.1(b) or Section 3.1(d).

(c) Unaffiliated Shareholder Independent Directors.

(i) Notwithstanding Section 3.1(b), from and after the Closing, if the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest is equal to or greater than 5%, the Investor Director Number shall not exceed three (3) less than the total number of directors of the Company and there shall be at least three (3) directors of the Company who are not Investor Directors, at least two (2) of whom shall be Independent Directors and shall be designated the Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors, and the other of whom shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Without the consent of the Investor, notwithstanding the number of Independent Directors who are Independent Non-Investor Directors then serving on the Board, there shall be only two (2) Independent Non-Investor Directors designated as the Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors. The Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors serving on the Initial Board shall be the Independent Directors that are designated as such on Schedule 3.1(a).

(ii) In the event that there is a vacancy or vacancies of the Board that must be filled with an Unaffiliated Shareholder Director in order for there to be at least two (2) Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors, the remaining Unaffiliated Shareholder Director or, if no such directors exist, the Independent Non-Investor Directors, or if no such directors exist, the Independent Directors, shall fill any such vacancy or vacancies on the Board.

(iii) At any annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders of the Company at which any Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors are to be elected, the Company shall take all corporate and other actions necessary to nominate for election as directors on the Board each of the Unaffiliated Shareholder Director(s) whose term expires at such meeting (or other individual(s) selected by the Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors, or, if no such directors exist, the Independent Non-Investor Directors, or if no such directors exist, the Independent Directors).

(iv) During the Investor Rights Period, the Investor shall cause each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owed by it to be present in person or represented by proxy at all meetings of stockholders of the Company at which an individual nominated to serve as an Unaffiliated Shareholder Director pursuant to this Section 3.1(c) is to be elected, so that all such shares shall be counted as present for determining the presence of a quorum at such meetings and to vote such shares, at such meetings or at any adjournments or postponements thereof or by written consent, as appropriate, proportionately with the Unaffiliated Shareholders with respect to the nominees who would be Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors upon their election.

(v) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement or in the Certificate of Incorporation, for so long as the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest is equal to or greater than 5%, an Unaffiliated Shareholder Director may not be removed except by the affirmative vote (including by written consent) of an Unaffiliated Shareholder or Unaffiliated Shareholders holding 80% of all of the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest. The Investor shall cause each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owed by it to be present in person or represented by proxy at all meetings of stockholders of the Company at which the removal of an Unaffiliated Shareholder Director is to be voted on, so that all such shares shall be counted as present for determining the presence of a quorum at such meetings and (A) in the event that an Unaffiliated Shareholder or Unaffiliated Shareholders holding 80% of all of the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest vote (including by written consent) in favor of the removal of an Unaffiliated Shareholder Director, the Investor shall vote each share of Common Stock and Series B

Preferred Stock Beneficially Owed by it for the removal of such Unaffiliated Shareholder Director and (B) otherwise, the Investor shall vote (including by written consent) each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owed by it against the removal of such Unaffiliated Shareholder Director.

G-11

Table of Contents(d) Committees.

(i) *General.* Subject to applicable Law, regulation or the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading and Section 3.1(d)(ii), for so long as the Investor is entitled to nominate for election, and designate replacements for, Investor Directors pursuant to Section 3.1(b), the Investor shall also be entitled to representation proportionate to the Investor Voting Interest (rounded to the nearest whole number, subject to the last proviso of this sentence) on all committees of the Board, provided that notwithstanding the foregoing, the Investor shall be entitled to have a minimum of one Investor Director serving on each committee of the Board (except that, (A) where an Investor Director is in a conflict position, such Investor Director may not serve on a special committee of the Board, and (B) where the Investor is in a conflict position, none of the CD&R Directors or Other Investor Directors may serve on the relevant special committee of the Board); and provided, further, that there shall be at least one Unaffiliated Shareholder Director on each committee of the Board. If as a result of the application of the preceding sentence no Investor Director may serve on a certain committee, the Investor shall be entitled to appoint a Board Observer to such committee (who shall not have voting rights), so long as any such Board Observer meets any applicable independence rules of the stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading.

(ii) *Affiliate Transactions Committee.* During the Investor Rights Period, the Board shall establish and maintain an Affiliate Transactions Committee, which shall be comprised of (x) the Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors then in office and (y) one Investor Independent Director, if an Investor Independent Director is then serving on the Board, and otherwise, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company serving as a director on the Board. Such Affiliate Transactions Committee shall review, consider and approve any Affiliate Transactions, and no such Affiliate Transactions shall be effected without the prior approval of a majority of the directors on the Affiliate Transactions Committee; provided, that, for so long as the provisions in Article TENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation, as in effect on the date hereof, are still in effect, an Affiliate Transaction that is subject to Article TENTH of the Certificate of Incorporation may be effected in accordance with Section 1(i) thereof if all of the conditions specified in paragraph A of such Section 1 are met, in lieu of the review, consideration or approval of the Affiliate Transactions Committee pursuant to this Section 3.1(d)(ii).

