

APPLIED MATERIALS INC /DE
Form 424B5
September 21, 2015
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-205584

The information in this Preliminary Prospectus Supplement is not complete and may be changed. This Preliminary Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell these securities or a solicitation of an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated September 21, 2015

Prospectus Supplement

(to Prospectus dated July 9, 2015)

Applied Materials, Inc.

\$ % Senior Notes due , 20

\$ % Senior Notes due , 20

\$ % Senior Notes due , 20

Interest on the notes will be payable semi-annually on and of each year, beginning on , 2016. The % Senior Notes due 20 will mature on , 20 , the % Senior Notes due 20 will mature on , 20 and the % Senior Notes due 20 will mature on , 20 . We refer to the % Senior Notes due 20 as the 20 notes, to the % Senior Notes due 20 as the 20 notes, to the % Senior Notes due 20 as the 20 notes, and to the 20 notes, the 20 notes and the 20 notes collectively as the notes.

Applied Materials, Inc. may redeem the notes in whole or in part at any time prior to their maturity at the redemption prices described in this prospectus supplement.

The notes are being offered globally for sale in jurisdictions where it is lawful to make such offers and sales.

| | | Public offering price(1) | Underwriting discount | Proceeds to Applied Materials, Inc. (before expenses) |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Per 20 | Note | % | % | % |
| 20 | Notes Total | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Per 20 | Note | % | % | % |
| 20 | Notes Total | \$ | \$ | \$ |

| Per 20 | Note | | % | % | % |
|--------|-------------|----|---|----|----|
| 20 | Notes Total | \$ | | \$ | \$ |
| | Total | \$ | | \$ | \$ |

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from September , 2015.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk factors beginning on page S-6.

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

We expect to deliver the notes to investors in registered book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, and Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, on or about September , 2015.

Joint Book-Running Managers

J.P. Morgan

Citigroup

MUFG

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

September , 2015

Table of Contents

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

Table of contents**Prospectus supplement**

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About this prospectus supplement</u> | S-ii |
| <u>Special note about forward-looking statements</u> | S-ii |
| <u>Summary</u> | S-1 |
| <u>The offering</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Summary consolidated financial information</u> | S-5 |
| <u>Risk factors</u> | S-6 |
| <u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u> | S-10 |
| <u>Use of proceeds</u> | S-11 |
| <u>Capitalization</u> | S-12 |
| <u>Description of notes</u> | S-13 |
| <u>Underwriting</u> | S-24 |
| <u>Legal matters</u> | S-29 |
| <u>Experts</u> | S-29 |
| <u>Where you can find more information</u> | S-30 |
| <u>Incorporation by reference</u> | S-30 |
| Prospectus | |

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>About this prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where you can find more information</u> | 1 |
| <u>Incorporation by reference</u> | 2 |
| <u>Forward-looking statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Our business</u> | 4 |
| <u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u> | 5 |
| <u>Use of proceeds</u> | 6 |
| <u>Description of debt securities</u> | 7 |
| <u>Certain U.S. federal income tax considerations</u> | 22 |
| <u>Plan of distribution</u> | 30 |
| <u>Legal matters</u> | 33 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 33 |

Table of Contents

About this prospectus supplement

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which includes more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with the additional information described under the headings "Where you can find more information" and "Incorporation by reference" on page S-30.

In this prospectus supplement, except as otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, Applied, the company, we, us and our to Applied Materials, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement.

Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

Special note about forward-looking statements

This prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). All statements contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements may contain words such as expect, believe, may, can, should, could, would, will, forecast, expect, anticipate, estimate, predict, potential, continue, plan, the negatives, similar expressions. Examples of forward-looking statements include those regarding Applied's future financial or operating results, cash flows and cash deployment strategies, declaration of dividends, share repurchases, business strategies, projected costs, products, competitive positions, management's plans and objectives for future operations, research and development, strategic acquisitions and investments, growth opportunities, customer demand and requirements, working capital, liquidity, investment portfolio and policies, taxes, legal proceedings and claims, as well as market and industry trends and outlooks. These statements and their underlying assumptions are subject to risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees of future performance. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements include, without limitation: the level of demand for our products; global economic and industry conditions; consumer demand for electronic products; the demand for semiconductors; customers' technology and capacity requirements; the introduction of new and innovative technologies and the timing of technology transitions; our ability to develop, deliver and support new products and technologies; the concentrated nature of our customer base; our ability to expand our current markets, increase market share and develop new markets; market acceptance of existing and newly developed products; our ability to obtain and protect intellectual property rights in key technologies; our ability to achieve the objectives of operational and strategic initiatives, align our resources and cost structure with business conditions, and attract, motivate and retain key employees; the variability of operating expenses and results among products and segments, and our ability to accurately forecast future results, market conditions, customer requirements and business needs; those detailed under the heading "Risk factors" below; and other risks and uncertainties described in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These and many other factors could affect Applied's future financial condition and operating results and could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations based on forward-looking statements made in this document or elsewhere by Applied or on its behalf. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they were made and we assume no obligation to update them.

Table of Contents

Summary

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the notes. For a more complete discussion of the information you should consider before investing in the notes, you should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein.

Our business

Applied provides manufacturing equipment, services and software to the global semiconductor, flat panel display, solar photovoltaic and related industries. Applied's customers include manufacturers of semiconductor wafers and chips, flat panel liquid crystal and other displays, solar photovoltaic cells and modules, and other electronic devices. These customers may use what they manufacture in their own end products or sell the items to other companies for use in advanced electronic components.

Segments

Applied operates in four reportable segments: Silicon Systems Group, Applied Global Services, Display and Energy and Environmental Solutions.

Silicon Systems Group segment

Applied's Silicon Systems Group segment develops, manufactures and sells manufacturing equipment used to fabricate semiconductor chips, also referred to as integrated circuits. Most chips are built on a silicon wafer base and include a variety of circuit components, such as transistors and other devices, that are connected by multiple layers of wiring (interconnects). Applied offers systems that perform various processes used in chip fabrication, including chemical vapor deposition, physical vapor deposition, etch, electrochemical deposition, rapid thermal processing, ion implantation, chemical mechanical planarization, epitaxy, wet cleaning, atomic layer deposition, wafer metrology and inspection and systems that etch or inspect circuit patterns on masks used in the photolithography process. Applied's semiconductor manufacturing systems are used by integrated device manufacturers and foundries to build and package memory, logic and other types of chips.

Applied Global Services segment

The Applied Global Services segment encompasses services, products and integrated solutions to optimize equipment and fab performance and productivity, including spares, upgrades, services, remanufactured earlier generation equipment and factory automation software for semiconductor, display and solar products. Customer demand for products and services is fulfilled through a global distribution system, and skilled equipment and process engineers are deployed at or near customer sites to support semiconductor, display and solar manufacturing systems worldwide.

Display segment

Applied's Display segment encompasses products for manufacturing liquid crystal displays, organic light-emitting diodes and other display technologies for televisions, personal computers, tablets, smart phones and

Table of Contents

other consumer-oriented devices. Applied offers technologically-differentiated equipment for manufacturing large-scale televisions, and is focused on expanding in new markets, such as low temperature polysilicon, metal oxide and the touch panel sector, and development of products that enable cost reductions through productivity and uniformity.

Energy and Environmental Solutions segment

Applied's Energy and Environmental Solutions segment includes products for fabricating crystalline-silicon solar photovoltaic wafers and cells, as well as high throughput roll-to-roll deposition equipment for flexible electronics, packaging and other applications.

Recent developments

On September 3, 2015, we entered into a five-year \$1.5 billion Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, and the other lenders named therein.

The Credit Agreement provides for unsecured borrowings (advances) not to exceed \$1.5 billion outstanding at any one time and includes a sub-facility for the issuance of letters of credit of up to \$400 million outstanding at any one time for the account of Applied and our subsidiaries. Advances under the Credit Agreement will bear interest at one of various rates selected by us for each advance, plus an applicable margin, which varies according to our public debt rating. The Credit Agreement requires us to pay certain customary fees and expenses. We may repay advances at any time without penalty, except for a customary breakage fee for advances that bear interest at a rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate, and we may reborrow under the Credit Agreement subject to specified terms and conditions.

The Credit Agreement contains customary covenants for credit facilities of this type, including a financial covenant limiting our ratio of (i) consolidated funded debt to (ii) consolidated funded debt plus consolidated shareholders' equity. The Credit Agreement also contains customary events of default.

Proceeds from borrowings under the Credit Agreement are available to be used for general corporate purposes. The Credit Agreement is scheduled to expire on September 3, 2020, at which time all outstanding amounts thereunder, if any, will become due and payable.

The Credit Agreement replaces a \$1.5 billion Credit Agreement, dated May 25, 2011, by and among Applied and certain lenders, as amended and extended.

Incorporated in 1967, Applied is a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 3050 Bowers Avenue, P.O. Box 58039, Santa Clara, California 95052-8039 and our telephone number is (408) 727-5555. We maintain a website at www.appliedmaterials.com. The information on or accessible through our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**The offering**

A brief description of the material terms of the offering follows. For a more complete description of the notes offered hereby, see Description of notes in this prospectus supplement and Description of Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Issuer | Applied Materials, Inc. |
| Notes offered | <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % Senior Notes due 20 ,</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % Senior Notes due 20 and</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % Senior Notes due 20 .</p> |
| Interest | <p>The 20 notes will bear interest at the rate of %, which will be paid on each and , commencing , 2016. The 20 notes will bear interest at the rate of %, which will be paid on each and , commencing , 2016. The 20 notes will bear interest at the rate of %, which will be paid on each and , commencing , 2016.</p> |
| Maturity dates | <p>The 20 notes will mature on , 20 . The 20 notes will mature on , 20 . The 20 notes will mature on , 20 .</p> |
| Ranking | <p>The notes will be:</p> <p>our general unsecured obligations;</p> <p>effectively subordinated in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the assets securing that indebtedness, and structurally subordinated to all existing and any future liabilities of our subsidiaries;</p> <p>equal in right of payment with all of our existing and any future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness; and</p> <p>senior in right of payment to any of our existing and future indebtedness that is subordinated to the notes.</p> |
| Optional redemption | <p>We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time at the applicable redemption prices described under the heading Description of notes Optional redemption in this prospectus supplement.</p> |

Purchase of notes upon a change of control triggering event Upon the occurrence of a change of control of Applied and a contemporaneous downgrade of the notes below an investment grade rating by both Moody's Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, we will, in certain circumstances, be required to make an offer to purchase each of the 20 notes, the 20 notes and the 20 notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the 20 notes, the 20 notes and the 20 notes to be repurchased, respectively, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date of repurchase. See Description of notes Repurchase upon a change of control.

S-3

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Use of proceeds | <p>We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$ billion after deducting the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses.</p> <p>We intend to use a portion of the net proceeds to redeem or repay our outstanding \$400 million 2.650% senior notes due June 15, 2016 and the balance for general corporate purposes. The foregoing does not constitute a notice of redemption or an obligation to issue a notice of redemption for our outstanding notes.</p> |
| Additional notes | <p>Applied may from time to time, without consent of the holders of the notes, issue notes having the same terms and conditions as the notes of any series being offered hereby (except for the issue date, offering price and, if applicable, the first interest payment date). Additional notes issued in this manner will form a single series with the applicable outstanding series of notes; <i>provided</i> that if the additional notes are not fungible with the original notes of the applicable series for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number.</p> |
| Governing law | <p>New York.</p> |
| Certain U.S. federal income tax considerations | <p>Tax considerations are as set forth in the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled <i>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</i>, except that Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act withholding described under <i>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Non-United States Holders</i> will apply to payments of principal with respect to, and gross proceeds from a sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of, the notes only after December 31, 2018, unless the requirements for avoiding such withholding (as described therein) are satisfied.</p> |
| Risk factors | <p>An investment in the notes involves risk. You should carefully consider the information set forth in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled <i>Risk factors</i> beginning on page S-6, as well as other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding whether to invest in the notes.</p> |

Table of Contents**Summary consolidated financial information**

The table below sets forth a summary of our consolidated financial information for the periods presented. We derived the consolidated financial information as of and for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended October 26, 2014 from our audited consolidated financial statements. We derived the unaudited consolidated financial information as of and for the nine months ended July 27, 2014 and July 26, 2015, respectively, from our unaudited consolidated financial statements, which in the opinion of management have been prepared on the same basis as our audited financial statements and include only normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations as of and for such periods. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future, and our results for the nine months ended July 26, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of results for the full fiscal year or any future period.

