

SAFEGUARD SCIENTIFICS INC
Form S-3
December 17, 2010

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 17, 2010

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Safeguard Scientifics, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

23-1609753
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**435 Devon Park Drive
Building 800
Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 293-0600**

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

**BRIAN J. SISKI, ESQ.
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Safeguard Scientifics, Inc.**

435 Devon Park Drive
Building 800
Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 293-0600

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

Copies of all communications to:
**JUSTIN W. CHAIRMAN, ESQ.
RICHARD B. ALDRIDGE, ESQ.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
1701 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 963-5000**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1) | Amount to be Registered(2) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)(3) | Amount of Registration Fee |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.10 par value Warrants(4) Debt Securities | \$ 150,000,000 | \$ 150,000,000 | \$ 10,695 |

- (1) This registration statement also registers such indeterminate amounts of securities as may be issued upon conversion or settlement of, or in exchange for, the securities registered hereunder and, pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, such indeterminate number of shares as may be issued upon conversion or exchange as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Represents an indeterminate number or aggregate principal amount of the securities being registered for issuance at various times and at indeterminate prices, with an aggregate public offering price not to exceed \$150,000,000. Such amount represents the issue price rather than the principal amount of any debt securities issued at original issue discount. The securities registered hereby may be sold separately, together, or in units with other securities registered hereby.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the registration fee, pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act. The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereby.
- (4) There are being registered hereby an indeterminate number of warrants entitling the holders thereof to purchase shares of common stock, which may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration

statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED DECEMBER 17, 2010

PROSPECTUS

SAFEGUARD SCIENTIFICS, INC.

Common Stock

Warrants

Debt Securities

We may offer up to \$150,000,000 of our common stock, warrants to purchase our common stock and debt securities, including debt securities convertible into common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SFE.

This prospectus will allow us to issue securities over time and describes some of the general terms that may apply to an offering of such securities. We may offer these securities at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus. These securities may be offered directly, through agents on our behalf or through underwriters or dealers, on a continuous or delayed basis. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable discounts or commissions and over-allotment options will be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors on page 5 of this prospectus before investing in our securities.

The securities described in this prospectus have not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor have they determined if this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2010

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about our company, the industries in which we operate and other matters, as well as management's beliefs and assumptions and other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts. These statements include, in particular, statements about our plans, strategies and prospects, and concern possible or assumed future events, results and business outcomes. Forward-looking statements often include words such as projects, expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, estimates, should, would, could, will, opportunity, potential or may, variations of such words or other words to convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes.

As you read and consider this prospectus, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. You should understand that these statements involve substantial risk and uncertainty and are not guarantees of future performance or results. They depend on many factors that are discussed further in the section of this prospectus entitled Risk Factors, including:

- managing rapidly changing technologies;
- limited access to capital;
- competition;
- the ability to attract and retain qualified employees;
- the ability to execute our strategy;
- the uncertainty of the future performance of our partner companies
- acquisitions and dispositions of companies;
- the inability to manage growth;
- compliance with government regulation and legal liabilities;
- additional financing requirements;
- labor disputes; and

and the effect of economic conditions in the business sectors in which our partner companies operate.

Many of these factors are beyond our ability to predict or control. Changes or developments in any of these areas could affect our financial results or results of operations, and could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by any forward-looking statements.

All forward looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference, as the case may be. All forward-looking statements attributable to us, or to persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. We do not undertake any duty to update any of these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus describes certain securities of Safeguard Scientifics, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation. We sometimes refer to Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. using the words we, our or us, or as the Company. This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process, which allows us to offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. Using this prospectus, we may offer up to \$150,000,000 worth of securities.

This prospectus contains a general description of the securities we may offer. We will describe the specific terms of these securities, as necessary, in supplements that we attach to this prospectus for each offering. Each supplement will also contain specific information about the terms of the offering it describes. The supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. In addition, as we describe below in the section entitled Where You Can Find More Information, we have filed and plan to continue to file other documents with the SEC that contain information about us. Before you decide whether to invest in our securities, you should read this prospectus, the supplement that further describes the offering of those securities and the information we otherwise file with the SEC.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Therefore, we file reports, proxy statements and other information with, and furnish other reports to, the SEC. You can read and copy all of these documents at the SEC's public reference facilities in Washington, D.C., New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference facilities by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You can also read and copy all of the above-referenced documents at the offices of the NASDAQ Global Market, 1735 K Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. You also may obtain the documents we file with the SEC from the SEC's Web site on the Internet that is located at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document we file with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference in this prospectus is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including filings made (i) after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement and (ii) after the date of this prospectus but before the end of this offering. The documents that we are incorporating by reference are:

The documents that we are incorporating by reference are:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2010;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 11, 2010, March 30, 2010, May 14, 2010, October 22, 2010 and November 8, 2010; and

The description of our common stock that is contained in our Registration Statements on Form 8-A as have been filed with the SEC and amended from time to time.