(iii) *Termination of Investor Rights.* All obligations of the Company pursuant to this Section 3.1(d) shall terminate, and the Investor shall, unless otherwise requested by the Company by action of the Independent Non-Investor Directors, cause each CD&R Director and Other Investor Director to resign from each committee of the Board, upon the occurrence of an Investor Rights Termination Event.

(e) Controlled Company Status; Listing.

(i) Effective upon the Closing, the Company shall have taken all corporate action and filed all election notices or other documentation with the NYSE necessary to elect to take advantage of the exemptions to the requirements of Sections 303A.01, 303A.04 and 303A.05 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. In the annual proxy statement for the Company next following the Closing, the Company shall disclose such election, that it is a controlled company within the meaning set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual and the basis for such determination. For so long as the Company qualifies as a controlled company within the meaning set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual or any similar provision in the rules of a stock exchange on which the securities of the Company are quoted or listed for trading, the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to take advantage of the exemptions therein.

(ii) During the Investor Rights Period, the Company shall keep the Investor informed, on a current basis, of any events, discussions, notices or changes with respect to any Tax (other than ordinary course communications which could not reasonably be expected to be material to the Company), criminal or regulatory investigation or action involving the Company or any of its Subsidiaries (other than routine audits or ordinary course communications which

could not reasonably be expected to be material to the Company) that have been brought to the attention of the Board, and shall reasonably cooperate with the Investor, its members or their respective Affiliates in an effort to avoid or mitigate any cost or regulatory consequences to them that might arise from such investigation or action (including by reviewing written submissions in advance, attending meetings with authorities and coordinating and providing assistance in meeting with regulators).

G-12

Table of Contents

(iii) From and after the Closing, the Company shall (A) use its best efforts to cause all Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the then-outstanding Series B Preferred Stock to be approved for listing on each exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, subject to official notice of issuance, at all times following the Closing and (B) use its reasonable best efforts to maintain the listing of the shares of Common Stock described in clause (A) after issuance on each securities exchange on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted, and, in the case of either (A) or (B), the Investor shall support and not oppose such efforts.

Section 3.2 *Voting*. At any time following the Closing during which the Investor Voting Interest is less than 50%, at any and all meetings of stockholders of the Company occurring prior to a Voting Agreement Termination Event, the Investor shall cause each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owned by it and the Parent Controlled Affiliates to be present in person or represented by proxy at all meetings of stockholders of the Company, so that all such shares shall be counted as present for determining the presence of a quorum at such meetings and to vote, at such meetings or at any adjournments or postponements thereof or by written consent, (a) subject to Section 3.1(c)(iv), in favor of all director nominees nominated by the Board for election by the stockholders in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the By-laws, and (b) as recommended by the Board, on any and all (i) proposals relating to or concerning compensation or equity incentives for directors, officers or employees of the Company adopted in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (ii) proposals by stockholders of the Company (including under Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act), and (iii) proposals the subject matter of which is an Investor Consent Action, provided in respect of clauses (i) and (iii) only, that the Board's recommendation is consistent with the Investor's exercise of its consent rights provided in Article VI hereof in connection with such Investor Consent Action and the submission of such proposal occurred in a reasonably timely manner and such proposal has not failed to receive the requisite number of affirmative votes for the adoption of such proposal since the Investor's exercise of its consent right in connection therewith.

Section 3.3 *Standstill and Other Restrictions*. (a) (i) During the period from the Closing until the earlier of (x) the 30-month anniversary of the Closing and (y) the 6-month anniversary of an Investor Rights Termination Event, the Investor and the Parent Controlled Affiliates shall not, and (ii) if the 6-month anniversary of an Investor Rights Termination Event has not occurred prior to the 30-month anniversary of the Closing, during the period from the 30-month anniversary of the Closing until the 6-month anniversary of an Investor Rights Termination Event, without the approval of a majority of the Unaffiliated Shareholder Directors, the Investor and the Parent Controlled Affiliates shall not, directly or indirectly: (i) other than a Permitted Increase, in any way acquire, offer or propose to acquire, or agree to acquire, in any manner (including by means of merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization or otherwise), Beneficial Ownership of any securities of the Company or its Subsidiaries (including convertible securities) if immediately following such acquisition or agreement, the Investor and the Parent Controlled Affiliates would Beneficially Own in the aggregate more than 80% of the Aggregate Voting Power or economic interest of the Company (treating securities convertible into or exercisable for voting securities, economic interests or Common Stock that are Beneficially Owned by the Investor or the Parent Controlled Affiliates as fully converted into or exercised for the underlying voting securities, economic interests or Common Stock without regard to the exercisability, vesting or similar provisions and restrictions thereof) or (ii) seek, directly or indirectly, any amendment, waiver, or release of, or to contest the validity of, any of the restrictions contained in this Section 3.3(a) (including this clause (ii)) by the Company. The restrictions of this Section 3.3(a) shall (A) terminate upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Event, and (B) not apply at any time during which the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest is less than 5%. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a majority of the Independent Directors consent in writing prior thereto, any Qualified Debt Holder may exchange Qualified Debt for equity securities of the Company on terms and conditions agreed to in writing by the Company (by approval of a majority of the Independent Directors) and such Qualified Debt Holder.