The summary consolidated financial information should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended July 26, 2015 which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

| (In millions) | Nine months ended | | October 26, | Fiscal year ended | |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | July 26, | July 27, | October 26, | October 27, | October 28, |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (Unaudited) | | | | |
| Selected consolidated statement of operations information: | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 7,291 | \$ 6,808 | \$ 9,072 | \$ 7,509 | \$ 8,719 |
| Cost of products sold | 4,298 | 3,924 | 5,229 | 4,518 | 5,406 |
| Gross profit | 2,993 | 2,884 | 3,843 | 2,991 | 3,313 |
| Research, development and engineering, marketing and selling and general and administrative expenses | 1,796 | 1,760 | 2,348 | 2,211 | 2,313 |
| Loss (gain) on derivatives associated with terminated business combination | (89) | 9 | (30) | 7 | |
| Restructuring charges, goodwill and asset impairments | 16 | 7 | 5 | 341 | 589 |
| Income from operations | 1,270 | 1,108 | 1,520 | 432 | 411 |
| Net income | 1,041 | 816 | 1,072 | 256 | 109 |
| Selected consolidated balance sheet information: | | | | | |
| Total current assets | \$ 7,043 | \$ 6,640 | \$ 6,967 | \$ 5,642 | \$ 5,102 |
| Total assets | 13,153 | 12,851 | 13,174 | 12,043 | 12,102 |
| Short-term debt | 400 | | | | |
| Long-term debt | 1,547 | 1,947 | 1,947 | 1,946 | 1,946 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 7,977 | 7,684 | 7,868 | 7,088 | 7,235 |
| Additional information: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 275 | \$ 281 | \$ 375 | \$ 410 | \$ 422 |
| Cash provided by operating activities | 692 | 1,393 | 1,800 | 623 | 1,851 |
| Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments | 2,743 | 2,871 | 3,162 | 1,891 | 1,937 |
| Long-term investments | 958 | 957 | 935 | 1,005 | 1,055 |
| Total cash, cash equivalents and investments | 3,701 | 3,828 | 4,097 | 2,896 | 2,992 |

Table of Contents

Risk factors

In considering whether to purchase the notes, you should carefully consider the risks described below and all the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not currently know about, or that we currently believe are immaterial, may also adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risks related to our business

We hereby incorporate by reference the risk factors in Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 26, 2015.

Risks related to the notes

The notes are our obligations and not obligations of our subsidiaries and will be structurally subordinated to the claims of our subsidiaries creditors.

The notes are exclusively our obligations and not those of our subsidiaries. We conduct a substantial portion of our operations through our subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make payments on the notes will depend upon the receipt of dividends and other distributions from our subsidiaries.

Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities. Our subsidiaries have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the notes or to provide us with funds to pay our obligations, whether by dividends, distributions, loans or other payments. In addition, any dividend payments, distributions, loans or advances to us by our subsidiaries in the future will require the generation of future earnings by our subsidiaries and may require regulatory approval. If our subsidiaries are unable to make dividend payments to us and sufficient capital is not otherwise available, we may not be able to make principal and interest payments on our debt, including the notes.

In addition, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or otherwise will generally be subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary. Your ability as a holder of the notes to benefit indirectly from that distribution also will be subject to these prior claims. The notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. As a result, the notes will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities and obligations of our subsidiaries, which means that our subsidiaries' creditors will be paid from our subsidiaries' assets before holders of the notes would have any claims to those assets. At July 26, 2015, the aggregate amount of all debt and other liabilities of our consolidated subsidiaries that would structurally rank senior to the notes was approximately \$1.7 billion. In addition, we anticipate that one of our foreign subsidiaries may incur up to \$1.0 billion in short-term unsecured debt, which will be guaranteed by us. This transaction is anticipated to occur within 45 days from the date of this offering and is intended to facilitate a return of capital of that subsidiary.

The notes will not restrict our ability to incur additional debt, to repurchase our securities or to take other actions that could negatively impact our ability to pay our obligations under the notes.

Neither the notes nor the indenture governing the notes will restrict our ability or the ability of our subsidiaries to incur additional debt, repurchase securities, recapitalize, pay dividends or make other distributions to stockholders, or require us to maintain interest coverage or other current ratios.

Although the indenture governing the notes will contain limited covenants that would restrict our ability and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to create, incur or assume secured indebtedness or to enter into sale and lease-back transactions, these restrictions only apply to the extent that the indebtedness created, incurred

Table of Contents

or assumed is secured by a lien on principal property or to the extent that the property subject to the sale and lease-back transaction is a principal property. In order to constitute a principal property for purposes of these covenants, a property must be located in the United States and have a book value in excess of 1% of our most recently calculated consolidated net tangible assets.

Other than as described above and under the caption *Description of notes Repurchase upon a change of control* below, the provisions of the indenture governing the notes will not afford holders of debt securities issued thereunder, including the notes, protection in the event of a sudden or significant decline in our credit quality or in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us or any of our affiliates that may adversely affect such holders. In addition, our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that will not be limited by the terms of the notes or the indenture could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments on the notes when due.

The notes will be effectively junior to any future secured indebtedness we may incur.

The notes will be effectively subordinated to any future secured debt we may incur to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt. In the event that we are declared bankrupt, become insolvent or are liquidated or reorganized, any debt that ranks ahead of the notes will be entitled to be paid in full from our assets before any payment may be made with respect to the notes. Holders of the notes will participate ratably with all holders of our unsecured indebtedness that is deemed to be of the same ranking as the notes, and potentially with all of our other general creditors, based upon the respective amounts owed to each holder or creditor, in our remaining assets. In any of the foregoing events, we may not have sufficient assets to pay amounts due on the notes. As a result, if holders of the notes receive any payments, they may receive less, ratably, than holders of secured indebtedness.

Although we do not currently have outstanding any secured indebtedness for money borrowed, the indenture under which the notes will be issued does not preclude us from issuing secured debt. See the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled *Description of Debt Securities Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities Certain Covenants*.

We may not be able to repurchase all of the notes upon a change of control, which would result in a default under the notes.

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event (as defined under the caption *Description of notes Repurchase upon a change of control*), unless we have exercised our right to redeem or have mandatorily redeemed the notes, have defeased the notes or have satisfied and discharged the notes, each holder of notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part of such holder's notes at a price in cash equal to 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of repurchase. If we experience a Change of Control Triggering Event, there can be no assurance that we would have sufficient financial resources available to satisfy our obligations to repurchase the notes. In addition, our ability to repurchase the notes for cash may be limited by law or by the terms of other agreements relating to our outstanding indebtedness at that time. Our failure to repurchase the notes as required under the indenture governing the notes would result in a default under the indenture, which could have material adverse consequences for us and for holders of the notes.

Table of Contents

The limited covenants in the indenture for the notes and the terms of the notes do not provide protection against some types of important corporate events, including a highly leveraged transaction, and may not protect your investment.

The indenture for the notes does not:

require us to maintain any financial ratios or specific levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow or liquidity and, accordingly, does not protect holders of the notes in the event that we experience significant adverse changes in our financial condition or results of operations;

limit our subsidiaries' ability to issue securities or otherwise incur indebtedness, which could structurally rank senior to our equity interests in those subsidiaries or to the notes;

limit our ability to incur substantial secured indebtedness that would effectively rank senior to the notes to the extent of the value of the assets securing the indebtedness;

limit our ability to incur indebtedness that is equal in right of payment to the notes;

restrict our ability to repurchase or prepay our securities; or

restrict our ability to make investments or to repurchase or pay dividends or make other payments in respect of our common stock or other securities ranking junior to the notes.

Furthermore, the limitation on liens and limitation on sale and leaseback covenants contained in the indenture for the notes contain certain exceptions that will allow us and our subsidiaries to incur liens with respect to material assets. The indenture for the notes does not contain protections in the event of a change of control, unless accompanied by certain ratings downgrades. We could engage in many types of highly leveraged transactions, such as certain acquisitions, mergers, reorganizations, restructurings, refinancings or recapitalizations that could adversely affect our capital structure and the value of the notes. These transactions may not involve a change in voting power or beneficial ownership or, even if they do, may not meet the specific requirements of the definition of Change of Control Triggering Event in the indenture required to trigger these provisions, notably, that the transactions are accompanied or followed within 60 days by a downgrade in the rating of the notes, following which the notes are no longer rated investment grade. Except as described under Description of notes Repurchase upon a change of control, the indenture does not contain provisions that permit the holders of the notes to require us to repurchase the notes in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or similar transaction. For these reasons, you should not consider the covenants in the indenture as significant factors in evaluating whether to invest in the notes. See Description of Debt Securities Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities Certain Covenants in the accompanying prospectus.

There may not be a liquid market for the notes.

The notes constitute new issues of securities with no established trading market. No market for any series of notes may develop, and any market that does develop may not be liquid or may not last. Although the representatives of the underwriters have advised us that, following completion of the offering of the notes, one or more of the underwriters currently intend to make a market in the notes, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. If the notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering prices, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our performance and other factors. To the extent active trading markets do not develop, you may not be able to resell your notes at their fair market value or at all.

Table of Contents

Many factors independent of our creditworthiness may affect the trading market for the notes. These factors include the:

propensity of existing holders to trade their positions in the notes;

time remaining to the maturity of the notes;

outstanding amount of each series of notes;

redemption of the notes; and

level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally.

Ratings of the notes may change after issuance and affect the market price and marketability of the notes.

We currently expect that, prior to issuance, the notes will be rated by one or more ratings agencies. Such ratings are limited in scope, and do not address all material risks relating to an investment in the notes, but rather reflect only the view of each rating agency at the time the rating is issued. An explanation of the significance of each rating may be obtained from each respective rating agency. There is no assurance that any credit ratings will be issued or remain in effect for any given period of time or that ratings will not be lowered, suspended or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies, if, in each rating agency's judgment, circumstances so warrant. It is also possible that ratings may be lowered in connection with future events, such as future acquisitions or regulatory action taken against us. Any lowering, suspension or withdrawal of such ratings or the anticipation of future changes may have an adverse effect on the market price or marketability of the notes. Any rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the notes, and does not correspond to market price or suitability for a particular investor.

Redemption may adversely affect your return on the notes.

We have the right to redeem some or all of the notes prior to maturity. We may redeem the notes at times when prevailing interest rates may be relatively low. Accordingly, you may not be able to reinvest the amount received upon a redemption in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as that of the notes.

The prices at which you will be able to sell your notes prior to maturity will depend on a number of factors and may be substantially less than the amount you originally invest.

We believe that the value of each series of notes in any secondary market will be affected by interest rates, supply and demand for the notes and a number of other factors. Some of these factors are interrelated in complex ways. As a result, the impact of any one factor on the market value of the notes may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. An offsetting negative factor could, for example, entirely eliminate a positive impact attributable to another factor. We expect that the market value of the notes will be affected by changes in U.S. interest rates. In general, assuming all other conditions remain constant, if U.S. interest rates increase, the market value of the notes may decrease. The following factors also may have an impact on the market value of the notes:

actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings may affect the market value of each series of notes; and

actual or anticipated changes in our financial condition or results of operations may affect the market value of each series of notes.

Table of Contents**Ratio of earnings to fixed charges**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated. You should read this table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 26, 2015, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

| | Nine months | | Fiscal year ended | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | ended October 26, | October 27, | October 28, | October 30, | October 31, | |
| | July 26, 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1) | 15.8x | 14.3x | 4.2x | 3.9x | 33.1x | 41.8x |

- (1) For purposes of determining the ratios above, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of debt expenses and an appropriate interest factor on operating leases.

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$ billion after deducting the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We intend to use a portion of the net proceeds to redeem or repay our outstanding \$400 million 2.650% senior notes due June 15, 2016 and the balance for general corporate purposes. The foregoing does not constitute a notice of redemption or an obligation to issue a notice of redemption for our outstanding notes. Pending their use, the net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities. Our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds, and the purposes for which they are used may change from those described above.

S-11

Table of Contents**Capitalization**

The following table presents our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, short-term debt and capitalization as of July 26, 2015:

on an actual basis; and

on an as adjusted basis giving effect to the issuance of the notes offered hereby and the application of the estimated net proceeds therefrom as discussed in more detail under "Use of proceeds."

You should read this table in conjunction with the information contained in our "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and our consolidated financial statements and related notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014 and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 26, 2015, which we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

| (In millions) | As of July 26, 2015 | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Actual | As adjusted (Unaudited) |
| Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments | \$ 2,743 | \$ (1) |
| Short-term debt: | | |
| 2.650% senior notes due 2016 | \$ 400 | \$ (1) |
| Long-term debt: | | |
| 7.125% unsecured senior notes due 2017 | \$ 200 | \$ |
| 4.300% senior notes due 2021 | 750 | |
| 5.850% senior notes due 2041 | 600 | |
| % senior notes due 20 offered hereby | | |
| % senior notes due 20 offered hereby | | |
| % senior notes due 20 offered hereby | | |
| Unamortized discount | | (3) |
| Total debt | 1,947 | |
| Total stockholders' equity | 7,977 | |
| Total capitalization | \$ 9,924 | \$ |

(1) We intend to use a portion of the net proceeds to redeem or repay our outstanding \$400 million 2.650% senior notes due June 15, 2016 and the balance for general corporate purposes.