You should read the information relating to us in this prospectus, together with the information in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated in that document, speaks as of the date of the document. Statements contained in this prospectus may modify or replace statements contained in the documents incorporated by reference. In addition, some of the statements contained in one or more of the documents incorporated by reference may be modified or replaced by statements contained in a document incorporated by reference that is filed thereafter.

You may request a copy of any or all of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at Safeguard Scientifics, Inc., 435 Devon Park Drive, Building 800, Wayne, PA 19087, Attention: Corporate Secretary, Telephone: (610) 293-0600.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before purchasing our securities, you should carefully consider the risks described in the SEC filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including, without limitation, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2010. You should not purchase our securities if you cannot afford the loss of your entire investment.

OUR COMPANY

Our charter is to build value in growth-stage technology and life sciences businesses by providing partner companies with capital and a range of strategic, operational and management resources. Safeguard may participate in expansion financings, corporate spin-outs, management buy-outs, recapitalizations, industry consolidations and early-stage financings. Our vision is to be the preferred catalyst for creating great technology and life sciences companies. Throughout this document, we use the term *partner company* to generally refer to those companies that we have an economic interest in and that we are actively involved in influencing the development of, usually through board representation in addition to our equity ownership stake. From time to time, in addition to our partner companies, we also hold economic interests in other enterprises in which we are not actively involved in the management.

We strive to create long-term value for our shareholders by helping partner companies increase their market penetration, grow revenue and improve cash flow. We focus on companies with capital requirements of up to \$25 million that operate in two sectors:

Technology including companies focused on internet/new media, healthcare information technology and financial services information technology that have recurring or transactional revenue models; and

Life Sciences including companies focused on molecular and point-of-care diagnostics, medical devices, regenerative medicine and specialty pharmaceuticals.

We incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1953. Our corporate headquarters is located at 435 Devon Park Drive, Building 800, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087.

SECURITIES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS

Using this prospectus, we may offer from time to time, in one or more series, together or separately, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of offering:

shares of common stock, \$0.10 par value;

warrants to purchase shares of common stock; and

debt securities, which may be convertible or exchangeable into common stock or other securities, and which will be senior debt, ranking equally with any of our other unsubordinated and unsecured indebtedness.

A prospectus supplement will describe the specific types, amounts, prices and detailed terms of any of these securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds, if any, from the sale of the securities offered hereby will be used for general corporate purposes, including working capital, acquisitions, repurchases of common stock, capital expenditures and/or the repayment of indebtedness. As of the date of this prospectus, we have not identified as probable any specific material proposed uses of these proceeds. If, as of the date of any prospectus supplement, we have identified any such uses, we will describe them in the prospectus supplement. The amount of securities offered from time to time pursuant to this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, and the precise amount of the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of such securities, as well as the timing of receipt of those proceeds, will depend upon our funding requirements. If we elect at the time of an issuance of securities to make different or more specific uses of the proceeds than as set forth herein, we will describe those uses in the applicable prospectus supplement.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the year ended December 31, 2009 was 27.3. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 earnings, as defined, were not sufficient to cover fixed charges. The deficiency of earnings required to attain a ratio of one-to-one in each of such periods was \$6.3 million, \$11.4 million, \$37.7 million, \$29.7 million and \$26.8 million, respectively.

For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes, less equity loss, plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of, for both continuing and discontinued operations, interest expense, including the amortization of debt issuance costs and debt discount, plus the portion of rental expense we believe to be representative of the interest factor. We had no capitalized interest in any of the periods presented.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock will apply generally to any future common stock that we may offer, but is not complete. We will describe the particular terms of any class or series of these securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. For more information regarding the common stock that may be offered by this prospectus, please refer to our Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and our Amended and Restated By-laws, as amended, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and our Amended and Restated By-laws, as amended. The terms of these securities also may be affected by the Business Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended.