(b) During the Hedging Limitation Period, the Investor and its Parent Controlled Affiliates shall not, directly or indirectly, without the prior written consent of a majority of the Independent Directors: (i) in any way acquire, offer or

propose to acquire or agree to acquire, directly or indirectly, in any manner, Beneficial Ownership of any indebtedness or debt securities of the Company other than Qualified Debt or (ii) seek, directly or indirectly, any amendment, waiver, or release of, or to contest the validity of, any of the restrictions contained in this Section 3.3(b) (including this clause (ii)) by the Company.

G-13

Table of Contents

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, the restrictions of this Section 3.3 shall not apply upon the occurrence of any Company Default Event, provided that the restrictions of this Section 3.3 shall apply from and after the date that such Company Default Event is cured or remedied until the date upon which such restriction terminates in accordance with this Section 3.3.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSFER AND HEDGING RESTRICTIONS

Section 4.1 Transfer Restrictions. (a) Prior to the expiration of the Transfer Limitation Period, without the approval of a majority of the Independent Directors, the Investor shall not transfer, sell, pledge, assign or otherwise dispose of (including by merger or otherwise by operation of Law) (Transfer) any of the Securities, other than (i) to a Parent Controlled Affiliate that agrees to be bound by the provisions of this Agreement as if it were the Investor hereunder (for the avoidance of doubt, any such Transferee shall be included in the term Investor), (ii) to the Company, (iii) in a Qualified Business Combination approved, or recommended to the stockholders of the Company, by the Board (so long as such approval and recommendation has not been revoked prior to the Transfer) in which (A) the consideration received by the Investor (other than with respect to any Series B Preferred Stock that is exchangeable for, or convertible into, preferred stock of the resulting entity of the Qualified Business Combination in accordance with clause (B) below, if applicable), divided by the number of shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned by the Investor (treating any securities (other than the Series B Preferred Stock that is exchangeable for, or convertible into, preferred stock of the resulting entity of the Qualified Business Combination, if applicable) convertible into or exercisable for Common Stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable therefor) as fully converted into or exercised for the underlying Common Stock) is equal to, and in the same form as, the per-share consideration received by all holders of Common Stock (other than holders that are the counterparty to such transaction or an affiliate of such counterparty); provided, in the event that holders of Common Stock have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in such Qualified Business Combination, the Investor shall have the opportunity to make such election with respect to the consideration described in this clause (A) on the same basis as all holders of Common Stock and/or (B) the shares of Series B Preferred Stock are exchangeable for, or convertible into, shares of the resulting entity of the Qualified Business Combination (the Resulting Entity Preferred Stock) having terms, preferences, rights (including, without limitation, as to dividends, voting, redemption at the option of the holder, rights to assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and protections against dilution and other impairment), privileges and powers substantially similar to and no more favorable than the terms, preferences, rights, privileges and powers under the Series B Certificate, and the number of shares of Resulting Entity Preferred Stock for which each share of Series B Preferred Stock is so exchangeable, or into which each share of Series B Preferred Stock is so convertible, are, immediately following such exchange or conversion in connection with the Qualified Business Combination, convertible in the aggregate into the same amount and form of consideration (which may be common stock of the resulting entity from such Qualified Business Combination) that would have been receivable in the Qualified Business Combination if such share of Series B Preferred Stock had been fully converted into the underlying Common Stock immediately prior to such Qualified Business Combination, or (iv) in a Non-Qualified Business Combination approved, or recommended to the stockholders of the Company, by the Board (so long as such approval and recommendation of such Non-Qualified Business Combination has not been revoked prior to the Transfer) in which the consideration received by the Investor in such transaction divided by the number of shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned by the Investor (treating Series B Preferred Stock and other securities convertible into or exercisable for Common Stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable therefor) as fully converted into or exercised for the underlying Common Stock) is equal to, and in the same form as, the per-share consideration received by all holders of Common Stock (other than holders that are the counterparty to such transaction or an affiliate of such counterparty); provided in the event that holders of Common Stock have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in such Non-Qualified Business Combination, the Investor shall have the opportunity to make such election on the same basis as all holders of Common Stock (each of the exceptions described in clauses (i)

through (iv), a Transfer Exception). In the event any Person who is a Transferee pursuant to clause (i) of the preceding sentence ceases to be a Parent Controlled Affiliate, then any prior Transfer to such Person pursuant to clause (i) shall become null and void and ownership and title to any such Securities so Transferred shall revert to the Investor. The Investor shall immediately

G-14

Table of Contents

notify the Company if it engages in any of the transactions referred to in this Section 4.1. The Investor shall give the Company notice of any proposed Transfer not less than five (5) Business Days prior to any Transfer (or the entering into of any agreement relating to a Transfer).