Table of Contents**Description of notes**

We will issue \$ _____ aggregate principal amount of _____ % Senior Notes due 20____ (the 20____ notes), \$ _____ aggregate principal amount of _____ % Senior Notes due 20____ (the 20____ notes) and \$ _____ aggregate principal amount of _____ % Senior Notes due 20____ (the 20____ notes and together with the 20____ notes and the 20____ notes, the _____ notes). The 20____ notes, the 20____ notes and the 20____ notes will be issued as separate series of debt securities under an indenture dated June 8, 2011 between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the _____ base indenture). The base indenture will be supplemented by a supplemental indenture to be entered into concurrently with the delivery of the notes (as so supplemented, the _____ indenture). The indenture provides that our debt securities may be issued in one or more series, with different terms, in each case as authorized from time to time by us. The specific terms of each other series that we may issue in the future may differ from those of the notes. The indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of debt securities that may be issued under the indenture, nor does it limit the number of other series or the aggregate amount of any particular series.

The indenture has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the _____ TIA), and the provisions of the TIA are and will be incorporated in and form a part of the indenture. The following description is a summary, and does not describe every aspect of the notes, the indenture and those terms made a part of the indenture by reference to the TIA. The following description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, all the provisions of the indenture, including definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. Anyone who receives this prospectus supplement may obtain a copy of the indenture without charge upon request. See _____ Where you can find more information _____ and _____ Incorporation by reference _____. We urge you to read the indenture and the notes because they define your rights as a holder of the notes. The covenant provisions of the indenture described under the caption _____ Description of Debt Securities _____ Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities _____ Certain Covenants _____ in the accompanying prospectus will apply to the notes.

For purposes of this description, references to _____ Applied, _____ the Company, _____ we, _____ us _____ and _____ our _____ refer only to Applied Materials, Inc. and not to any of its current or future subsidiaries.

General

The 20____ notes will be limited initially to \$ _____ aggregate principal amount, the 20____ notes will be limited initially to \$ _____ aggregate principal amount and the 20____ notes will be limited initially to \$ _____ aggregate principal amount, but we may from time to time, without giving notice to or seeking the consent of the holders of the notes of any series, issue additional notes of any such series having the same terms (except for the issue date, the offering price and, if applicable, the first interest payment date) and ranking equally and ratably with the original notes of such series, and such additional debt securities, together with the original notes of the applicable series, will constitute a single series of debt securities for all purposes under the indenture, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments and redemptions; *provided* that if the additional notes are not fungible with the original notes of the applicable series for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number.

The notes will be:

general unsecured obligations of ours;

effectively subordinated in right of payment to all existing and future secured indebtedness of ours to the extent of the assets securing such indebtedness;

structurally subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments (including trade payables and lease obligations) of our subsidiaries, to the extent of the assets of such subsidiaries;

Table of Contents

equal in right of payment with all existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of ours; and

senior in right of payment to any existing and future indebtedness of ours that is subordinated to the notes.

As of July 26, 2015, the notes offered hereby would rank:

equally with approximately \$1.95 billion of our debt and we had commitments of \$1.5 billion under our revolving credit facility available to us, which if borrowed would rank equally with the notes; and

effectively subordinated to approximately \$1.7 billion of debt and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.

In addition, we anticipate that one of our foreign subsidiaries may incur up to \$1.0 billion in short-term unsecured debt, which will be guaranteed by us. This transaction is anticipated to occur within 45 days from the date of this offering and is intended to facilitate a return of capital of that subsidiary.

As of July 26, 2015, we had no secured debt outstanding to which the notes would be effectively subordinated.

The notes will be issued in fully registered form only, in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000. The notes will be issued in the form of one or more global securities, without coupons, which will be deposited initially with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (DTC) and its participants Clearstream Banking S.A. and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V.

Principal and interest

The 20 notes will mature on , 20 , the 20 notes will mature on , 20 and the 20 notes will mature on , 20 . No sinking fund will be provided with respect to the notes.

Interest on the 20 notes will accrue at the rate of % per annum, interest on the 20 notes will accrue at the rate of % per annum and interest on the 20 notes will accrue at the rate of % per annum. We will pay interest on the notes from , 2015 or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, commencing , 2016, until the principal is paid or made available for payment. Interest will be paid to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business on or (whether or not a business day), as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date or date of maturity of principal of the notes of a series falls on a day that is not a business day, then payment of interest or principal may be made on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made on the nominal interest payment date or the date of maturity, and no interest will accrue for the period after such nominal date.

Optional redemption

We will have the right to redeem the notes, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, at our option, on at least 30 days but no more than 60 days prior written notice mailed to the registered holders of the notes to be redeemed, at the applicable Redemption Price.

Redemption Price means:

- (a) with respect to the 20 notes, at any time prior to , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes), the greater of
- (i) 100% of the principal amount of such notes and (ii) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments (as defined below) of the notes to be redeemed, discounted to the

Table of Contents

date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus basis points, provided that, if the 20 notes are redeemed on or after , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes) the Redemption Price will equal 100% of the principal amount of such notes;

(b) with respect to the 20 notes, at any time prior to , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes), the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of such notes and (ii) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments (as defined below) of the notes to be redeemed, discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus basis points, provided that, if the 20 notes are redeemed on or after , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes) the Redemption Price will equal 100% of the principal amount of such notes; and

(c) with respect to the 20 notes, at any time prior to , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes), the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of such notes and (ii) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments (as defined below) of the notes to be redeemed, discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus basis points, provided that, if the 20 notes are redeemed on or after , 20 (months prior to the maturity of the 20 notes) the Redemption Price will equal 100% of the principal amount of such notes;

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but excluding, the date of redemption.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on the applicable series of notes that are due and payable on interest payment dates falling on or prior to a redemption date will be payable on the interest payment date to the registered holders as of the close of business on the relevant record date according to the notes and the indenture.

If less than all the notes of any series are to be redeemed, the notes of such series to be redeemed shall be selected by the trustee on a *pro rata* basis (or, in the case of notes issued in global form as discussed under Book-Entry, Delivery and Form, based on a method that most nearly approximates a pro rata selection as the trustee deems fair and appropriate) unless otherwise required by law or applicable stock exchange or depositary requirements. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

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

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (a) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, (b) if we obtain fewer than four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the arithmetic average of those quotations or (c) if we obtain only one Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation, such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation.

Independent Investment Banker means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us as Independent Investment Banker.

Reference Treasury Dealer means each of (i) J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and a primary U.S. Government securities dealer designated by Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc. and their

Table of Contents

respective successors and (ii) one other nationally recognized investment banking firm (or its affiliate) that we select in connection with the particular redemption, and its successor, provided that if at any time any of the above, or any of their designees, is not a primary U.S. Government securities dealer, we will substitute that entity with another nationally recognized investment banking firm that we select that is a primary U.S. Government securities dealer.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the arithmetic average of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to us by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Remaining Scheduled Payments means, with respect to each note to be redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of the principal thereof and interest thereon that would be due after the related redemption date for such redemption; provided, however, that, if such redemption date is not an interest payment date with respect to such note, the amount of the next succeeding scheduled interest payment thereon will be reduced by the amount of interest accrued thereon to such redemption date.

Treasury Rate means, for any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity or interpolated yield to maturity, computed as of the third business day immediately preceding that redemption date, of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for that redemption date.

No mandatory redemption; open market purchases

We are not required to make any mandatory sinking fund payments with respect to the notes. However, under certain circumstances, we may be required to offer to purchase the notes as described under the caption **Repurchase upon a change of control**.

We may acquire the notes by means other than a redemption, whether by tender offer, open market purchases, negotiated transactions or otherwise, in accordance with applicable securities laws, so long as the acquisition does not otherwise violate the terms of the indenture.

Repurchase upon a change of control

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the notes in full, as described above, have defeased the notes or have satisfied and discharged the notes as described below, we will make an offer to each holder (the **Change of Control Offer**) to repurchase any and all of such holder's notes at a repurchase price in cash equal to 101% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased (such principal amount to be equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, to, but excluding, the date of purchase (the **Change of Control Payment**). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event, notice shall be mailed to holders of notes describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the **Change of Control Payment Date**), pursuant to the procedures required by the notes and described in such notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on the applicable series of notes that are due and payable on interest payment dates falling on or prior to the Change of Control Payment Date will be payable on the interest payment date to the registered holders as of the close of business on the relevant record date according to the notes and the indenture. We must

Table of Contents

comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control repurchase provisions of the notes, we will be required to comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control repurchase provisions of the notes by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the trustee or a paying agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the notes properly accepted, together with an officers certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being purchased, that all conditions precedent contained in the indenture to make a Change of Control Offer have been complied with and that the Change of Control Offer has been made in compliance with the indenture.

Below Investment Grade Rating Event means the notes are downgraded below Investment Grade Rating by both Rating Agencies on any date during the period (the Trigger Period) commencing 60 days prior to the first public announcement by us of the occurrence of a Change of Control (or pending Change of Control) and ending 60 days following consummation of such Change of Control (which Trigger Period shall be extended so long as the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by either of such Rating Agencies on such 60th day, such extension to last with respect to each such Rating Agency until the date on which such Rating Agency considering such possible downgrade either (x) rates the notes below Investment Grade or (y) publicly announces that it is no longer considering the notes for possible downgrade, provided that no such extension will occur if on such 60th day the notes are rated Investment Grade by at least one of such Rating Agencies in question and are not subject to review for possible downgrade by such Rating Agency).

Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following:

direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of Applied and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than Applied or one of its direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries;

the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) as a result of which any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of Applied's outstanding voting stock or other voting stock into which Applied's voting stock is reclassified, consolidated, exchanged or changed, measured by voting power rather than number of shares;

Applied consolidates with, or merges with or into, any person or group (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), or any person or group consolidates with, or merges with or into, Applied, in any such event pursuant to a transaction in which any of Applied's voting stock or the voting stock of such other person is converted into or exchanged for cash, securities or other property, other than any such transaction where the shares of Applied's voting stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction constitute, or are converted into or exchanged for, a majority of the voting stock of the surviving

Table of Contents

person or any direct or indirect parent company of the surviving person immediately after giving effect to such transaction;

the first day on which a majority of the members of Applied's board of directors are not Continuing Directors; or

the adoption of a plan by the board of directors of Applied or its stockholders relating to Applied's liquidation or dissolution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a Change of Control if (a) Applied becomes a direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of a holding company (which shall include a parent company) and (b)(i) the holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of our voting stock immediately prior to that transaction or (ii) no person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting power of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following such transaction.

For purposes of this definition, voting stock means with respect to any specified person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) capital stock of any class or kind the holders of which are ordinarily, in the absence of contingencies, entitled to vote for the election of directors (or persons performing similar functions) of such person, even if the right to vote has been suspended by the happening of such a contingency.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of Applied and its subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the applicability of the requirement that we offer to repurchase the notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of Applied and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

Change of Control Triggering Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of the board of directors of Applied who (1) was a member of the board of directors of Applied on the date of the issuance of the notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to the board of directors of Applied with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such board of directors of Applied at the time of such nomination or election (either by specific vote or by approval of Applied's proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

Under recent Delaware Chancery Court interpretations of the foregoing definition of Continuing Directors, a board of directors may approve, for purposes of such definition, a slate of shareholder-nominated directors without endorsing them, or while simultaneously recommending and endorsing its own slate instead, as long as the approval is in good faith and in accordance with the board of directors' fiduciary duties. The foregoing interpretations would permit our board to approve a slate of directors that included a majority of dissident directors nominated pursuant to a proxy contest, and the ultimate election of such dissident slate would not constitute a Change of Control Triggering Event that would trigger your right to require us to repurchase your notes as described above unless a court were to find that such approval was not granted in good faith or violated the board of directors' fiduciary duties. Further, according to these decisions, the board of directors' duty of loyalty to shareholders under Delaware law may, in certain circumstances, require them to give such approval.

Table of Contents

Investment Grade Rating means a rating by Moody's equal to or higher than Baa3 (or the equivalent under a successor rating category of Moody's) or a rating by S&P equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent under any successor rating category of S&P).

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

Rating Agencies means (1) Moody's and S&P; and (2) if either of Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for any reason, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization as such term is defined under Section 3(a)(62) under the Exchange Act, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our board of directors) as a replacement agency for either of Moody's or S&P, or both of them, as the case may be.

S&P means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a subsidiary of The McGraw Hill Companies, Inc., and any successor to its rating agency business.

Events of default

The indenture defines an Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities issued pursuant to the indenture, including the notes. Events of Default on the notes are any of the following:

default in the payment of the principal or any premium on a note when due (whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption or otherwise);

default for 30 days in the payment of interest on a note when due;

failure by us to comply with the provisions described under the caption **Repurchase upon a change of control**;

failure by us to observe or perform any other term of the indenture for a period of 90 days after we receive a notice of default stating we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of 25% of the principal amount of the notes of the affected series; or

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us.

