

ARI NETWORK SERVICES INC /WI
Form 8-A12B
December 05, 2013

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

ARI NETWORK SERVICES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Wisconsin

39-1388360

(State of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10850 West Park Place, Suite 1200

53224

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

(Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange in which

to be so registered

each class is to be registered

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box. ☒

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box. ☐

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: Not applicable.

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

This Form 8-A is being filed in connection with ARI Network Services, Inc.'s (the "Company") listing of common stock, \$0.001 par value per share (the "Common Stock") pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC commencing on or about December 9, 2013. The Common Stock is currently quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol "ARIS".

The following summary is a description of the Common Stock pursuant to the Company's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and By-laws. The following summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the Company's Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, copies of which are incorporated herein by this reference.

General

As of the date of this Form 8-A, the Company's authorized capital stock consists of 25,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share; 1,000,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock, \$0.001 par value per share; and 100,000 shares of junior preferred stock, \$0.001 par value per share. No shares of cumulative preferred stock or junior preferred stock are issued or outstanding.

Common Stock

Voting Rights. In connection with the election of directors of the Company and for all other corporate purposes, each holder of Common Stock is entitled to one vote for each share of Common Stock held of record by such shareholder. The holders of Common Stock are not entitled to cumulative voting rights. Generally, all matters to be voted on by shareholders must be approved by a majority, or, in the case of election of directors, by a plurality, of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote.

Dividends. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding series of preferred stock, holders of Common Stock are entitled to receive such dividends as may be declared thereon from time to time by the Company's Board of Directors, in its discretion, out of funds legally available for payment of dividends on Common Stock.

The Company has not paid cash dividends on the Common Stock in the past and does not intend pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

Classification of Board of Directors. The Company's Board of Directors is divided into three classes, and the term of office of directors of each class is three years.

Other Rights of Common Stock. In the event of the voluntary or involuntary dissolution, liquidation or winding up of the Company, after there have been paid to or set aside for the holders of shares of any outstanding series of preferred stock the full preferential amounts to which such holders may be entitled, the holders of outstanding shares of Common Stock will be entitled to share ratably, according to the number of shares held by each, in the remaining assets of the Company available for distribution. Holders of Common Stock have no preemptive or other subscription rights, and the shares of Common Stock are not subject to further calls or assessment by the Company. There are no conversion rights or sinking fund provisions applicable to the shares of Common Stock.

Anti-takeover Provisions of Wisconsin Business Corporation Law

Business Combination Statute

The Company is subject to Sections 180.1140 to 180.1144 of the Wisconsin Business Corporation Law (WBCL), which prohibit a Wisconsin corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of three years following the date such person became an interested shareholder, unless before such date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in such person becoming an interested shareholder.

The Company may engage in a business combination with an interested shareholder after the expiration of the three-year period with respect to such shareholder only if one or more of the following is satisfied:

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the Company's board of directors approved the acquisition of stock before such shareholder's acquisition date;

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the business combination is approved by a majority of the outstanding voting stock not beneficially owned by such shareholder; or

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the consideration to be received by shareholders meets certain fair price requirements of the statute with respect to form and amount.

In general, Sections 180.1140 to 180.1144 define business combinations between a resident domestic corporation and an interested shareholder to include the following:

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a merger or share exchange with an interested shareholder or a corporation that is, or after the merger or share exchange would be, an affiliate or associate of an interested shareholder;

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a sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition of assets to or with an interested shareholder or affiliate or associate of an interested shareholder equal to 5% or more of the aggregate market value of the assets or

outstanding stock of the resident domestic corporation or 10% of its earning power or income;

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the issuance or transfer of stock or rights to purchase stock with a market value equal to 5% or more of the outstanding stock of the resident domestic corporation;

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the adoption of a plan of liquidation or dissolution; and

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certain other transactions involving an interested shareholder.

Section 180.1140(8)(a) defines an interested shareholder as a person who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, at least 10% of the voting power of the outstanding voting stock of a resident domestic corporation or who is an affiliate or associate of the resident domestic corporation and beneficially owned at least 10% of the voting power of the then-outstanding voting stock within the last three years.