(b) Following the Transfer Limitation Period, the Investor shall not Transfer any of the Securities, except as follows: (i) the Registrable Shares may be Transferred by the Investor (A) in a privately negotiated transaction (including any Directed Offer if negotiated between the Investor (or its agents or representatives) and any Transferee (or its agents or representatives)) to a Person or Group that represents that it, and that such Transferee reasonably believes, (1) is not a Competitor, (2) is not and will not be, after giving effect to the Transfer, a 10% Holder or an Affiliate of any 10% Holder and (3) is not proposing to effect a Change of Control of the Company without the prior written consent of a majority of the Independent Directors (such Person, a Permitted Third Party Transferee); provided that the Transferring Investor, shall have provided the Company five (5) Business Days notice in writing prior to any such Transfer, (B) in public market trades (which shall include any Directed Offer that is not of the type referred to in clause (A) above), provided that the Transferring Investor shall have no reason to believe that any Transferee is not a Permitted Third Party Transferee and the Transferring Investor shall have instructed the Transferring Investor's underwriters or brokers, if any, of the requirements of a Permitted Third Party Transferee, and (C) in a traditional underwritten public offering (excluding any Directed Offer) in accordance with the Registration Rights Agreement and (ii) the Securities may be Transferred pursuant to a Transfer Exception. The restrictions of this Section 4.1(b) shall (x) terminate upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Event, and (y) not apply at any time during which the Unaffiliated Shareholders' Voting Interest is less than 5%.

(c) The Investor's rights under this Agreement will not be Transferable to any Transferee of any shares of the Securities, other than a Transferee that is a Parent Controlled Affiliate (and has entered into an agreement with the Company as set forth in Section 4.1(a)). In the event any Person who is a Transferee pursuant to the preceding sentence ceases to be a Parent Controlled Affiliate, then any prior Transfer to such Person shall become null and void and ownership and title to any such Securities, and the rights under this Agreement, so Transferred shall revert to the Investor.

(d) Any certificates for Securities issued pursuant to the Investment Agreement or issued upon conversion of Securities or issued in respect of any Transfer of Securities shall bear a legend or legends (and appropriate comparable notations or other arrangements will be made with respect to any uncertificated shares) substantially to the following effect:

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN A TRANSACTION EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, (THE SECURITIES ACT) AND THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS INSTRUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF EXCEPT WHILE A REGISTRATION STATEMENT RELATING THERETO IS IN EFFECT UNDER SUCH ACT AND APPLICABLE STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION THEREFROM UNDER SUCH ACT OR SUCH LAWS.

In addition, for so long as the restrictions of this Article IV remain in effect, such legend or notations will include language substantially to the following effect:

THE SECURITIES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER SET FORTH IN A STOCKHOLDERS AGREEMENT, DATED [], 2009, AMONG THE ISSUER OF SUCH SECURITIES (THE COMPANY) AND THE OTHER PARTY OR PARTIES THERETO. A COPY OF THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER IS ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY.

The holder of any certificate(s) bearing any such legend (or any uncertificated shares subject to such notations or arrangements) shall be entitled to receive from the Company new certificates for a like number of Securities not bearing such legend (or the elimination or termination of such notations or arrangements) promptly upon the request of such holder at any time when (i) the restrictions on Transfer pursuant to this Agreement are no longer applicable, and (ii) an opinion of counsel to such holder has been delivered to the Company, which opinion is reasonably

G-15

Table of Contents

satisfactory to the Company, to the effect that the restriction referenced in such legend (or such notations or arrangements) is no longer required in order to ensure compliance with the Securities Act and applicable state Laws.

Section 4.2 *Hedging Restrictions*. The Investor agrees that, during the Hedging Limitation Period, it and the Parent Controlled Affiliates shall not Hedge its or their direct or indirect exposure to the Common Stock or any other Security, except in transactions involving an index-based portfolio of securities that includes Common Stock (provided that the value of such Common Stock in such portfolio is not more than 5% of the total value of the portfolio of securities). For the avoidance of doubt, following the Hedging Limitation Period, nothing in this Section 4.2 shall prohibit the Investor or the Parent Controlled Affiliates from Hedging its direct or indirect exposure to the Common Stock or any other Security, including any transactions involving an index-based portfolio of securities that includes Common Stock (regardless of the value of such Common Stock in such portfolio relative to the total value of the portfolio of securities) or involving the purchase or sale of derivative securities or any short sale of Common Stock.

ARTICLE V

SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

Section 5.1 *Subscription Rights*. From and after the Closing, if the Company offers to sell Covered Securities in a Qualified Offering (which may only be effected in compliance with Section 6.1), the Investor shall be afforded the opportunity to acquire from the Company, for the same price and on the same terms as such Covered Securities are offered to others, in the aggregate up to the amount of Covered Securities required to enable the Investor to maintain (a) with respect to offers to sell Covered Securities consisting of Common Stock, Non-Common Voting Stock or Equity Equivalents convertible or exchangeable for Common Stock or Non-Common Voting Stock (or convertible into or exercisable therefor), the then-current Investor Voting Interest and (b) with respect to offers to sell Covered Securities consisting of non-voting equity of the Company or Equity Equivalents convertible or exchangeable for non-voting equity (or convertible into or exercisable therefor), the Investor's then-current percentage economic interest.