An Event of Default under one series of debt securities issued pursuant to the indenture does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default under any other series of debt securities. The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of debt securities issued thereunder of any default if the trustee in good faith determines it is in the interest of such holders to do so.

Table of Contents

Remedies if an event of default occurs

The indenture provides that if an Event of Default has occurred with respect to a series of debt securities and has not been cured, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal amount of all the notes of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. If an Event of Default occurs because of certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us, the principal amount of all the debt securities will be automatically accelerated, without any action by the trustee or any holder. At any time after the principal of a series of debt securities has been declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the payment of the amount due has been obtained or entered for that series of debt securities as provided in the indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may by written notice to us and the trustee may, on behalf of the holders of the debt securities of the affected series, rescind and annul the declaration and its consequences if:

we have paid or caused to be paid or deposited with the trustee an amount sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest on the series of debt securities and the principal of and premium, if any, on the series of debt securities that have become due otherwise than by acceleration (with interest on the principal and premium, if any, and, to the extent that a payment is enforceable under applicable law, upon overdue installments of interest, at the rate expressed in the series of debt securities to the date of such payment or deposit); and

any and all Events of Default under the indenture with respect to that series, other than the nonpayment of principal on the series of debt securities that shall have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, has been remedied or waived as provided in the indenture. Except as may otherwise be provided in the indenture in cases of default, where the trustee has some special duties, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustee protection from losses, expenses and liability (called an indemnity). If indemnity satisfactory to the trustee is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the affected series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. Subject to certain exceptions contained in the indenture, these majority holders may also direct the trustee in performing any other action under the indenture.

Before you bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the notes, the following must occur:

you must give the trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured;

the holders of 25% in principal amount of all outstanding notes of the affected series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the Event of Default, and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the costs, expenses and other liabilities of taking that action; and

the trustee must have failed to take action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity and during such 60-day period, the trustee has not received a contrary instruction from holders of a majority in principal amount of all outstanding notes. However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your notes on or after the due date of that payment.

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

Table of Contents

Book-entry, delivery and form

The notes will be issued in registered, global form in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Notes will be issued at the closing of this offering only against payment in immediately available funds. The notes initially will be represented by notes in registered, global form without interest coupons (the "Global Notes"). The Global Notes will be deposited upon issuance with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co., in each case for credit to an account of a direct or indirect participant in DTC as described below. Global Notes may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

Beneficial interests in the Global Notes may be held through the Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. ("Euroclear") and Clearstream Banking, S.A. ("Clearstream") (as indirect participants in DTC). Beneficial interests in the Global Notes may not be exchanged for notes in certificated form ("Certificated Notes") except in the limited circumstances described below. See "Exchange of Global Notes for Certificated Notes." Transfers of beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be subject to the applicable rules and procedures of DTC and its direct or indirect participants (including, if applicable, those of Euroclear and Clearstream), which may change from time to time.

Exchange of global notes for certificated notes

We will issue certificated notes to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the notes represented by a Global Note upon surrender by DTC of the Global Note if:

DTC notifies us that it is no longer willing or able to act as a depository for such Global Note or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of that notice or becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered or willing or able to act as a depository;

an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and DTC requests the issuance of Certificated Notes; or

we determine not to have the notes represented by Global Notes.

In all cases, Certificated Notes delivered in exchange for any Global Note or beneficial interests in Global Notes will be in registered form, registered in the names, and issued in any approved denominations, requested by or on behalf of the depository (in accordance with its customary procedures).

Depository procedures

The following description of the operations and procedures of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream are provided solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of the respective settlement systems and are subject to changes by them. We take no responsibility for these operations and procedures and urge investors to contact the system or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

DTC has advised us that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company created to hold securities for its participating organizations (collectively, the "Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of transactions in those securities between the Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its Participants. The Participants include securities brokers and dealers (including the underwriters), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Participant, either directly or indirectly (collectively, the "Indirect Participants"). Persons who are not Participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the Participants or the

Table of Contents

Indirect Participants. The ownership interests in, and transfers of ownership interests in, each security held by or on behalf of DTC are recorded on the records of the Participants and Indirect Participants.

DTC has also advised us that, pursuant to procedures established by it:

upon deposit of the Global Notes, DTC will credit the accounts of the Participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amount of the Global Notes; and

ownership of these interests in the Global Notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership of these interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to the Participants) or by the Participants and the Indirect Participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interest in the Global Notes).

Investors in the Global Notes who are Participants may hold their interests therein directly through DTC. Investors in the Global Notes who are not Participants may hold their interests therein indirectly through organizations (including Euroclear and Clearstream) that are Participants in such system. Euroclear and Clearstream will hold interests in the Global Notes on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in their respective names on the books of their respective depositories, which are Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of Euroclear, and Citibank, N.A., as operator of Clearstream. All interests in a Global Note, including those held through Euroclear or Clearstream, may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC.

Those interests held through Euroclear or Clearstream may also be subject to the procedures and requirements of such systems.

The laws of some states require that certain persons take physical delivery in definitive form of securities that they own. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a Global Note to such persons will be limited to that extent. Because DTC can act only on behalf of the Participants, which in turn act on behalf of the Indirect Participants, the ability of a person having beneficial interests in a Global Note to pledge such interests to persons that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interests, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interests.

Except as described above, owners of beneficial interests in the Global Notes will not have notes registered in their names, will not receive physical delivery of notes in certificated form and will not be considered the registered owners or Holders thereof under the indenture for any purpose.

Payments in respect of the principal of, and interest and premium, if any, on a Global Note registered in the name of DTC or its nominee will be payable to DTC in its capacity as the registered holder of the notes under the indenture. Under the terms of the indenture, we and the trustee will treat the persons in whose names the notes, including the Global Notes, are registered as the owners of the notes for the purpose of receiving payments and for all other purposes. Consequently, neither we, the trustee nor any of our or the trustee's agents has or will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspect of DTC's records or any Participant's or Indirect Participant's records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in the Global Notes or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records or any Participant's or Indirect Participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests in the Global Notes; or

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of DTC or any of its Participants or Indirect Participants.

DTC has advised us that its current practice, upon receipt of any payment in respect of securities such as the notes, is to credit the accounts of the relevant Participants with the payment on the payment date unless DTC

Table of Contents

has reason to believe it will not receive payment on such payment date. Each relevant Participant is credited with an amount proportionate to its beneficial ownership of an interest in the principal amount of the relevant security as shown on the records of DTC. Payments by the Participants and the Indirect Participants to the beneficial owners of notes will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of the Participants or the Indirect Participants and will not be the responsibility of DTC, the trustee or Applied. Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC or any of the Participants or the Indirect Participants in identifying the beneficial owners of the notes, and we and the trustee may conclusively rely on and will be protected in relying on instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes.

Transfers between the Participants will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures and will be settled in same-day funds, and transfers between participants in Euroclear and Clearstream will be effected in accordance with their respective rules and operating procedures.

Cross-market transfers between the Participants in DTC, on the one hand, and Euroclear or Clearstream participants, on the other hand, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by its depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by the counterparty in such system in accordance with the rules and procedures and within the established deadlines (Brussels time) of such system. Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its respective depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving interests in the relevant Global Note in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Euroclear participants and Clearstream participants may not deliver instructions directly to the depositories for Euroclear or Clearstream. DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of notes only at the direction of one or more Participants to whose account DTC has credited the interests in the Global Notes and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of the notes as to which such Participant or Participants has or have given such direction. However, if there is an Event of Default under the notes, DTC reserves the right to exchange the Global Notes for Certificated Notes, and to distribute such notes to the Participants.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of interests in the Global Notes among participants in DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or to continue to perform such procedures, and may discontinue such procedures at any time. None of we, the trustee or any of our or their respective agents will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, dated as of the date of this prospectus supplement between us and the underwriters named below, for whom J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc. are acting as representatives, we have agreed to sell to each underwriter, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of notes that appears opposite its name in the table below:

| Underwriter | Principal amount of 20 notes | Principal amount of 20 notes | Principal amount of 20 notes |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| J.P. Morgan Securities LLC | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Citigroup Global Markets Inc. | | | |
| Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc. | | | |
| Goldman, Sachs & Co. | | | |
| Total | \$ | \$ | \$ |

The underwriters are offering the notes subject to their acceptance of the notes from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement are subject to certain conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement if any such notes are taken.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price that appears on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. In addition, the underwriters initially propose to offer the notes to certain dealers at prices that represent a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the 20 notes, % of the principal amount of the 20 notes and % of the principal amount of the 20 notes. Any underwriter may allow, and any such dealer may reallow, a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the 20 notes, % of the principal amount of the 20 notes and % of the principal amount of the 20 notes to certain other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes, the underwriters may from time to time vary the offering prices and other selling terms. The underwriters may offer and sell notes through certain of their affiliates. The offering of the notes by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we will pay to the underwriters in connection with the offering of the notes:

| | Paid by us |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Per 20 note | % |
| Per 20 note | % |
| Per 20 note | % |
| Total | \$ |

Expenses associated with this offering to be paid by us, other than underwriting discounts, are estimated to be approximately \$3.3 million.

We have also agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments which the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

Table of Contents

The notes are a new issue of securities, and there is currently no established trading market for the notes. We do not intend to apply for the notes to be listed on any securities exchange or to arrange for the notes to be quoted on any quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the notes, but they are not obligated to do so. The underwriters may discontinue any market making in the notes at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the notes, that you will be able to sell your notes at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable.

In connection with the offering of the notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the prices of the notes. Specifically, the underwriters may over allot in connection with the offering of the notes, creating syndicate short positions. In addition, the underwriters may bid for and purchase notes in the open market to cover syndicate short positions or to stabilize the prices of the notes. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions. Finally, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed for distributing the notes in the offering of the notes, if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed notes in syndicate covering transactions, stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may stabilize or maintain the market prices of the notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, and may end any of them at any time. These transactions may be effected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. From time to time in the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in and may in the future engage in commercial banking, derivatives and/or financial advisory, investment banking and other commercial transactions and services with us and our affiliates for which they have received or will receive customary fees and commissions. In particular, certain underwriters and their affiliates served or are serving in the following roles for our Credit Agreement, dated as of September 3, 2015: J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (J.P. Morgan), Citigroup Global Markets Inc. (Citigroup) and The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. (Bank of Tokyo) as joint lead arrangers and joint bookrunners; Citigroup and Bank of Tokyo as syndication agents; Goldman, Sachs & Co. as documentation agent; and an affiliate of J.P. Morgan as administrative agent. In addition, certain underwriters and their affiliates hold our 2.650% senior notes due 2016 and accordingly, may receive a portion of the net proceeds of the offering in connection with the possible redemption or repayment of those notes.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve our securities and instruments.

Table of Contents

Notice to prospective investors in the European Economic Area

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

(a) if the final terms in relation to the Securities specify that an offer of those Securities may be made other than pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State (a Non-exempt Offer), following the date of publication of a prospectus in relation to such Securities which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, provided that any such prospectus has subsequently been completed by the final terms contemplating such Non-exempt Offer, in accordance with the Prospectus Directive in the period beginning and ending on the dates specified in such prospectus or final terms, as applicable and Applied has consented in writing to its use for the purpose of that Non-exempt Offer;

(b) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(c) to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by Applied for any such offer; or

(d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of Securities referred to in (b) to (d) above shall require Applied or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any Securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe to the Securities, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

The EEA selling restriction is in addition to any other selling restrictions set out below.

Notice to prospective investors in the United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) in relation to any notes which have a maturity of less than one year (i) it is a person whose ordinary activities involve it in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of its business and (ii) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell the notes other than to persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses or who it is reasonable to expect will acquire, hold, manage or dispose of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of their businesses where the issue of the notes would otherwise constitute a contravention of Section 19 of the Financial Services and Market Act 2000 (FSMA) by us;

Table of Contents

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

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

This document is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (iii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). Any notes will only be available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Notice to prospective investors in Hong Kong

Each underwriter represents, warrants and agrees that (i) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in Hong Kong, by means of any document, any notes except for notes which are a structured product as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong (the SFO) other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong (the CO) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO; and (ii) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to any notes, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

Notice to prospective investors in Japan

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. Each underwriter has agreed that it has not, directly or indirectly, offered or sold and will not offer or sell any notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Notice to prospective investors in Singapore

Each underwriter acknowledges that this Prospectus Supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, each underwriter represents, warrants and agrees that it has not offered or sold any notes or caused such notes to be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase and will not offer or sell such notes or cause such notes to be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, and has not circulated or distributed, nor will it circulate or distribute, this Prospectus

Table of Contents

Supplement or any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of such notes, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

(a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

(b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA, except:

(i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A), or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;

(ii) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;

(iii) where the transfer is by operation of law;

(iv) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or

(v) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Notice to prospective investors in Canada

The notes may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the *Securities Act* (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*. Any resale of the notes must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus supplement (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* (NI 33-105), the underwriters are not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering.