Our authorized common stock consists of 83,333,333 shares of common stock, \$0.10 par value. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders. Our stockholders have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for distribution. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Holders of common stock have no preemptive rights and no right to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Holders of common stock will have no liability for further calls or assessments and will not be personally liable for the payment of our debts except as they may be liable by reason of their own conduct or acts.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue separately, or together with any common stock offered by any prospectus supplement, warrants for the purchase of other shares of common stock (Warrants). The Warrants may be issued under warrant agreements (each, a Warrant Agreement) to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent (the Warrant Agent), or may be represented by certificates evidencing the Warrants (the Warrant Certificates), all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of Warrants. The following summaries of certain provisions of the Warrants do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of any related Warrant Agreement and Warrant Certificate, respectively, including the definitions therein of certain terms. Wherever defined terms of the Warrant Agreement are summarized herein or in a prospectus supplement, it is intended that such defined terms shall be incorporated herein or therein by reference. In connection with any offering of Warrants, any such Warrant Agreement or a form of any such Warrant Certificate will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

General

The prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of Warrants offered thereby will describe the terms of the offered Warrants, any related Warrant Agreements and Warrant Certificates, including the following, to the extent applicable:

if the Warrants are offered for separate consideration, the offering price and the currency for which Warrants may be purchased;

the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of common stock warrants and the price at which such number of shares of common stock may be purchased upon such exercise;

the date, if any, on and after which the offered warrants and the related shares of common stock will be separately transferable;

the date on which the right to exercise the offered Warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of the specific U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to the Warrants, or to any securities purchasable upon the exercise of the Warrants;

whether the offered Warrants represented by Warrant Certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;

any applicable anti-dilution provisions;

any applicable redemption or call provisions;

any applicable book-entry provisions; and

any other terms of the offered Warrants.

Warrant Certificates will be exchangeable on the terms specified in the related prospectus supplement for new Warrant Certificates of different denominations and Warrants may be exercised, as applicable, at our corporate offices, the corporate trust office of the Warrant Agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Prior to the exercise of their Warrants, holders of Warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the shares of common stock purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of

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dividends or distributions of any kind, if any, on the shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise or to exercise any applicable right to vote such shares.

Exercise of Warrants

Each Warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase such number of shares of common stock at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable from, the prospectus supplement relating to such Warrant, by payment of such exercise price in full in the currency and in the manner specified in such prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on their expiration date(s) (or any later date to which we may extend such expiration date(s)); unexercised Warrants will become null and void.

Upon receipt at the corporate trust office of the Warrant Agent or any other office indicated in the related prospectus supplement of (a) payment of the exercise price and (b) the Warrant Certificate properly completed and duly executed, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the shares of common stock purchasable upon such exercise to the holder of such Warrant. If less than all of the Warrants represented by such Warrant Certificate are exercised, a new Warrant Certificate will be issued for the remaining number of Warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

In this section, references to holders mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names on the books that we or the trustee maintains for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories. Owners of beneficial interests in the debt securities should read the section below entitled Legal Ownership of Debt Securities.

General

The debt securities offered by this prospectus will be senior debt securities that rank on an equal basis with all our other unsecured debt and unsubordinated debt. We will issue these debt securities under a senior debt indenture between us and a trustee, which we sometimes refer to as the indenture. We have filed a form of the indenture with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You can obtain copies of the indenture by following the directions outlined in Where You Can Find More Information.

The following summary briefly describes the material provisions of the indenture and the debt securities, other than pricing and related terms, which will be disclosed for a particular issuance in the applicable prospectus supplement. The summary is not complete. You should read the more detailed provisions of the indenture, including the defined terms, for provisions that may be important to you. The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement are qualified in their entirety by reference to the indenture. You should also read the particular terms of a series of debt securities, which will be described in more detail in an applicable prospectus supplement. Throughout the summary we have included parenthetical references to the indenture sections to help you locate the provisions being discussed.

The indenture provides that our unsecured senior debt securities may be issued in one or more series, with different terms, in each case as we authorize from time to time. We also have the right, from time to time, to issue debt securities of any series previously issued. (Section 3.01)

Information in the Prospectus Supplement

The prospectus supplement for any offered series of debt securities will describe the following terms, as applicable:

the title or designation;

the aggregate principal amount offered and authorized denominations;

the initial public offering price;

the maturity date or dates;

any sinking fund or other provision for payment of the debt securities prior to their stated maturity;

whether the debt securities are fixed rate debt securities or floating rate debt securities or original issue discount debt securities;

if the debt securities are fixed rate debt securities, the yearly rate at which the debt security will bear interest, if any;

if the debt securities are floating rate debt securities, the method of calculating the interest rate;

if the debt securities are original issue discount debt securities, their yield to maturity;

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

if other than in U.S. Dollars, the currency or currency unit in which payment will be made;

any provisions for the payment of additional amounts for taxes;

the denominations in which the currency or currency unit of the securities will be issuable if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be convertible;

the terms and conditions on which the debt securities may be redeemed at our option;

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

the names and duties of any co-indenture trustees, depositaries, auction agents, authenticating agents, calculation agents, paying agents, transfer agents or registrars for the debt securities;

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

the ranking of the specific series of debt securities relative to other outstanding indebtedness, including subsidiaries debt;

the place where we will pay principal and interest;

additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance of the debt securities;

any United States federal income tax consequences relating to the offered securities, if material;

the dates on which premiums, if any, will be paid;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of this deferral period;

any listing of the debt securities on a securities exchange; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities.