Section 5.2 *Notice*. (a) In the event the Company intends to make a Qualified Offering of Covered Securities that is an underwritten public offering or a private offering made to Qualified Institutional Buyers (as such term is defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act) for resale pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act, no later than five (5) Business Days after the initial filing of a registration statement with respect to such underwritten offering or the commencement of such Rule 144A offering, the Company shall give the Investor written notice of its intention (including, in the case of a registered public offering and to the extent possible, a copy of the prospectus included in the registration statement filed in respect of such offering), describing, to the extent then known, the anticipated amount of securities, price (or range of prices), timing and other material terms upon which the Company proposes to offer the same. The Investor shall have five (5) Business Days from the date and time of receipt of any such notice to notify the Company in writing that it intends to exercise such subscription rights and as to the amount of Covered Securities the Investor desires to purchase, up to the maximum amount calculated pursuant to Section 5.1 (the Designated Securities). Such notice shall constitute a non-binding indication of interest of the Investor to purchase the Designated Securities so specified at the price and other terms set forth in the Company's notice to it. The failure of the Investor to respond during such five-Business Day period shall constitute a waiver of subscription rights under this Article V only with respect to the offering described in the applicable notice and a notice purporting to exercise subscription rights for more than the maximum amount contemplated by Section 5.1 shall be deemed to be an election to acquire the maximum amount. To the extent the Company shall give the Investor notice of any such offer prior to the public announcement thereof, the Investor shall agree to confidentiality and restriction on trading terms reasonably acceptable to the Company.

(b) If the Company proposes to make a Qualified Offering of Covered Securities that is not an underwritten public offering or Rule 144A offering (a Private Placement), the Company shall (i) give the Investor written notice of its intention, describing, to the extent then known, the anticipated amount of securities, price and other material terms upon which the Company proposes to offer the same and (ii) promptly provide the Investor with an updated notice reflecting any changes to such anticipated amount of securities, price or other material terms. The Investor shall have ten (10) Business Days from the date of receipt of the last notice required by the immediately

G-16

Table of Contents

preceding sentence to notify the Company in writing that it intends to exercise such subscription rights and as to the amount of Designated Securities the Investor desires to purchase, up to the maximum amount calculated pursuant to Section 5.1. Such notice shall constitute a non-binding indication of interest of the Investor to purchase the amount of Designated Securities so specified at the price and upon other terms set forth in the Company's notice to it; provided that the closing of the Private Placement with respect to which such rights has been exercised takes place within fifteen (15) calendar days after giving notice of such exercise by the Investor. The failure of the Investor to respond during the ten-Business Day period referred to in the second preceding sentence shall constitute a waiver of the subscription rights under this Article V only with respect to the offering described in the applicable notice and a notice purporting to exercise subscription rights for more than the maximum amount contemplated by Section 5.1 shall be deemed to be an election to acquire the maximum amount. To the extent the Company shall give the Investor notice of any such offer prior to the public announcement thereof, the Investor shall agree to confidentiality and restriction on trading terms reasonably acceptable to the Company.

Section 5.3 *Purchase Mechanism*. (a) If the Investor exercises its subscription rights as provided in Section 5.2(a), the Company shall offer the Investor, if such underwritten public offering or Rule 144A offering is consummated, the Designated Securities (as adjusted to reflect the actual size of such offering when priced) on the same material terms as the Covered Securities are offered to the underwriters or initial purchasers and shall provide written notice of such price to the Investor as soon as practicable prior to such consummation. Contemporaneously with the execution of any underwriting agreement or purchase agreement entered into between the Company and the underwriters or initial purchasers of such underwritten public offering or Rule 144A offering, the Investor shall, if it continues to wish to exercise its subscription rights with respect to such offering, enter into an instrument in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Company acknowledging its binding obligation to purchase the Designated Securities to be acquired by it and containing representations, warranties and agreements of the Investor that are customary in private placement transactions and, in any event, no less favorable to the Investor than any underwriting or purchase agreement entered into by the Company in connection with such offering, and the failure to enter into such an instrument at or prior to such time shall constitute a waiver of the subscription rights in respect of such offering. Any offers and sales pursuant to this Article V in the context of a registered public offering shall be also conditioned on reasonably acceptable representations and warranties of the Investor regarding its status as the type of offeree to whom a private sale can be made concurrently with a registered offering in compliance with applicable securities Laws.

(b) If the Investor exercises its subscription rights as provided in Section 5.2(b), the closing of the purchase of the Covered Securities with respect to which such right has been exercised shall be conditioned on the consummation of the sale of securities pursuant to the Private Placement with respect to which such subscription right has been exercised and shall take place as soon as practicable after the closing of the Private Placement; provided, that such time period shall be extended for a maximum of 95 days in order to comply with applicable Laws and regulations; provided, further, that the actual amount of Covered Securities to be sold to the Investor pursuant to its exercise of subscription rights hereunder shall be proportionally reduced if the aggregate amount of Covered Securities sold in the Private Placement is reduced and, at the option of the Investor (to be exercised by delivery of written notice to the Company within five (5) Business Days of receipt of notice of such increase), shall be increased if such aggregate amount of Covered Securities sold in the Private Placement is increased. In connection with its purchase of Designated Securities, the Investor shall, if it continues to wish to exercise its subscription rights with respect to such offering, execute an agreement containing representations and warranties and, if at such time the Investor's Voting Interest is greater than 20%, agreements of the Investor that are substantially similar in all material respects to the agreements executed by other purchasers in such Private Placement. Each of the Company and the Investor agrees to use its reasonable best efforts to secure any regulatory or stockholder approvals or other consents, and to comply with any Law or regulation necessary in connection with the offer, sale and purchase of, such Covered Securities.