Table of Contents

Legal matters

Certain legal matters in connection with the notes will be passed upon for Applied by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York. The underwriters have been represented by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Menlo Park, California.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Applied Materials, Inc. and its subsidiaries as of October 26, 2014 and October 27, 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended October 26, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of October 26, 2014 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance on the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-29

Table of Contents

Where you can find more information

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.appliedmaterials.com. Information accessible on or through our website is not a part of this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room.

Statements in this prospectus supplement concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

Incorporation by reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus supplement is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus supplement or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. This prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents listed below (File No. 000-06920) and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the time that we sell all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement, except that we are not incorporating any information included in a Current Report on Form 8-K that has been or will be furnished (and not filed) with the SEC, unless the information is expressly incorporated herein:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014, including the information specifically incorporated by reference into the Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended January 25, 2015, April 26, 2015 and July 26, 2015; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on December 12, 2014, December 22, 2014, January 23, 2015, February 26, 2015, April 2, 2015, April 27, 2015, June 5, 2015, August 10, 2015 and September 9, 2015.

Copies of these filings are available to you without charge upon your written or oral request. You can obtain the documents incorporated by reference in this document through the SEC website at www.sec.gov or by requesting them from Applied at the following address: Applied Materials, Inc., 3050 Bowers Avenue, P.O. Box 58039, Santa Clara, CA 95052-8039, Attn: Investor Relations, or by telephone at (408) 748-5227.

Table of Contents

Prospectus

Applied Materials, Inc.

Debt Securities

We may issue securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which these securities will be offered. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will also describe the specific manner in which these securities will be offered and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this document. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before you invest.

We may offer these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you, through agents, or through underwriters and dealers. If agents, underwriters or dealers are used to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See **Risk Factors included in or incorporated by reference into any accompanying prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to purchase these securities.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is July 9, 2015

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>About this Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 1 |
| <u>Incorporation by Reference</u> | 2 |
| <u>Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Our Business</u> | 4 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 5 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 6 |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u> | 7 |
| <u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u> | 22 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 30 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 33 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 33 |

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information, including information about us, contained in this prospectus. Any statement that we make in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement made by us in a prospectus supplement. Therefore, before making your investment decision, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Incorporation by Reference**.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references in this prospectus to **Applied**, **we**, **our** and **us** refer, collectively, to **Applied Materials, Inc.**, a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.appliedmaterials.com. Information accessible on or through our website is not a part of this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits in the registration statement for further information on us and our consolidated subsidiaries and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below (File No. 000-06920) 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, or the Exchange Act, until the offering of the securities under the registration statement is terminated or completed, except that we are not incorporating any information included in a Current Report on Form 8-K that has been or will be furnished (and not filed) with the SEC, unless the information is expressly incorporated herein:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014, including the information specifically incorporated by reference into the Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended January 25, 2015 and April 26, 2015; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on December 12, 2014, December 22, 2014, January 23, 2015, February 26, 2015, April 2, 2015, April 27, 2015 and June 5, 2015.

Copies of these filings are available to you without charge upon your written or oral request. You can obtain the documents incorporated by reference in this document through the SEC website at www.sec.gov, by going to our Investor Relations page on our corporate web site at www.appliedmaterials.com, or by requesting them from Applied at the following address: Applied Materials, Inc., 3050 Bowers Avenue, P.O. Box 58039, Santa Clara, CA 95052-8039, Attn: Investor Relations, or by telephone at (408) 748-5227.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements may contain words such as expect, believe, may, can, should, would, will, forecast, expect, anticipate, estimate, predict, potential, continue, plan, the negative or other similar expressions. These statements and their underlying assumptions are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus, and we assume no obligation to update them.

Important factors that could cause our results to differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, any other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any related prospectus supplement. These and many other factors could affect Applied's future financial condition and operating results and could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations based on forward-looking statements made in this document or elsewhere by Applied or on its behalf.

Table of Contents

OUR BUSINESS

Applied provides manufacturing equipment, services and software to the global semiconductor, flat panel display, solar photovoltaic and related industries. Applied's customers include manufacturers of semiconductor wafers and chips, flat panel liquid crystal and other displays, solar photovoltaic cells and modules, and other electronic devices. These customers may use what they manufacture in their own end products or sell the items to other companies for use in advanced electronic components.

Applied was incorporated in 1967 as a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 3050 Bowers Avenue, P.O. Box 58039, Santa Clara, California 95052-8039 and our telephone number is (408) 727-5555. We maintain a website at www.appliedmaterials.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website is not part of or incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated. You should read this table in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 26, 2014 filed with the SEC on December 17, 2014 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 26, 2015 filed with the SEC on May 21, 2015, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

| | Fiscal Year Ended | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Six Months Ended April 26, 2015 | October 26, 2014 | October 27, 2013 | October 28, 2012 | October 30, 2011 | October 31, 2010 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1) | 16.0x | 14.3x | 4.2x | 3.9x | 33.1x | 41.8x |

- (1) For purposes of determining the ratios above, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of debt expenses and an appropriate interest factor on operating leases.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered under this prospectus for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. General corporate purposes may include, but are not limited to, working capital, capital expenditures, the repayment and refinancing of debt, the acquisition of companies, businesses or technology assets, stock repurchases and the payment of dividends. We intend to temporarily invest the net proceeds until they are used for their intended purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for any of these purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of the net proceeds.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated. We refer to the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities collectively as debt securities. The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities. We will describe the specific terms of the debt securities and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions summarized below apply to any series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the series and any applicable free writing prospectus that we authorize to be delivered. When we refer to the Company, we, our, and us in this section, we mean Applied Materials, Inc. excluding our subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires or as otherwise expressly stated.

We may issue senior debt securities from time to time, in one or more series under a senior indenture dated as of June 8, 2011 between us and U.S. Bank National Association, which we refer to as the senior trustee. We may issue subordinated debt securities from time to time, in one or more series under a subordinated indenture to be entered into between us and a subordinated trustee to be named in a prospectus supplement, which we refer to as the subordinated trustee. The senior indenture and the form of the subordinated indenture are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are referred to as the indentures and, together, the senior trustee and the subordinated trustee are referred to as the trustees. This prospectus briefly outlines some of the provisions of the indentures. The following summary of the material provisions of the indentures is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the indentures, including definitions of certain terms used in the indentures. Wherever we refer to particular sections of or defined terms in the indentures, those sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement. You should review the indentures that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part for additional information.

None of the indentures will limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. The applicable indenture will provide that debt securities may be issued up to an aggregate principal amount authorized from time to time by us and may be payable in any currency or currency unit designated by us in the applicable indenture or in amounts determined by reference to an index.

General

The senior debt securities will constitute our unsecured and unsubordinated general obligations and will rank pari passu with our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The subordinated debt securities will constitute our unsecured and subordinated general obligations and will be junior in right of payment to our senior indebtedness (including senior debt securities), as described under the heading Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities Subordination.

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations. Any secured debt or other secured obligations will be effectively senior to the debt securities to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt or other obligations.

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will include any additional or different terms of the debt securities being offered, including the following terms:

the title of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt securities, and, with respect to debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture, the terms on which they are subordinated;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, of the debt securities is payable;

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the manner of calculating such rate or rates, if applicable;

Table of Contents

the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest will be payable or the manner of determination of such interest payment dates and the related record dates;

any trustees, authenticating agents or paying agents, if different from those set forth in this prospectus;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods or defer the payment of interest and the duration of that extension or deferral;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

the manner of paying principal and interest and the place or places where principal and interest will be payable;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase or repay debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions as at the option of a holder thereof;

the form of the debt securities;

if other than denominations of \$2,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof, the denominations in which the debt securities will be issuable;

the currency or currencies in which payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities will be payable;

if the principal amount payable at the stated maturity of the debt securities will not be determinable as of any one or more dates prior to such stated maturity, the amount that will be deemed to be such principal amount as of any such date for any purpose;

the terms of any repurchase or remarketing rights;

whether the debt securities will be issued in global form, the terms upon which the debt securities will be exchanged for definitive form, the depositary for the debt securities and the form of legend;

any conversion or exchange features of the debt securities;

if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

any restrictive covenants or events of default in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in this prospectus;

any provisions granting special rights to holders when a specified event occurs;

if the amount of principal or any premium or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to an index or pursuant to a formula, the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

whether and upon what terms the debt securities may be defeased if different from the provisions set forth in this prospectus;

with regard to the debt securities that do not bear interest, the dates for certain required reports to the applicable trustee; and

any additional, eliminated or changed terms that will apply to the debt securities.

We may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of any series of debt securities, create and issue further debt securities of any such series ranking equally with the debt securities of such series in all respects (or in all respects other than (1) the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further debt securities or (2) the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further debt securities). Such further debt securities may be consolidated and form a single series with the debt securities of such series and have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the debt securities of such series.

Table of Contents

You may present debt securities for exchange or transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement. We will provide you those services without charge, although you may have to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any exchange or transfer, as set forth in the indentures.

Debt securities will bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate (called original issue discount securities) may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. Any U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to such discounted debt securities or to certain debt securities issued at par that are treated as having been issued at a discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, to the extent not already discussed below under **Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**.

We may issue debt securities with the principal amount payable on any principal payment date, or the amount of interest payable on any interest payment date, to be determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, securities or baskets of securities, commodity prices or indices. You may receive a payment of principal on any principal payment date, or a payment of interest on any interest payment date, that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on those dates, depending on the value on those dates of the applicable currency, security or basket of securities, commodity or index. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date, the currencies, securities or baskets of securities, commodities or indices to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain related tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities

Certain Covenants

Limitation on Liens. We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, create, incur, assume or otherwise cause to become effective any Lien (other than permitted Liens) on any Principal Property or upon shares of stock of any Principal Subsidiary (whether such Principal Property or shares are now existing or owned or hereafter created or acquired), to secure any indebtedness of ours, any of our subsidiaries or any indebtedness of any other Person, unless we or such subsidiary also secures all payments due under the senior debt securities and all senior debt securities of any series having the benefit of this covenant (together with, if we shall so determine, any other indebtedness of ours or any subsidiary of ours then existing or thereafter created ranking equally with the senior debt securities), on an equal and ratable basis with such other indebtedness so secured (or, in the case of indebtedness subordinated to the senior debt securities, prior or senior thereto, with the same relative priority as the senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture will have with respect to such subordinated indebtedness) for so long as such other indebtedness shall be so secured. The senior indenture contains the following exceptions to the foregoing prohibition:

- (a) Liens existing on the date when we first issue the senior debt securities pursuant to the senior indenture;
- (b) Liens on property owned or leased by a Person existing at the time such Person is merged with or into or consolidated with us or any subsidiary of ours or we or one or more of our subsidiaries acquires directly or indirectly all or substantially all of the stock or assets of such Person; provided that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition and do not extend to any assets other than those of the Person merged into, consolidated with or acquired by us or such subsidiary and any improvements thereon or thereto;
- (c) Liens on property existing at the time of acquisition thereof by us or any subsidiary of ours, provided that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such acquisition and do not extend to any property other than the

property so acquired by us or such subsidiary and any improvements thereon or thereto;

Table of Contents

(d) Liens to secure indebtedness incurred prior to, at the time of or within 12 months after the later of the acquisition of any property and the completion of the construction, alteration, repair or improvement of any property, as the case may be, for the purpose of financing all or a part of the purchase price thereof or cost of the construction, alteration, repair or improvement thereof and Liens to the extent they secure indebtedness in excess of such purchase price or cost and for the payment of which recourse may be had only against such property;

(e) Liens in favor of the United States or any state, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), or any department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States or any state, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such Liens;

(f) any Lien securing indebtedness of a subsidiary owing to us or to one or more of our subsidiaries;

(g) Liens imposed by law, for example mechanics', workmen's, repairmen's or other similar Liens arising in the ordinary course of business; pledges or deposits under workmen's compensation or similar legislation or in certain other circumstances; Liens in connection with legal proceedings; and Liens for taxes or assessments or governmental charges or levies not yet due or delinquent, or which can thereafter be paid without penalty, or which are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings;

(h) Liens created, incurred or assumed in connection with an industrial revenue bond, pollution control bond or similar financing between us or any subsidiary of ours and any federal, state or municipal government or other government body or quasi-governmental agency;

(i) any extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements) in whole or in part of any Lien referred to in clauses (a) through (h) above, inclusive, so long as (1) the principal amount of the indebtedness secured thereby does not exceed the principal amount of indebtedness so secured at the time of the extension, renewal or replacement (except that, where an additional principal amount of indebtedness is incurred to provide funds for the completion of a specific project, the additional principal amount, and any related financing costs, may be secured by the Lien as well) and (2) the Lien is limited to the same property subject to the Lien so extended, renewed or replaced (and improvements on the property); and

(j) any Lien on a Principal Property or the shares of stock of a Principal Subsidiary that would not otherwise be permitted by clauses (a) through (i) above, inclusive, securing indebtedness which, together with:

the aggregate outstanding principal amount of all other indebtedness of us and our subsidiaries secured by Liens on a Principal Property or the shares of stock of a Principal Subsidiary that is permitted solely pursuant to this clause (j), and

the aggregate Value of existing Sale and Leaseback Transactions that are permitted solely pursuant to clause (c) of Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions and are still in existence, does not exceed 15% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets.