We will issue the debt securities only in registered form. (Section 3.02) As currently anticipated, debt securities of a series will trade in book-entry form, and global securities will be issued in physical (paper) form, as described below under What Is a Global Security?

In general, the holders of all senior debt securities are first entitled to receive payment of the full amount unpaid on senior indebtedness before the holders of any subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive a payment on account of the principal or interest on the indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities in certain events.

Senior indebtedness means:

the principal, interest and any other amounts owing in respect of our indebtedness for borrowed money or indebtedness of others that we guarantee and indebtedness evidenced by bonds, notes, debentures or other similar instruments or letters of credit issued by us, including any senior debt securities issued under any senior debt security or letters of credit;

all capitalized lease obligations;

all hedging obligations;

all obligations representing the deferred purchase price of property; and

all deferrals, renewals, extensions and refundings of obligations of the type referred to above;

but senior indebtedness does not include:

any indebtedness that by its terms is subordinated to, or ranks on an equal basis with, our subordinated debt securities.

Covenants

Merger and Sale of Assets

We may not, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions:

consolidate or merge with or into any other person or permit any other person to consolidate or merge with or into us; or

transfer, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets,

unless, in either such case:

in a transaction in which we do not survive or in which we sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, the successor entity to us is organized under the laws of the United States, or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture, all of our obligations under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default on the debt securities exists; and

an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel concerning certain matters are delivered to the trustee.

(Section 8.01)

Other Covenants

In addition, any offered series of debt securities may have additional covenants which will be described in the prospectus supplement, limiting or restricting, among other things:

our ability to incur indebtedness;

our ability to pay dividends or to repurchase or redeem our share capital;

our ability to create dividend and other payment restrictions affecting our subsidiaries;

our ability to sell assets;

our ability to enter into transactions with affiliates; and

our ability to incur liens.

Modification of the Indenture

Under the indenture, we and the relevant trustee may amend the indenture, without the consent of any holder of the debt securities to:

evidence the succession of another obligor to the company and the assumption of the covenants in the indenture and in the debt securities by such successor;

add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities (and if such covenants are to be for the benefit of less than all series of debt securities, stating that such covenants are expressly being included for the benefit of such series) or to surrender any rights or power conferred upon us;

add any additional events of default;

add or change any provision of the indenture to permit the issuance of the debt securities in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, with or without interest coupons;

add to, change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture in respect of one or more series of debt securities, provided that any such addition, change or elimination (i) will neither apply to any debt security created prior to the execution of the supplemental indenture nor adversely affect the rights of the holders thereof in any material respect or (ii) will become effective only when no such debt securities are outstanding;

secure the debt securities;

establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series as permitted in the indenture;

establish provisions with respect to conversion rights, if any;

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reflect our consolidation or merger with or into any other person or permit the consolidation or merger of any other person with or into us, or the transfer, sale, lease or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, in conformity with the limitations set forth in the indenture;

permit the issuance of uncertificated debt securities in addition to, or in place of, certificated debt securities;

appoint a successor trustee under the indenture;

cure ambiguities, defects or inconsistencies, provided that the amendment may not adversely affect the interests of holders of debt securities in any material respect;

conform any provisions of the indenture to the Description of Debt Securities contained in this prospectus or any similar provision in an applicable prospectus supplement; or

maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. (Section 9.01).

We and the trustee may, with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series or such other percentage as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, modify the indenture or the rights of the holders of the securities of such series. However, no such modification may, without the consent of each holder of an affected debt security:

change the fixed maturity of any such debt securities or the date on which any payment of interest on the debt securities is due and payable;

reduce the principal amount or interest rate on any debt security;

reduce the premium payable upon any redemption of the debt securities;

reduce the amount of principal payable on the acceleration of any securities issued originally at a discount;

change the place of payment of, or type of currency for payment of, debt securities;

impair the right to sue for the enforcement of any payment of principal, any installment of interest or premium on or after the maturity (including in connection with a redemption, on or after the redemption date) of the debt securities;

adversely affect the right, if any, to convert such debt securities, or modify the provisions of the indenture with respect to the ranking of the debt securities in a manner adverse to the holder thereof;

reduce the percentage of debt securities of a series whose holders need to consent to a modification or a waiver;

modify any of the provisions in the indenture related to modifications that require the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series or provisions in the indenture related to the waiver of past defaults by the holders of debt securities, except to increase any such percentage or provide that certain other provisions may not be modified without the consent of each holder of the debt securities;