Section 5.4 *Failure to Purchase*. In the event that the Investor fails to exercise its subscription rights provided in this Article V within the applicable period or, if so exercised, the Investor is unable to consummate such purchase within the time period specified in Section 5.3 above because of its failure to obtain any required regulatory or stockholder consent or approval or because of the failure to purchase any or all of the Covered Securities contemplated to be purchased by the election notice, the Company shall thereafter be entitled during the

G-17

Table of Contents

period of 60 days following the conclusion of the applicable period to sell or enter into an agreement (pursuant to which the sale of the Covered Securities covered thereby shall be consummated, if at all, within 30 days from the date of said agreement) to sell the Covered Securities not elected to be purchased pursuant to this Article V or which the Investor is unable to purchase because of such failure to obtain any such consent or approval or otherwise fails to purchase, at a price and upon terms no more favorable to the purchasers of such securities in the Private Placement, the underwritten public offering or Rule 144A offering, as the case may be, than were specified in the Company's notice to the Investor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if such sale is subject to the receipt of any regulatory or stockholder approval or consent or the expiration of any waiting period, the time period during which such sale may be consummated shall be extended until the expiration of five (5) Business Days after all such approvals or consents have been obtained or waiting periods expired, but in no event shall such time period exceed 90 days from the date of the applicable agreement with respect to such sale. In the event the Company has not sold the Covered Securities or entered into an agreement to sell the Covered Securities within said 60-day period (or sold and issued Covered Securities in accordance with the foregoing within thirty (30) days from the date of said agreement (as such period may be extended in the manner described above for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of said agreement)), the Company shall not thereafter offer, issue or sell such Covered Securities without first offering such securities to the Investor in the manner provided above.

Section 5.5 *Certain Qualified Offerings*. In the case of a Qualified Offering of Covered Securities for a consideration in whole or in part other than cash, including securities acquired in exchange therefor (other than securities by their terms so exchangeable), the consideration other than cash shall be deemed to be the fair value thereof as determined by a firm of independent public accountants or an independent appraiser, in each case, of recognized national standing selected by the Board and approved by the Investor, provided, however, that such fair value as determined in accordance with this Section 5.5 shall not exceed the aggregate market price of the securities being offered as of the date the Board authorizes the offering of such securities. In the event that the sale of Designated Securities to the Investor cannot be consummated substantially concurrently with the sale giving rise to the applicable exercise of subscription rights by the Investor under Section 5.1 (the Underlying Sale), consummation of the Underlying Sale shall not be delayed or conditioned upon such sale of Designated Securities to the Investor; provided, in such event, that the Company shall use its best efforts to consummate the sale of such Designated Securities to the Investor as promptly as practicable following the consummation of the Underlying Sale.

Section 5.6 *Cooperation*. The Company and the Investor shall cooperate in good faith to facilitate the exercise of the Investor's subscription rights hereunder, including, without limitation, securing any required approvals or consents, in a manner that does not jeopardize the timing, marketing, pricing or execution of any offering of the Company's securities.

Section 5.7 *Limitation of Rights*. Notwithstanding the above, nothing set forth in this Article V shall confer upon the Investor the right to purchase any securities of the Company other than Designated Securities. For the avoidance of doubt, notwithstanding the above, nothing set forth in this Article V shall limit the Investor's rights pursuant to and in accordance with the Registration Rights Agreement, including, without limitation, with respect to notice of or registration of Registrable Securities in Piggy-back Registrations (each as defined in the Registration Rights Agreement).

Section 5.8 *Termination of Subscription Rights*. Anything to the contrary in this Article V notwithstanding, the subscription right to purchase Covered Securities granted by this Article V shall not be available for any offering that commences at any time after the occurrence of an Investor Rights Termination Event.

Table of Contents

ARTICLE VI

CONSENT RIGHTS

Section 6.1 *Investor Consent Rights.*

(a) Until such time as the Investor Voting Interest is less than 25%, without the prior consent of the Investor, the Company shall not, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries not to, take any of the following actions, commit, resolve or agree to take any of the following actions or authorize or otherwise facilitate any of the following actions:

(i) in any fiscal year, acquire, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, any business organization or division thereof or assets if in such fiscal year (A) the aggregate consideration paid by the Company for all such acquisitions completed in such fiscal year would exceed 10% of the Company's consolidated assets as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year or (B) the aggregate contribution to revenue of the businesses, divisions and assets acquired on a pro forma basis for the most recently completed fiscal year would exceed 10% of the Company's revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year, excluding, in all cases, (1) transactions consented to by the Investor, (2) transactions between and among any of the Company and its direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiaries and (3) acquisitions of inventory, equipment and real property in the ordinary course of business;