In order to constitute a Principal Property under the senior indenture, a property must have a book value in excess of 1% of our most recently calculated Consolidated Net Tangible Assets.

Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions. We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, enter into any Sale and Leaseback Transaction with respect to any Principal Property unless:

(a) we or such subsidiary could incur indebtedness, in a principal amount at least equal to the Value of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction, secured by a Lien on the Principal Property to be leased (without equally and ratably securing debt securities of any series having the benefit of this covenant) pursuant to clauses (a) through (i) under Limitations on Liens above;

Table of Contents

(b) we or such subsidiary apply, within 270 days of the effective date of the Sale and Leaseback Transaction, an amount equal to the Value of the Sale and Leaseback Transaction to either (or a combination of) the voluntary retirement of Funded Debt or to the acquisition of property; or

(c) the aggregate Value of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction plus the Value of all other Sale and Leaseback Transactions of Principal Properties entered into after the date of the issuance of the senior debt securities permitted solely by this clause (c) and still in existence, plus the aggregate amount of all indebtedness secured by Liens permitted solely by clause (j) of Limitation on Liens does not exceed 15% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets.

Certain Other Covenants. The senior indenture will contain certain other covenants regarding, among other matters, corporate existence and reports to holders of senior debt securities. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will not contain any additional financial or restrictive covenants, including covenants relating to total indebtedness, interest coverage, stock repurchases, recapitalizations, dividends and distributions to shareholders or current ratios. The provisions of the senior indenture do not afford holders of senior debt securities issued thereunder protection in the event of a sudden or significant decline in our credit quality or in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us or any of our affiliates that may adversely affect such holders except to the extent set forth therein.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will not consolidate with, merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' property and assets taken as a whole (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) to any Person, or permit any Person to merge with or into us, unless:

we shall be the continuing Person, or the Person (if other than us) formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or that acquired or leased such property and assets (the *Surviving Person*), shall be a Person organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America or any jurisdiction thereof, and shall expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the senior trustee, all of our obligations under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default (each as defined in the senior indenture) shall have occurred and be continuing; and

we deliver to the senior trustee an officer's certificate and opinion of counsel, in each case stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture complies with this provision and that all conditions precedent provided for in the indenture or any applicable supplemental indenture relating to such transaction have been complied with.

The restrictions in the second and third bullets shall not be applicable to:

the merger or consolidation of us with an affiliate of ours if our board of directors determines in good faith that the purpose of such transaction is principally to change our state of incorporation or convert our form of organization to another form; or

the merger of us with or into a single direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of ours pursuant to Section 251(g) (or any successor provision) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (or similar provision of our state of incorporation).

The Surviving Person will succeed to, and be substituted for, us under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities and, except in the case of a lease, we shall be released of all obligations under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of senior debt securities, the senior debt securities will not contain any

Table of Contents

provisions that may afford holders of the senior debt securities protection in the event we have a change of control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change of control).

Definition of Certain Terms. The following are the meanings of terms that are important in understanding the covenants described above.

Capital Lease Obligation means, at the time any determination thereof is to be made, the amount of the liability in respect of a capital lease that would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Consolidated Net Tangible Assets means, at any date, the total assets less (a) all current liabilities (excluding any notes and loans payable, current maturities of long-term debt, the current portion of deferred revenue and obligations under capital leases) and (b) Intangible Assets, all as shown on or reflected in our most recent consolidated balance sheet prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Funded Debt means, as of any date of determination, our indebtedness or the indebtedness of a subsidiary maturing by its terms more than one year after its creation and indebtedness classified as long-term debt under U.S. GAAP and in each case ranking at least *pari passu* with the senior debt securities.

indebtedness means, with respect to any specified Person, any indebtedness of such Person, whether or not contingent:

(1) in respect of borrowed money;

(2) evidenced by bonds, notes, debentures or similar instruments or letters of credit (or reimbursement agreements in respect thereof); and

(3) in respect of Capital Lease Obligations.

In addition, the term **indebtedness** includes (x) all indebtedness (as defined above) of others secured by a Lien on any asset of the specified Person (whether or not such indebtedness is assumed by the specified Person), *provided* that the amount of such indebtedness will be the lesser of (A) the fair market value of such asset at such date of determination and (B) the amount of such indebtedness, and (y) to the extent not otherwise included, the guarantee by the specified Person of any indebtedness (as defined above) of any other Person.

Intangible Assets means the value (net of applicable reserves) of (i) all trade names, trademarks, trade secrets, licenses, patents, copyrights and goodwill; (ii) organizational and development costs; (iii) deferred charges (other than prepaid items such as insurance, taxes, interest, commissions, rents and similar items and tangible assets being amortized); and (iv) unamortized debt discount and expenses, less unamortized premium.

Lien means, with respect to any asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind in respect of such asset, whether or not filed, recorded or otherwise perfected under applicable law, including any conditional sale or other title retention agreement.

Original Issue Discount Security means any debt security which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of maturity thereof pursuant to the senior indenture.

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

or governmental agency provided, however, for purposes of Certain Covenants Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets, Person shall not include any individual, joint venture, association, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

Table of Contents

Principal Property means any single parcel of real property or any permanent improvement thereon (i) owned by us or any of our subsidiaries located in the United States, including our principal corporate office, any manufacturing facility or plant or any portion thereof and (ii) having a book value, as of the date of determination, in excess of 1% of our most recently calculated Consolidated Net Tangible Assets. Principal Property does not include any property that our board of directors has determined not to be of material importance to the business conducted by our subsidiaries and us, taken as a whole.

Principal Subsidiary means any direct or indirect subsidiary of ours that owns a Principal Property.

Sale and Leaseback Transaction means any arrangement with any Person providing for the leasing by us or any of our subsidiaries of any Principal Property which has been or is to be sold or transferred by us or such subsidiary to such Person, excluding (1) leases for a term, including renewals at the option of the lessee, of not more than three years, and (2) leases between us and any of our subsidiaries or between our subsidiaries.

U.S. GAAP means United States generally accepted accounting principles set forth in the FASB Accounting Standards Codification or in such other statements by such other entity as have been approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are in effect from time to time.

Value means, with respect to a Sale and Leaseback Transaction, an amount equal to the net present value of the lease payments (other than amounts required to be paid on account of property taxes, maintenance, repairs, insurance, water rates and other items that do not constitute payments for property rights) with respect to the term of the lease remaining on the date as of which the amount is being determined, without regard to any renewal or extension options contained in the lease, discounted at the weighted average interest rate on the debt securities of all series (including the yield to maturity on any Original Issue Discount Securities) which are outstanding on the effective date of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction.

Events of Default

The senior indenture defines an Event of Default with respect to any series of senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture. Events of Default on the senior debt securities are any of the following:

default in the payment of the principal or any premium on senior debt securities when due (whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption or otherwise);

default for 30 days in the payment of interest on senior debt securities when due;

failure by us to observe or perform any other term of the senior indenture (other than those referred to in the two bullets above) for a period of 90 days after we receive a notice of default stating we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the senior trustee or holders of not less than 25% of the principal amount of the senior debt securities of the affected series;

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us; and

any other Event of Default provided for in such series of senior debt securities as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

An Event of Default under one series of senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default under any other series of senior debt securities. The senior indenture provides that the senior trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of senior debt securities issued thereunder of any default if the trustee in good faith determines it is in the interest of such holders to do so.

Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs. The senior indenture provides that if an Event of Default has occurred with respect to a series of senior debt securities and has not been cured, the senior trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series may declare the entire

Table of Contents

principal amount of all the senior debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. If an Event of Default occurs because of certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us, the principal amount of all the senior debt securities will be automatically accelerated, without any action by the senior trustee or any holder. At any time after the principal of a series of senior debt securities has been declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the payment of the amount due has been obtained or entered for that series of senior debt securities as provided in the senior indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of the affected series may by written notice to us and the senior trustee may, on behalf of the holders of the senior debt securities of the affected series, rescind and annul the declaration and its consequences if:

we have paid or caused to be paid or deposited with the senior trustee an amount sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest on the series of debt securities and the principal of and premium, if any, on the series of debt securities that have become due otherwise than by acceleration (with interest on the principal and premium, if any, and, to the extent that a payment is enforceable under applicable law, upon overdue installments of interest, at the rate expressed in the series of debt securities to the date of such payment or deposit); and

any and all Events of Default under the indenture with respect to that series, other than the nonpayment of principal on the series of senior debt securities that shall have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, has been remedied or waived as provided in the senior indenture.

Except as may otherwise be provided in the senior indenture in cases of default, where the senior trustee has some special duties, the senior trustee is not required to take any action under the senior indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the senior trustee protection from expenses and liability (called an indemnity). If indemnity satisfactory to the senior trustee is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the affected series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the senior trustee. Subject to certain exceptions contained in the senior indenture, these majority holders may also direct the senior trustee in performing any other action under the senior indenture.

Before you bypass the senior trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the senior debt securities, the following must occur:

you must give the senior trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities of the affected series must make a written request that the senior trustee take action because of the Event of Default, and must offer reasonable indemnity to the senior trustee against the costs, expenses and other liabilities of taking that action; and

the senior trustee must have failed to take action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity and during such 60-day period, the senior trustee has not received a contrary instruction from

holders of a majority in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities. However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your senior debt securities on or after the due date of that payment.

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

Table of Contents

Satisfaction and Discharge

The senior indenture will cease to be of further effect and the senior trustee, upon our demand and at our expense, will execute such instruments as we reasonably request acknowledging the satisfaction and discharge of the senior indenture upon compliance with certain conditions, including:

(1) either

our having delivered to the senior trustee for cancellation all senior debt securities theretofore authenticated under the senior indenture; or

all senior debt securities of any series outstanding under the senior indenture not theretofore delivered to the senior trustee for cancellation shall have become due and payable or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year and we shall have deposited with the senior trustee sufficient cash or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to pay, at maturity or upon redemption, all such senior debt securities of any series outstanding under the senior indenture; or

(2) our having paid all sums payable by us under the senior indenture, as and when the same shall be due and payable.

In either of (1) or (2) we shall have delivered to the senior trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the indenture have been satisfied.

Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the senior debt securities would be treated as though we took back your senior debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and senior debt securities or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the senior debt securities you give back to us. Purchasers of the senior debt securities should consult their own advisers with respect to the tax consequences to them of such deposit and discharge, including the applicability and effect of tax laws other than the U.S. income tax law.

Defeasance

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, the following discussion of legal defeasance and discharge and covenant defeasance will apply to any series of debt securities issued under the indentures.

Full Defeasance. We can legally release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the debt securities of any series (called "full defeasance") if the following conditions are met:

we deposit in trust for your benefit and the benefit of all other direct holders of the debt securities of the same series a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, any premium and any other payments on the debt

securities of that series on their various due dates;

there is a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an IRS ruling that lets us make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and instead repaid the debt securities ourselves when due. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the debt securities would be treated as though we took back your debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and debt securities or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the debt securities you give back to us;

we deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law change or ruling described above;

Table of Contents

we deliver to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent relating to the defeasance have been fulfilled; and

no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, and no event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, on the date of the deposit.

If we accomplished a full defeasance, as described above, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for repayment of the debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the event of any shortfall.

However, even if we make the deposit in trust and deliver an opinion as discussed above, a number of our obligations relating to the debt securities will remain. These include our obligations:

to register the transfer and exchange of debt securities;

to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities;

to maintain paying agencies; and

to hold money for payment in trust.

Covenant Defeasance. Even absent a change to current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the same type of deposit described above and be released from some of the covenants on the debt securities of any series. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of those covenants but would gain the protection of having money and securities set aside in trust to repay the debt securities. In order to achieve covenant defeasance, the following conditions must be met:

we deposit in trust for your benefit and the benefit of all other direct holders of the debt securities of the same series a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, any premium and any other payments on the debt securities of that series on their various due dates;

we deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that under current U.S. federal income tax law we may make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and instead repaid the debt securities ourselves when due;

we deliver to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent relating to the defeasance have been fulfilled; and

no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, and no event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, on the date of the deposit.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, you can still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit. In fact, if one of the Events of Default occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and the debt securities become immediately due and payable, there may be such a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Modification and Waiver

There are three types of changes we can make to the senior indenture and the senior debt securities.