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

reduce or postpone any sinking fund. (Section 9.02)

Defaults

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The indenture provides that events of default regarding any series of debt securities will be:

our failure to pay interest on any debt security of such series for 30 days after such payment is due;

our failure to pay principal on any debt security of such series when due;

our failure to make any deposit of any sinking fund payment when due on debt securities of such series;

our failure to perform for 60 days after notice given by the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities any other covenant in the indenture other than a covenant (i) included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than such series or (ii) expressly excluded from events giving rise to a default, including the obligation to file SEC filings with the trustee;

our failure to pay beyond any applicable grace period, or the acceleration (which is not rescinded or cured within 30 days of notice of acceleration) of, indebtedness in excess of \$50,000,000; or

certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or not, with respect to us or any material subsidiary. (Section 5.01)

In addition, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe any other event of default set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an event of default regarding debt securities of any series issued under the indenture should occur and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in the principal amount of outstanding debt securities of such series may declare the principal amount, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, if any, of each debt security of that series due and payable. If an event of default regarding debt securities results from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us or any material subsidiary, such amount with respect to the debt securities will be due and payable immediately without any declaration or other act on the part of the holders of outstanding debt securities or the trustee. (Section 5.02)

No event of default regarding one series of debt securities issued under the indenture is necessarily an event of default regarding any other series of debt securities.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will be entitled to control certain actions of the trustee under the indenture and to waive certain past defaults regarding such series. (Sections 5.12 and 5.13) The trustee generally cannot be required by any of the holders of debt securities to take any action, unless one or more of such holders shall have provided to the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee. (Section 6.02)

If an event of default occurs and is continuing regarding a series of debt securities, the trustee may use any sums that it holds under the indenture for its own reasonable compensation and expenses incurred prior to paying the holders of debt securities of such series. (Section 5.06)

Before any holder of any series of debt securities may institute action for any remedy, the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding must request the trustee to take action. Holders must also offer indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against liabilities incurred by the trustee for taking such action, and the trustee must have failed to institute any proceeding within 60 days after receiving such notice and offer of indemnity. These limitations do not apply if the holders of a majority of debt securities of the applicable series give an inconsistent direction. (Section 5.07) In addition, these limitations also do not apply, however, to a suit by a holder of any series of debt securities to enforce payment of principal, interest or premium, if any, and the right to convert such debt security, if applicable. (Section 5.08)

Each trustee will, within 90 days after any default occurs, give notice of the default to the holders of the debt securities of that series, unless the default was already cured or waived. Unless there is a default in paying principal, interest or any premium when due, the trustee can withhold giving notice to the holders if it determines in good faith that the withholding of notice is in the interest of the holders. (Section 6.05)

We are required to furnish to each trustee an annual statement as to compliance with all conditions and covenants under the indenture. (Section 10.05)

Defeasance

After we have irrevocably deposited with the trustee cash or U.S. government securities, in trust for the benefit of the holders, sufficient to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of such series when due, and satisfied certain other conditions described below, we may elect to have our obligations under the indenture discharged with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series (legal defeasance and discharge). Legal defeasance and discharge means that we will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness represented by the outstanding debt securities of such series under the indenture, except for:

the rights of holders of the debt securities to receive principal, interest and any premium when due from amounts deposited with the trustee, which will be held in trust funds for the purpose of such payments;

our obligations with respect to the debt securities concerning issuing temporary debt securities, registration of transfer of debt securities, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities and the maintenance of an office or agency where securities may be presented for payment, transfer, exchange or, if applicable, conversion for security payments held in trust;

the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the trustee; and

the defeasance provisions of the indenture.

Alternatively, we may elect to have our obligations released with respect to certain covenants in the indenture (covenant defeasance). The released obligations include:

our obligations regarding delivery of reports to the trustee and holders of debt securities;

our obligations relating to a merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets; and

our obligation to present and keep in full force and effect our corporate existence.

Any omission to comply with these obligations so released will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of any series. In the event covenant defeasance occurs, certain events relating to these obligations, as well as the failure to deposit a sinking fund payment when due and the failure to pay or acceleration of indebtedness in excess of \$50,000,000, as described above under Events of Default, will no longer constitute an event of default for that series.