Section 180.1140(9)(a) defines a resident domestic corporation as a Wisconsin corporation that has a class of voting stock that is registered or traded on a national securities exchange or that is registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and that, as of the relevant date, satisfies any of the following: (i) its principal offices are located in Wisconsin, (ii) it has significant business operations located in Wisconsin, (iii) more than 10% of the holders of record of its shares are residents of Wisconsin or (iv) more than 10% of its shares are held of record by residents in Wisconsin. The Company is a resident domestic corporation for purposes of these statutory provisions.

Fair Price Statute

Sections 180.1130 to 180.1133 of the WBCL provide that certain mergers, share exchanges or sales, leases, exchanges or other dispositions of assets in a transaction involving a significant shareholder and a resident domestic corporation require a supermajority vote of shareholders in addition to any approval otherwise required, unless shareholders receive a fair price for their shares that satisfies a statutory formula. A significant shareholder for this purpose is defined as a person or group who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting stock of the corporation, or is an affiliate of the corporation and beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting stock of the corporation within the last two years. Any business combination to which the statute applies must be approved by 80% of the voting power of the corporation's stock and at least two-thirds of the voting power of the corporation's stock not beneficially owned by the significant shareholder who is a party to the relevant transaction or any of its affiliates or associates, in each case voting together as a single group, unless the following standards have been met:

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the aggregate value of the per share consideration is equal to the highest of:

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the highest per share price paid for any shares of the same class of common stock of the corporation by the significant shareholder in the transaction in which it became a significant shareholder or within two years before the date of the business combination;

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the market value per share of the same class of the corporation's common stock on the date of commencement of any tender offer by the significant shareholder, the date on which the person became a significant shareholder or the date

of the first public announcement of the proposed business combination, whichever is higher; or

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the highest preferential amount per share of the same class of common stock in a liquidation or dissolution to which holders of the shares would be entitled; and

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either cash, or the form of consideration used by the significant shareholder to acquire the largest number of shares, is offered.

Control Share Voting Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 180.1150 of the WBCL, unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or otherwise specified by the board of directors, the voting power of shares of a resident domestic corporation held by any person or group of persons acting together, including shares issuable upon conversion of convertible securities or upon exercise of options or warrants, in excess of 20% of the voting power in the election of directors is limited to 10% of the full voting power of those shares. The Company is governed by the provisions of this section because neither the Company's articles of incorporation, as amended, nor any resolution adopted by the Company's board of directors, provides or specifies otherwise.

Defensive Action Restrictions

Section 180.1134 of the WBCL provides that, in addition to the vote otherwise required by law or the articles of incorporation of a resident domestic corporation, the approval of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on the proposal is required before such corporation can take certain actions while a takeover offer is being made or after a takeover offer has been publicly announced and before it is concluded. This statute requires shareholder approval for the corporation to do either of the following: (i) acquire more than 5% of its outstanding voting shares at a price above the market price from any individual or organization that owns more than 3% of the outstanding voting shares and has held such shares for less than two years, unless a similar offer is made to acquire all voting shares and all securities that may be converted into voting shares; or (ii) sell or option assets of the corporation that amount to 10% or more of the market value of the resident domestic corporation, unless the corporation has at least three independent directors (directors who are not officers or employees) and a majority of the independent directors vote not to have this provision apply to the resident domestic corporation. The Company has more than three independent directors.

Constituency or Stakeholder Provision

Pursuant to Section 180.0827 of the WBCL, in discharging his or her duties to us and in determining what he or she believes to be in the Company's best interests, a director or officer may, in addition to considering the effects of any action on shareholders, consider the effects of the action on employees, suppliers, customers, the communities in which the Company operates and any other factors that the director or officer considers pertinent.

Item 2. Exhibits.

In accordance with the Instructions as to Exhibits with respect to Form 8-A, no exhibits are required to be filed as part of this registration statement because no other securities of the Registrant are registered on The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC and the securities registered hereby are not being registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

ARI NETWORK SERVICES, INC.

By:

/s/ Roy W. Olivier

Roy W. Olivier

President and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: December 5, 2013