Changes Requiring Approval of the Holder. First, there are changes that cannot be made to the senior debt securities without specific approval of the holder. The following is a list of those types of changes:

change the stated maturity of the principal or interest on any senior debt securities of such series;

reduce any amounts due on any senior debt securities of such series;

Table of Contents

reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity or redemption of the senior debt securities upon redemption, maturity, a change of control or following an Event of Default;

change the place or currency of payment for the senior debt securities;

change the terms of or waive any redemption provisions;

impair the holder's right to sue for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the senior debt securities;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the senior debt securities, the approval of whose holders is needed to modify or amend the senior indenture or the senior debt securities;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the senior debt securities, the approval of whose holders is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the senior indenture or to waive certain defaults; and

modify any other aspect of the provisions dealing with modification and waiver of the senior indenture, except to increase the percentage required for any modification or to provide that other provisions of the senior indenture may not be modified or waived without consent of the holder of each security of such series affected by the modification.

Changes Not Requiring Approval. The second type of change does not require any vote by holders of the senior debt securities. This type is limited to the following types of changes:

cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

comply with covenants in the senior indenture regarding mergers and sales of assets;

add to the covenants applicable to us, add any additional Events of Default or secure the senior debt securities;

provide for the issuance of senior debt securities or issue additional senior debt securities of any series;

evidence and provide for a successor senior trustee and add to or change the provisions of the senior indenture to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the senior indenture; or

comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the senior indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the Trust Indenture Act).

We also do not need any approval to make changes that affect only senior debt securities to be issued under the senior indenture after the changes take effect. We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect the senior debt securities, even if they affect other senior debt securities issued under the senior indenture. In those cases, we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected senior debt securities.

Changes Requiring a Majority Vote. Any other change to the senior indenture and the senior debt securities would require the following approval:

if the change affects only senior debt securities of one series, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series.

if the change affects the senior debt securities as well as the senior debt securities of one or more other series issued under the senior indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities and each other series of senior debt securities affected by the change.

in each case, the required approval must be given by written consent.

Table of Contents

The same vote would be required for us to obtain a waiver of a past default. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or a waiver with respect to any other aspect of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities listed in the first category described previously under **Changes Requiring Approval of the Holder** unless we obtain your individual consent to the waiver.

Further Details Concerning Voting

The senior debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust for you money for their payment or redemption. The senior debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if they have been fully defeased as described above under **Full Defeasance**.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding senior debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the senior indenture. In certain limited circumstances, the senior trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If we or the senior trustee set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of senior debt securities, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding senior debt securities on the record date and must be taken within 180 days following the record date or another period that we may specify (or as the senior trustee may specify, if it set the record date). We may shorten this period from time to time.

No Personal Liability of Incorporators, Stockholders, Officers, Directors

The senior indenture provides that no recourse shall be had under any obligation, covenant or agreement of ours in the senior indenture or in any of the senior debt securities or because of the creation of any indebtedness represented thereby, against any of our incorporators, stockholders, officers or directors, past, present or future, or of any predecessor or successor entity thereof under any law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise. Each holder, by accepting the senior debt securities, waives and releases all such liability.

Concerning the Senior Trustee

The senior trustee will be appointed by us as paying agent, registrar and custodian with regard to the senior debt securities. The senior trustee or its affiliates may from time to time in the future provide banking and other services to us in exchange for a fee.

The senior indenture provides that, prior to the occurrence of an Event of Default with respect to the senior debt securities of a series and after the curing or waiving of all such Events of Default with respect to that series, the senior trustee will not be liable except for the performance of such duties as are specifically set forth in the senior indenture. If an Event of Default has occurred and has not been cured or waived, the senior trustee will exercise such rights and powers vested in it under the senior indenture and will use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

The senior indenture and the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act incorporated by reference therein contain limitations on the rights of the senior trustee thereunder, should it become a creditor of ours or any of our subsidiaries, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims, as security or otherwise. The senior trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions, provided that if it acquires any conflicting interest (as defined in the Trust Indenture Act), it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

Unclaimed Funds

All funds deposited with the senior trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal, interest, premium or additional amounts in respect of the senior debt securities that remain unclaimed for one year after the date upon which the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on such debt securities shall have become due and payable will be repaid to us. Thereafter, any right of any holder of senior debt securities to such funds shall be enforceable only against us, and the senior trustee and paying agents will have no liability therefor.

Table of Contents

Governing Law

The senior indenture and the senior debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities

Other than the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities relating to subordination or otherwise as described in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities, the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities are identical in all material respects to the terms of the senior indenture and senior debt securities, except the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities will not include a limitation on liens or a limitation on sale and leaseback transactions.

Additional or different subordination terms may be specified in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series.

Subordination. The indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities is subordinate to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated indenture. During the continuance beyond any applicable grace period of any default in the payment of principal, premium, interest or any other payment due on any of our senior indebtedness, we may not make any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities, except under the limited circumstances set forth in the subordinated indenture. In addition, upon any payment or distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our senior indebtedness. Because of this subordination, if we dissolve or otherwise liquidate, holders of our subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than holders of our senior indebtedness. The subordination provisions do not prevent the occurrence of an event of default under the subordinated indenture.

The term *senior indebtedness* of a person means with respect to such person the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether outstanding on the date of the subordinated indenture or incurred by that person in the future:

all of the indebtedness of that person for money borrowed;

all of the indebtedness of that person evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities sold by that person for money;

all of the lease obligations which are capitalized on the books of that person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

all indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the first two bullet points above and all lease obligations of others of the kind described in the third bullet point above that the person, in any manner, assumes or guarantees or that the person in effect guarantees through an agreement to purchase, whether that agreement

is contingent or otherwise; and

all renewals, extensions or refundings of indebtedness of the kinds described in the first, second or fourth bullet point above and all renewals or extensions of leases of the kinds described in the third or fourth bullet point above;

unless, in the case of any particular indebtedness, renewal, extension or refunding, the instrument creating or evidencing it or the assumption or guarantee relating to it expressly provides that such indebtedness, renewal, extension or refunding is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Our senior debt securities constitute senior indebtedness for purposes of the subordinated indenture.

Table of Contents

Form of Securities; Registered Global Securities

Each debt security will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depositary or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities represented by these global securities. The depositary maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, we will issue the registered debt securities in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depositary or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depositary or nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depositary for the registered global security, the nominees of the depositary or any successors of the depositary or those nominees.

Any specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depositary or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a

beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Table of Contents

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of us, the trustees or any other agent of ours or agent of the trustees will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

We will only issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security if:

If the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days;

an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and the depositary requests the issuance of the securities in definitive form; or

we determine not to have the securities represented by registered global securities.

In all cases, any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depositary gives to the relevant trustee or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depositary's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depositary.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain United States federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to persons considering the purchase of certain debt securities covered by this prospectus. For a discussion of certain United States federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to persons considering the purchase of indexed debt securities, floating rate notes, dual currency notes or notes providing for contingent payments, please refer to the related prospectus supplement. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of any securities described in this prospectus in light of your particular facts and circumstances and any consequences arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction.

This summary, which does not represent tax advice, is based on laws, regulations, rulings and decisions now in effect, all of which are subject to change (including retroactive changes in effective dates) or possible differing interpretations. This summary deals only with debt securities that will be held as capital assets and, except where otherwise specifically stated, is addressed only to persons who purchase debt securities in the initial offering. It does not address tax considerations applicable to investors that may be subject to special tax rules, such as banks, thrifts, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities or commodities electing to mark to market, persons that will hold debt securities as a hedge against currency risk or as a position in a straddle or conversion transaction, or as part of a synthetic security or other integrated financial transaction or persons that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar. Prospective purchasers of debt securities should review the related prospectus supplements for summaries of special United States federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular issue of debt securities. In addition, prospective purchasers should note that this summary does not address other U.S. federal tax consequences (such as estate, gift and net investment income tax consequences) or any state, local or foreign tax consequences.

As used herein, the term **United States Holder** means a beneficial owner of a debt security that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation (or an entity taxable as a corporation) created or organized in or under the law of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, or (iii) otherwise subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net basis with respect to a debt security. If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes holds debt securities, the United States federal income tax treatment of partners will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners of a partnership holding debt securities should accordingly consult their own tax advisors. As used herein, the term **Non-United States Holder** means a beneficial owner of a debt security that is not a United States Holder.

United States Holders

Payments or Accruals of Interest

Payments or accruals of qualified stated interest, as defined below under **Original Issue Discount**, on a debt security will be taxable to a United States Holder as ordinary interest income at the time that such payments are accrued or are received, in accordance with the United States Holder's method of tax accounting.

If such payments of interest are made in foreign currency with respect to a debt security that is denominated in such foreign currency, the amount of interest income realized by a United States Holder that uses the cash method of tax accounting will be the U.S. dollar value of the specified currency payment based on the spot rate of exchange on the date of receipt regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. No exchange gain or loss will be recognized with respect to the receipt of such payment (other than exchange gain or loss realized on the disposition

of the foreign currency so received, see Transactions in Foreign Currency below). A United States Holder of debt securities that uses the cash method of tax accounting and receives a payment of interest in U.S. dollars should include in income the amount of U.S. dollars received. A United States

Table of Contents

Holder that uses the accrual method of tax accounting will accrue interest income on the foreign currency debt security in the relevant foreign currency and translate the amount accrued into U.S. dollars based on:

the average exchange rate in effect during the interest accrual period, or portion thereof, within such holder's taxable year (or with respect to an interest accrual period that spans more than one taxable year, at the average exchange rate for the partial period within the taxable year); or

at such holder's election, at the spot rate of exchange on (i) the last day of the accrual period, or the last day of the taxable year within such accrual period if the accrual period spans more than one taxable year, or (ii) the date of receipt, if such date is within five business days of the last day of the accrual period.

Such election must be applied consistently by the United States Holder to all debt instruments from year to year and can be changed only with the consent of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). A United States Holder that uses the accrual method of tax accounting will recognize foreign currency gain or loss on the receipt of an interest payment made relating to a foreign currency debt security if the spot rate of exchange on the date the payment is received differs from the rate applicable to a previous accrual of that interest income. Such foreign currency gain or loss will be treated as ordinary income or loss, but generally will not be treated as an adjustment to interest income received on the debt securities.

Purchase, Sale and Retirement of Debt Securities

A United States Holder's tax basis in a debt security generally will equal the cost of such debt security to such holder:

increased by any amounts includible in income by the holder as original issue discount (OID) and market discount (each as described below); and

reduced by any amortized premium and any payments other than payments of qualified stated interest (each as described below) made on such debt security.

In the case of a foreign currency debt security, the cost of such debt security to a United States Holder will generally be the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency purchase price on the date of purchase calculated at the spot rate of exchange on that date. In the case of a foreign currency debt security that is traded on an established securities market, a United States Holder generally should determine the U.S. dollar value of the cost of such debt security by translating the amount paid in foreign currency into its U.S. dollar value at the spot rate of exchange (i) on the settlement date of the purchase in the case of a United States Holder using the cash method of tax accounting or (ii) on the trade date, in the case of a United States Holder using the accrual method of tax accounting, unless such holder elects to use the spot rate applicable to cash method United States Holders. The amount of any subsequent adjustments to a United States Holder's tax basis in a foreign currency debt security in respect of OID, market discount and premium will be determined in the manner described under Original Issue Discount, Market Discount and Debt Securities Purchased at a Premium below. The conversion of U.S. dollars to another specified currency and the immediate use of such specified currency to purchase a foreign currency debt security generally will not result in any exchange gain or loss for a United States Holder as a result of the conversion or purchase.

Upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition (collectively, a disposition) of a debt security, a United States Holder generally will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between (i) the amount realized on the disposition, less any accrued and unpaid qualified stated interest, which will be taxable as ordinary income in the manner described above under Payments of Interest or Accruals, and (ii) the United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in such debt security. If a United States Holder receives a specified currency other than the U.S. dollar in respect of such disposition of a debt security, the amount realized will be the U.S. dollar value of the specified currency received calculated at the spot rate of exchange on the date of disposition of the debt security.

Table of Contents

In the case of a foreign currency debt security that is traded on an established securities market, a United States Holder that receives a specified currency other than the U.S. dollar in respect of such disposition generally should determine the amount realized (as determined on the trade date) by translating that specified currency into its U.S. dollar value at the spot rate of exchange (i) on the settlement date of the disposition in the case of a United States Holder using the cash method of tax accounting or (ii) on the trade date, in the case of a United States Holder using the accrual method of tax accounting, unless such holder elects to use the spot rate applicable to cash method United States Holders. The election available to accrual basis United States Holders in respect of the purchase and sale of foreign currency debt securities traded on an established securities market, discussed above, must be applied consistently by the United States Holder to all debt instruments from year to year and can be changed only with the consent of the IRS.