In order to exercise either legal defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to outstanding debt securities of any series, we must irrevocably have deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee as trust funds cash or specified United States government obligations in an amount, in each case, sufficient without reinvestment, in the written opinion of an nationally recognized firm of independent certified public accountants, to pay and discharge all of the principal, interest and any premium at due date or maturity. In addition:

in the case of legal defeasance, we must have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel confirming that (i) we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service, a ruling or (ii) since the date of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable Federal income tax law, in either case, to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge to be effected and will be subject to the same federal income tax as would be the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge did not occur;

in the case of covenant defeasance and discharge, we must have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that, under then applicable federal income tax law, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and covenant defeasance to be effected and will be subject to the same federal income tax as would be the case if the deposit and covenant defeasance did not occur;

no default with respect to the outstanding debt securities of that series may have occurred and be continuing at the time of such deposit after giving effect to the deposit or, in the case of legal defeasance and discharge, no default relating to bankruptcy or insolvency may have occurred and be continuing at any time on or before the 90th day after the date of such deposit, it being understood that this condition is not deemed satisfied until after the 90th day;

the legal defeasance and discharge or covenant defeasance must not cause the trustee to have a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, assuming all debt securities of a series were in default within the meaning of such Act;

the legal defeasance and discharge or covenant defeasance must not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other agreement or instrument to which we are a party;

we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that any trust arising from such deposit does not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

no event or condition may exist that, under the defeasance provisions of the indenture, would prevent us from making payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the applicable debt

securities on the date of deposit or at any time on or before the 90th day after the date of such deposit, it being understood that this condition is not deemed satisfied until after the 90th day; and

we must deliver to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that all conditions precedent with respect to the legal defeasance and discharge or covenant defeasance have been complied with. (Article XIII)

Governing Law

Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities and the indenture will be governed by New York law. (Section 1.13)

Payment and Paying Agents

Distributions on the debt securities other than those represented by global securities will be made in the designated currency against surrender of the debt securities at the principal corporate trust office or agency of the trustee in New York, New York. Payment will be made to the registered holder at the close of business on the record date for such payment. Interest payments will be made at the principal corporate trust office or agency of the trustee in New York, New York, or by a check mailed to the holder at his registered address. Payments in any other manner will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Calculation Agents

Calculations relating to floating rate debt securities will be made by the calculation agent, an institution that we appoint as our agent for this purpose. We may appoint one of our affiliates as calculation agent. We may appoint a different institution to serve as calculation agent from time to time after the original issue date of the debt security without your consent and without notifying you of the change. The initial calculation agent will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Transfer and Exchange

The debt securities may be presented for exchange, and debt securities other than a global security may be presented for registration of transfer, at the principal corporate trust office or agency of the trustee in New York, New York. Holders will not have to pay any service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with such registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities. (Section 3.05)

Legal Ownership of Debt Securities

Unless the prospectus supplement specifies otherwise, we will issue debt securities initially in the form of a global security. However, we may elect to issue debt securities in fully registered or bearer form or both. We refer to those who have debt securities registered in their own names on the books that we or our agent maintain for this purpose as the *holders* of those debt securities. These persons are the legal holders of the debt securities. We refer to those who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in debt securities that are not registered in their own names as *indirect holders* of those debt securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in debt securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

Book-Entry Holders

If we issue debt securities in global *i.e.*, book-entry form, the debt securities will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the debt securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

For registered debt securities, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized under the indenture as the holder of that debt security. (Section 3.08) Debt securities issued in global form will be issued in the form of a global security registered in the name of the depositary or its nominees. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the debt securities and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities.

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

In the future, we may terminate a global security under the circumstances specified below under *What Is a Global Security? Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated* or issue debt securities initially in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their debt securities in their own names or in street name. Debt securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those debt securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those debt securities.

Legal Holders

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

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

When we refer below to *you*, we mean those who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect holders of those debt securities. When we refer to *your* debt securities, we mean the debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

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

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

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

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

What Is a Global Security?

A global security is a security that represents one or more debt securities and is held by a depository. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution that we select or its nominees. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under *Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated*. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the debt security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular debt security indicates that the debt security will be issued in global form only, then the debt security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. We describe the situations in which this can occur below under *Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated*. If termination occurs, we may issue the debt securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the debt securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

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

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

An investor cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain nonglobal certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

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

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

The depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;

The depository may (and we understand that DTC will) require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

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

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other matters relating to the debt securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own bank or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above under Legal Ownership of Debt Securities.

The global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer permitted under applicable law to continue as depository for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 90 days;

if we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to debt securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived. We discuss defaults above under Default and Related Matters.