(ii) in any fiscal year, sell, transfer or dispose of, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, any business organization or division of the Company or any of its assets if in such fiscal year (A) the aggregate consideration received by the Company for all such sales, transfers or dispositions completed in such fiscal year would exceed 10% of the Company's consolidated assets as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year or (B) the aggregate contribution to revenue of the sold, transferred or disposed businesses, divisions and assets for the most recently completed fiscal year would exceed 10% of the Company's revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year, excluding, in all cases, (1) transactions consented to by the Investor, (2) transactions between and among any of the Company and its direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiaries, (3) disposition of any aircrafts owned by the Company and (4) dispositions of inventory, equipment and real property in the ordinary course of business;

(iii) other than grants in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice to employees or directors of the Company pursuant to an existing stock option plan or restricted stock plan, pursuant to another plan or agreement adopted or approved by the Board in the ordinary course with terms that are consistent with past practice or pursuant to the issuance of shares in respect of any exercise of options or settlement of any other share-based awards outstanding on the date of this Agreement, or as may be granted after the date of this Agreement, as permitted by this Agreement, authorize, issue, deliver, sell, pledge, dispose of, grant, award or encumber any shares (or options, warrants, convertible securities or rights of any kind to acquire or receive any shares) of capital stock, ownership interests or voting securities if the Proceeds to the Company for all such issuances in the aggregate exceeds \$5 million in any given fiscal year;

(iv) redeem, repurchase or acquire any shares of capital stock or securities convertible into or exercisable for shares of the capital stock, other than any Securities or pursuant to the acquisition of shares from a holder of an option, restricted share or any other share-based award in satisfaction of Tax withholding obligations or in payment of the exercise price, if as a result of such action the aggregate consideration paid by the Company in respect of all such redemptions, repurchases or acquisitions since the date of this Agreement would exceed \$10 million annually and other than transactions between and among any of the Company and its direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiaries;

(v) declare or pay any extraordinary dividend or distribution (other than dividends or distributions by a direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiary of the Company to the Company or a direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiary of

the Company); it being understood that the Company may, without the Investor's consent, declare or pay ordinary cash dividends on shares of Common Stock in which the shares of Series B Preferred Stock participate pursuant to the terms of the Series B Certificate;

(vi) newly incur or guarantee any Indebtedness except for (A) any Indebtedness among the Company and its wholly owned Subsidiaries or among the Company's wholly owned Subsidiaries, (B) guarantees by the

G-19

Table of Contents

Company of Indebtedness of Subsidiaries of the Company, which Indebtedness is incurred in compliance with this Section 6.1(a)(vi), (C) borrowings under the ABL Documentation and the Amended Credit Agreement, each as in effect on the Closing Date and without giving effect to any amendment, modification or extension thereof, and (D) Indebtedness not to exceed \$35 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding at any time;

(vii) engage to a material extent in any business in which the Company is not engaged on the Closing Date or any business related, ancillary or complementary to such business;

(viii) adopt a plan or agreement of complete or partial liquidation or dissolution (except a liquidation or dissolution of a direct or indirect wholly-owned Subsidiary into the Company or another wholly-owned Subsidiary) or commence a Proceeding;

(ix) increase the number of directors that would constitute the entire Board at such time assuming all vacancies were filled; or

(x) amend, alter, or repeal any provisions of its Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws.

(b) Until such time as the Investor Voting Interest is less than 20%, without the prior consent of the Investor (which may be granted, withheld or conditioned in the sole discretion of the Investor), the Company shall not, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries not to, issue any stock or security (other than Common Stock, Series B Preferred Stock and, with respect to the foregoing, options, restricted stock units, restricted stock and stock appreciation rights that are described in clause (i) of the defined term Excluded Securities), including, without limitation, non-participating preferred stock or debt securities that are convertible into shares of capital stock or capital stock equivalents by their terms, that gives rise, in the good faith belief of the Investor based on advice of counsel, to a not insubstantial risk that distributions (or deemed distributions) on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock that are paid (or deemed paid) in shares of such stock (the PIK Distributions) would not be governed by the general rule of Section 305(a) of the Code.

(c) Consent of the Investor to any of the actions specified above may be made in a writing addressed to the Board, and in addition shall be deemed to have been given if a CD&R Director shall affirm at a meeting of the Board that, in such individual's capacity as a representative of the Investor, he or she consents to any such action on behalf of the Investor.

Section 6.2 Certificate of Incorporation Amendments.

(a) Effective as of the Closing, the Board (i) shall have adopted and declared advisable, and unanimously approved and recommended to the Company's stockholders each of the amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation set forth on Exhibit A hereto (each a Certificate of Incorporation Amendment and, collectively, the Certificate of Incorporation Amendments) (such approval and recommendation, the Amendment Recommendation) and (ii) shall have authorized the Company to take all actions permitted by Law and, if consent from the Investor is required, consented to by the Investor, to increase the number of authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock if at any time there shall be insufficient authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock to permit such reservation or to permit the conversion of all outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock and shall have adopted and declared advisable, and unanimously approved and resolved to recommend to the stockholders of the Company entitled to vote thereon, following the receipt of the prior written approval of the Investor in accordance with Section 6.2(c), the actions requiring the affirmative vote or consent of the stockholders of the Company set forth on Schedule 6.2(c) hereto.