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository and not we or the trustee is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby: (a) directly to purchasers; (b) through agents; (c) through underwriters; (d) through dealers; or (e) through a combination of any such methods of sale.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or at final prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us, or by agents designated by us, from time to time. Any such agent, which may be deemed to be an underwriter as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an underwriter is, or underwriters are, utilized in the offer and sale of securities in respect of which this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement are delivered, we will execute an underwriting agreement with such underwriter(s) for the sale to it or them and the name(s) of the underwriter(s) and the terms of the transaction, including any underwriting discounts and other items constituting compensation of the underwriters and dealers, if any, will be set forth in such prospectus supplement, which will be used by the underwriter(s) to make resales of the securities in respect of which this prospectus and such prospectus supplement are delivered to the public. The securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own accounts and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying

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prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. The name of the dealer and the terms of the transaction will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an agent is used in an offering of securities being offered by this prospectus, the agent will be named, and the terms of the agency will be described, in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, an agent will act on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or their other agents to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase securities from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery at a future date. Institutional investors with which these contracts may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others. In all cases, these purchasers must be approved by us. The obligations of any purchaser under any of these contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that (a) the purchase of the securities must not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction to which that purchaser is subject, and (b) if the securities are also being sold to underwriters, we must have sold to these underwriters the securities not subject to delayed delivery. Underwriters and other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of these contracts.

Certain of the underwriters, dealers or agents utilized by us in any offering hereby may be customers of, including borrowers from, engage in transactions with, and perform services for us or one or more of our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. Underwriters, dealers, agents and other persons may be entitled, under agreements which may be entered into with us, to indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Until the distribution of the securities is completed, rules of the SEC may limit the ability of the underwriters and certain selling group members, if any, to bid for and purchase the securities. As an exception to these rules, the representatives of the underwriters, if any, are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize the price of the securities. Such transactions may consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities.

If underwriters create a short position in the securities in connection with the offering thereof (in other words, if they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement), the representatives of such underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing securities in the open market. Any such representatives also may elect to reduce any short position by exercising all or part of any over-allotment option described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any such representatives also may impose a penalty bid on certain underwriters and selling group members. This means that if the representatives purchase securities in the open market to reduce the underwriters' short position or to stabilize the price of the securities, they may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from the underwriters and selling group members who sold those shares as part of the offering thereof.

In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a syndicate short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might otherwise be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might have an effect on the price of a security to the extent that it were to discourage resales of the security by purchasers in the offering.

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

The anticipated date of delivery of the securities offered by this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering. The securities offered by this prospectus may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange or a foreign securities exchange. We cannot give any assurances that there will be a market for any of the securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement.

We estimate that the total expenses we will incur in offering the securities to which this prospectus relates, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, if any, will be approximately \$500,000.

LEGAL MATTERS

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will pass on the validity of the securities.

EXPERT

The consolidated financial statements of Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PART II
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The estimated expenses payable by the Registrant in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| SEC registration fee | \$ 10,695 |
| Printing and engraving fees | 100,000 |
| Legal fees | 200,000 |
| Accounting fees | 50,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 139,305 |
| Total | \$500,000 |

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Chapter 17, Subchapter D of the Business Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended (the PBCL), contains provisions permitting indemnification of officers and directors of a business corporation incorporated in Pennsylvania. Sections 1741 and 1742 of the PBCL provide that a business corporation may indemnify directors and officers against liabilities and expenses they may incur as such in connection with any threatened, pending or completed civil, administrative or investigative proceeding, provided that the particular person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. In general, the power to indemnify under these sections does not exist in the case of actions against a director or officer by or in the right of the corporation if the person otherwise entitled to indemnification shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless it is judicially determined that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification for specified expenses. Section 1743 of the PBCL provides that the corporation is required to indemnify directors and officers against expenses they may incur in defending actions against them in such capacities if they are successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of such actions.

Section 1713 of the PBCL permits the shareholders to adopt a bylaw provision relieving a director (but not an officer) of personal liability for monetary damages except where (i) the director has breached the applicable standard of care, and (ii) such conduct constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness. This section also provides that a director may not be relieved of liability for the payment of taxes pursuant to any federal, state or local law or of responsibility under a criminal statute.

Section 1746 of the PBCL provides that the indemnification provisions above are not exclusive of the right to which a person seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, except in circumstances where the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by a court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness.

Section 1747 of the PBCL permits a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a representative of another corporation or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the person against such liability under Chapter 17, Subchapter D of the PBCL.

Article IX of the Registrant's Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (the Articles), provide that a director or officer of the Registrant shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such (including, without limitation, any judgment, amount paid in settlement, penalty, punitive damages or expense of

any nature (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and disbursements) for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless the director or officer has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office under the Articles or the Amended and Restated Bylaws (the "Bylaws"), of the Registrant or applicable provisions of law and the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

Section 12 of Article III of the Registrant's Bylaws also limits the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless the director has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office. The limitation on monetary liability does not extend to breaches of duty constituting self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness and does not relieve a director of liability for the payment of any taxes pursuant to local, state or federal law, or liability or responsibility pursuant to any criminal statute.

Article IX of the Registrant's Bylaws provides, except as expressly prohibited by law, an unconditional right to indemnification for expenses and any liability paid or incurred by any director or officer of the Registrant, or any other person designated by the board of directors as an indemnified representative, in connection with any actual or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding (including derivative suits) in which he or she may be involved by reason of being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant, or at Registrant's request, a director, officer, manager, employee, agent, fiduciary or trustee of another corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other entity or enterprise. The Bylaws specifically authorize indemnification against both judgments and amounts paid in settlement of derivative suits, as well as indemnification for punitive damages.

Unlike the provisions of PBCL Section 1744, which sets forth procedures for effecting indemnification (but consistent with Section 1746 of the PBCL), Article IX of the Bylaws does not require us to determine the availability of indemnification by first following certain prescribed procedures. A person who has incurred an indemnifiable expense or liability has a right to be indemnified independent of any procedures or determinations that otherwise would be required, and that right is enforceable against us as long as indemnification is not prohibited by law. To the extent indemnification is permitted only for a portion of a liability, the Bylaw provisions require us to indemnify such portion. If the indemnification provided for in Article IX is unavailable for any reason in respect of any liability or portion thereof, the Bylaws require us to make a contribution toward the liability. Indemnification rights under the Bylaws do not depend upon the approval of any future Board of Directors.

Section 4 of Article IX of the Bylaws authorizes us to further effect or secure our indemnification obligations by entering into indemnification agreements, maintaining insurance, creating a reserve, trust, escrow, cash collateral or other fund or account, granting a security interest in our assets or property, establishing a letter of credit or using any other means that may be available from time to time. The Registrant maintains a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy that affords directors and officers with insurance coverage for losses arising from claims based on breaches of duty, negligence, error and other wrongful acts.

Item 16. List of Exhibits

The exhibits filed as part of this registration statement are as follows:

Exhibit

| Number | Description |
|---------------|---|
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP regarding legality of securities being registered. |
| 12.1 | Statement re: Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (included in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 hereto). |
| 23.2 | Consent of KPMG LLP. |

Exhibit

Number Description

24.1 Powers of Attorney (included as part of the signature page hereof).

Filed herewith

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act);

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the

Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 (§239.13 of this chapter) or Form F-3 (§239.33 of this chapter) and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) (§230.424(b) of this chapter) that is part of the registration statement./

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used

after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is a part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is a part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or

- (ii) If the registration is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statement relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) That, insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is

against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form S-3 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized, in Wayne, Pennsylvania, on December 17, 2010.

SAFEGUARD SCIENTIFICS, INC.

By: /s/ Peter J. Boni
 Peter J. Boni
 President, Chief Executive Officer and
 Director

Each person in so signing also makes, constitutes and appoints Peter J. Boni and Stephen T. Zarrilli, and each of them acting alone, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution, to execute and cause to be filed with the securities and exchange commission pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, any and all amendments and post-effective amendments to this registration statement, and including any registration statement for the same offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the securities act, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, and hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorney-in-fact or his or her substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| /s/ Peter J. Boni | | December 17, 2010 |
| Peter J. Boni | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (principal executive officer) | |
| /s/ Stephen T. Zarrilli | | December 17, 2010 |
| Stephen T. Zarrilli | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer) | |
| /s/ Julie A. Dobson | | December 17, 2010 |
| Julie A. Dobson | Director | |
| /s/ Andrew E. Lietz | | December 17, 2010 |
| Andrew E. Lietz | Chairman of the Board of Directors | |
| /s/ George McKenzie | | December 17, 2010 |
| George McKenzie | Director | |
| /s/ George D. McClelland | | December 17, 2010 |

George D. McClelland

Director

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| Signature | Title | Date |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| /s/ Jack L. Messman | | December 17, 2010 |
| Jack L. Messman | Director | |
| /s/ John J. Roberts | | December 17, 2010 |
| John J. Roberts | Director | |
| /s/ Robert J. Rosenthal | | December 17, 2010 |
| Robert J. Rosenthal | Director | |

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| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. |
| 12.1 | Statement re: Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (included in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 hereto). |
| 23.2 | Consent of KPMG LLP. |
| 24.1 | Powers of Attorney (included as part of the signature page hereof). |

Filed herewith