(b) From and after the Closing, subject to the third sentence of this Section 6.2(b), the Company shall use its best efforts and take all corporate actions necessary to obtain stockholder approval, as required by Delaware law, of each Certificate of Incorporation Amendment promptly following the Closing. Without limiting the foregoing, (i) the Company shall (x) submit each Certificate of Incorporation Amendment for the approval of the stockholders of the

Company, as required by Delaware law, at the next meeting of stockholders subsequent to the Closing, which shall be no later than the next annual meeting of the stockholders subsequent to the Closing (the Stockholders Meeting), (y) file with the Commission a proxy statement related to the Stockholders Meeting and use its best efforts to respond to any comments of the SEC or its staff and to cause a definitive proxy statement related to the Stockholders Meeting, which shall include the Amendment Recommendation, to be mailed to the Company s

G-20

Table of Contents

stockholders and (z) use its best efforts to solicit proxies in favor of the adoption of the Certificate of Incorporation Amendments and to otherwise cause the stockholders of the Company at the Stockholders Meeting to approve each Certificate of Incorporation Amendment by the affirmative vote required by applicable Law and the Certificate of Incorporation as in effect on the date of the Stockholders Meeting and (ii) at each annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders of the Company following the Stockholders Meeting, unless otherwise consented to in writing by the Investor, the Company shall use its best efforts and take all corporate action necessary to obtain stockholder approval of each Certificate of Incorporation Amendment that has not been approved by the requisite affirmative vote of the stockholders of the Company prior to such annual or special meeting of stockholders, and, in the case of either (i) or (ii), the Investor shall support and not oppose such efforts. To the extent that stockholders of the Company are permitted to take action without a meeting of stockholders by written consent, notwithstanding and in lieu of the foregoing, the Company shall obtain stockholder approval of each Certificate of Incorporation Amendment by written consent. The Investor shall cause each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owned by it and any Parent Controlled Affiliate that is entitled to vote with respect to the adoption of an applicable Certificate of Incorporation Amendment to be voted for, or to consent to, the adoption of such Certificate of Incorporation Amendment.

(c) In the event that the Authorized Stock Stockholder Approval has not been obtained by the date that is 18 months following the Closing, or at any time following the Authorized Stock Stockholder Approval the number of shares of authorized but unissued and unreserved shares of Common Stock is less than 110% of the number of shares of Common Stock required to permit the conversion of all then-outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock into shares of Common Stock in accordance with the applicable terms of conversion as set forth in the Series B Certificate, the Company shall take all actions permitted by Law and, if consent from the Investor is required, consented to by the Investor, to increase the number of shares of authorized but unissued and unreserved shares of Common Stock, including, without limitation, at the option of the Investor in its sole discretion, taking the actions set forth on Schedule 6.2(c) hereto. So long as the Investor has consented to an action to be taken by the Company pursuant to this Section 6.2(c) hereto, the Investor shall cause each share of Common Stock and Series B Preferred Stock Beneficially Owned by it and the Parent Controlled Affiliates that is entitled to vote on such matter to vote in favor of the action.

ARTICLE VII

EFFECTIVENESS AND TERMINATION

Section 7.1 *Termination*. This Agreement will be effective as of the date hereof and will continue in effect thereafter until the earliest of (a) its termination by the mutual written agreement of the Company (subject to Section 9.3(b)) and the Investor, (b) except as otherwise specifically provided herein with respect to particular Sections of this Agreement, at such time as the Investor no longer Beneficially Owns any Securities and (c) the dissolution, liquidation and winding up of the Company.

ARTICLE VIII

ACCESS, INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Section 8.1 *Confidentiality*.

(a) Subject to Section 8.1(b), each party to this Agreement will hold, and will cause its respective Controlled Affiliates and any other Affiliate to whom it releases or discloses Proprietary Information and their respective directors, officers, partners, employees, agents, consultants and advisors to hold in strict confidence, all non-public records, books, contracts, instruments, computer data and other data and information, including without limitation, information regarding the Company's finances and results, technology, trade secrets, know-how, customers, vendors, business

and/or strategic plans, marketing activities, financial data and other business affairs (collectively, Proprietary Information) concerning the other party hereto furnished to it by such other party or its representatives pursuant to this Agreement (except to the extent that such information can be shown to have been (i) previously known by such party on a non-confidential basis, (ii) in the public domain through no fault of such party or (iii) later lawfully acquired from other sources not known to or suspected by such party to be prohibited from disclosing such

G-21

Table of Contents

Proprietary Information by a contractual, legal or fiduciary obligation), and neither party hereto shall release or disclose such Proprietary Information to any other Person, except its auditors, attorneys, financial advisors, other consultants and advisors.

(b) In the event that any party, any Controlled Affiliates of any party or any of its or their representatives (a Disclosing Party) is requested pursuant to, or required by, applicable Law, regulation or legal process to disclose any Proprietary Information of the other party (a ‘