Except as discussed below in connection with foreign currency gain or loss, market discount and short-term debt securities, gain or loss recognized by a United States Holder on the disposition of a debt security will generally be long term capital gain or loss if the United States Holder's holding period for the debt security exceeds one year at the time of such disposition. Net long-term capital gain recognized by an individual United States Holder generally will be subject to preferential tax. The ability of United States Holders to offset capital losses against ordinary income is limited.

Despite the foregoing, gain or loss recognized by a United States Holder on the disposition of a foreign currency debt security generally will be treated as ordinary income or loss to the extent that the gain or loss is attributable to changes in exchange rates during the period in which the holder held such debt security. This foreign currency gain or loss will not be treated as an adjustment to interest income that a United States Holder receives on the debt security.

Transactions in Foreign Currency

Foreign currency received as interest on, or on a disposition of, a debt security will have a tax basis equal to its U.S. dollar value at the time such interest is received or at the time such proceeds are received. The amount of gain or loss recognized on a sale or other disposition of such foreign currency will be equal to the difference between (i) the amount of U.S. dollars, or the fair market value in U.S. dollars of the other property received in such sale or other disposition, and (ii) the United States Holder's tax basis in such foreign currency.

A United States Holder that purchases a debt security with previously owned foreign currency will generally recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between such holder's tax basis in such foreign currency and the U.S. dollar fair market value of such debt security on the date of purchase. Any such gain or loss generally will be ordinary income or loss and will not be treated as interest income or expense. The conversion of U.S. dollars to foreign currency and the immediate use of such currency to purchase a debt security generally will not result in any exchange gain or loss for a United States Holder.

Original Issue Discount

In General. Debt securities with a term greater than one year may be issued with original issue discount (OID) for United States federal income tax purposes. Such debt securities are called OID debt securities in this prospectus and will generally be subject to special tax accounting rules. United States Holders generally must accrue OID in gross income over the term of the OID debt securities on a constant yield to maturity basis, regardless of their regular method of tax accounting or when they receive cash attributable to that income. As a result, United States Holders generally will recognize taxable income in respect of an OID debt security in advance of the receipt of cash attributable to such income.

OID generally will arise if the stated redemption price at maturity of the debt security exceeds its issue price by at least a de minimis amount of 0.25% of the debt security's stated redemption price at maturity multiplied by the number of complete years to maturity. OID may also arise if a debt security has particular interest payment

Table of Contents

characteristics, such as interest holidays, interest payable in additional securities or stepped interest. For this purpose, the issue price of a debt security is the first price at which a substantial amount of debt securities is sold for cash, other than to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers. The stated redemption price at maturity of a debt security is the sum of all payments due under the debt security, other than payments of qualified stated interest. The term qualified stated interest generally means stated interest that is unconditionally payable in cash or property, other than debt instruments of the issuer, at least annually during the entire term of the OID debt security at a single fixed rate of interest or, under particular conditions, based on one or more interest indices.

For each taxable year of a United States Holder, the amount of OID that must be included in gross income in respect of an OID debt security will be the sum of the daily portions of OID for each day during such taxable year or any portion of such taxable year in which such a United States Holder held the OID debt security. Such daily portions are determined by allocating to each day in an accrual period a pro rata portion of the OID allocable to that accrual period. Accrual periods may be of any length and may vary in length over the term of an OID debt security. However, accrual periods may not be longer than one year and each scheduled payment of principal or interest must occur on the first day or the final day of a period.

The amount of OID allocable to any accrual period generally will equal (i) the product of the OID debt security's adjusted issue price at the beginning of such accrual period multiplied by its yield to maturity (as adjusted to take into account the length of such accrual period), less (ii) the amount, if any, of qualified stated interest allocable to that accrual period. The adjusted issue price of an OID debt security at the beginning of any accrual period will generally equal the issue price of the OID debt security, as defined above, including any accrued interest (i) increased by previously accrued OID from all prior accrual periods, and (ii) reduced by all payments made on such debt security in all prior accrual periods, other than payments of qualified stated interest, on or before the first day of the accrual period. The yield to maturity of an OID debt security is the discount rate (appropriately adjusted to reflect the length of accrual periods) that causes the sum of the present values on the issue date of all payments on the OID debt security to equal the issue price. As a result of this constant-yield method of including OID income, the amounts a United States Holder will be required to include in gross income if such holder invests in an OID debt security denominated in U.S. dollars generally will be lesser in the early years and greater in the later years than amounts that would be includible on a straight-line basis. In the case of an OID debt security that is a floating rate debt security, both the yield to maturity and the qualified stated interest will be determined for these purposes as though the OID debt security will bear interest in all periods at a fixed rate generally equal to the value, as of the issue date, of the floating interest rate on the OID debt security or, in the case of some floating rate debt securities, the rate that reflects the yield that is reasonably expected for the OID debt security. (Additional rules may apply if interest on a floating rate debt security is based on more than one interest index.)

Foreign Currency Debt Securities. In the case of an OID debt security that is also a foreign currency debt security, a United States Holder should determine the U.S. dollar amount includible in income as OID for each accrual period by

calculating the amount of OID allocable to each accrual period in the specified currency using the constant-yield method described above; and

translating the amount of the specified currency so derived at the average exchange rate in effect during that accrual period (or, with respect to an interest accrual period that spans more than one taxable year, at the average exchange rate for each partial period), or, at the United States Holder's election (as described above

under Payments of Interest and Accruals), at the spot rate of exchange on (i) the last day of the accrual period, or the last day of the taxable year within such accrual period if the accrual period spans more than one taxable year, or (ii) on the date of receipt, if such date is within five business days of the last day of the accrual period.

All payments on an OID debt security, other than payments of qualified stated interest, will generally be viewed first as payments of previously accrued OID, to the extent thereof, with payments attributed first to the earliest accrued OID, and then as payments of principal. Upon the receipt of an amount attributable to OID,

Table of Contents

whether in connection with a payment of an amount that is not qualified stated interest or the disposition of the OID debt security, a United States Holder will recognize ordinary income or loss measured by the difference between (i) the amount received and (ii) the amount accrued. The amount received will be translated into U.S. dollars at the spot rate of exchange on the date of receipt or on the date of disposition of the OID debt security. The amount accrued will be determined by using the spot rate of exchange applicable to such previous accrual.

Acquisition Premium. A United States Holder that purchases an OID debt security outside of the initial offering for an amount less than or equal to the remaining redemption amount or in the initial offering at a price other than the debt security's issue price will generally be required to include in gross income the daily portions of the OID, calculated as described above. However, a United States Holder that acquires an OID debt security at a price in excess of the OID debt security's adjusted issue price but less than or equal to its remaining redemption amount generally is permitted to reduce the daily portions of OID by a fraction to reflect premium paid over the adjusted issue price. The numerator of such fraction is the excess of the United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in the OID debt security immediately after its purchase over the OID debt security's adjusted issue price. The denominator of such fraction is the excess of the remaining redemption amount over the OID debt security's adjusted issue price. For purposes of this prospectus, remaining redemption amount means the sum of all amounts payable on an OID debt security after the purchase date other than payments of qualified stated interest.

Floating Rate Debt Securities. Floating rate debt securities generally will be treated as variable rate debt instruments. Accordingly, the stated interest on a floating rate debt security generally will be treated as qualified stated interest and such a debt security will not have original issue discount solely as a result of the fact that it provides for interest at a variable rate. If a floating rate debt security does not qualify as a variable rate debt instrument, the debt security will be subject to special rules that govern the tax treatment of debt obligations that provide for contingent payments. We will provide a description of the tax considerations relevant to United States holders of any such debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The debt securities may have special redemption, repayment or interest rate reset features, as indicated in the related prospectus supplement. Debt securities containing such features, in particular OID debt securities, may be subject to special rules that differ from the general rules discussed above. Accordingly, purchasers of debt securities with such features should carefully examine the applicable supplement, and should consult their tax advisors relating to such debt securities.

Market Discount

If a United States Holder purchases a debt security, other than a short-term debt security (as defined below), for an amount that is less than the debt security's stated redemption price at maturity or, in the case of an OID debt security, for an amount that is less than the debt security's revised issue price, i.e., the debt security's issue price increased by the amount of accrued OID, the debt security will be considered to have market discount. The market discount rules are subject to a de minimis rule similar to the rule relating to de minimis OID, described above (in the second paragraph under *Original Issue Discount*). Any gain recognized by the United States Holder on the disposition of debt securities having market discount generally will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the market discount that accrued on the debt security while held by such United States Holder.

Alternatively, the United States Holder may elect to include market discount in income currently over the life of the debt security. Such an election will apply to market discount debt securities acquired by the United States Holder on or after the first day of the first taxable year to which such election applies and is revocable only with the consent of the IRS. Market discount will accrue on a straight-line basis unless the United States Holder elects to accrue the market discount on a constant-yield method. Such an election will apply to the debt security to which it is made and is

irrevocable. Unless the United States Holder elects to include market discount in income on a current basis, as described above, the United States Holder could be required to defer the deduction of a portion of the interest paid on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry the debt security.

Table of Contents

Market discount on a foreign currency debt security will be accrued by a United States Holder in the specified currency. The amount includible in income by a United States Holder in respect of such accrued market discount will be the U.S. dollar value of the amount accrued. This is generally calculated at the spot rate of exchange on the date that the debt security is disposed of by the United States Holder. Any accrued market discount on a foreign currency debt security that is currently includible in income will be translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rate for the accrual period or portion of such accrual period within the United States Holder's taxable year.

Short-Term Debt Securities

The rules set forth above also will generally apply to debt securities having maturities of one year or less from the date of issuance. Those debt securities are called short-term debt securities in this prospectus. Modifications apply to the general rules discussed above.

First, none of the interest on a short-term debt security is treated as qualified stated interest but instead is treated as part of the short-term debt security's stated redemption price at maturity, thereby giving rise to OID. Thus, all short-term debt securities will be OID debt securities. OID will be treated as accruing on a short-term debt security ratably, or at the election of a United States Holder, under a constant yield method.

Second, a United States Holder of a short-term debt security that uses the cash method of tax accounting and does not identify the short-term debt security as part of a hedging transaction will generally not be required to include OID in respect of the short-term debt security in income on a current basis. Such a United States Holder may not be allowed to deduct all of the interest paid or accrued on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry such debt security until the maturity of the debt security or its earlier disposition in a taxable transaction. In addition, such a United States Holder will be required to treat any gain realized on a disposition of the debt security as ordinary income to the extent such gain does not exceed the holder's accrued OID on the debt security, and short-term capital gain to the extent the gain exceeds accrued OID. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a United States Holder of a short-term debt security using the cash method of tax accounting may elect to accrue OID into income on a current basis. In such case, the limitation on the deductibility of interest described above will not apply. A United States Holder using the accrual method of tax accounting and some cash method holders (including banks, securities dealers, regulated investment companies and certain trust funds) generally will be required to include OID on a short-term debt security in income on a current basis. OID will be treated as accruing for these purposes on a pro rata basis or, at the election of the holder, on a constant-yield basis based on daily compounding.

Third, any United States Holder of a short-term debt security, whether using the cash or accrual method of tax accounting, can elect to accrue the acquisition discount, if any, on the debt security on a current basis. If such an election is made, the OID rules will not apply to the debt security. Acquisition discount is the excess of the debt security's stated redemption price at maturity over the holder's purchase price for the debt security. Acquisition discount will be treated as accruing ratably or, at the election of the United States Holder, under a constant-yield method based on daily compounding. If a United States Holder elects to accrue acquisition discount, the OID rules will not apply.

As described above, the debt securities may have special redemption features. These features may affect the determination of whether a debt security has a maturity of not more than one year and thus is a short-term debt security. Purchasers of debt securities with such features should carefully examine the applicable supplement, and should consult their tax advisors in relation to such features.

Debt Securities Purchased at a Premium

A United States Holder that purchases a debt security for an amount in excess of the remaining redemption amount will be considered to have purchased the debt security at a premium and the OID rules will not apply to such holder. Such holder may elect to amortize such premium, as an offset to interest income, using a constant-

Table of Contents

yield method, over the remaining term of the debt security. If the debt security is redeemable prior to maturity, the amount of amortizable premium is determined with reference either to the amount payable on maturity or, if it results in a smaller premium attributable to the earlier redemption period, with reference to the amount payable on the earlier redemption date. Such election, once made, generally applies to all debt instruments held by the United States Holder at the beginning of the first taxable year to which the election applies and to all debt instruments subsequently acquired by the United States Holder. Such election may be revoked only with the consent of the IRS. A United States Holder that elects to amortize such premium must reduce its tax basis in a debt security by the amount of the premium amortized during its holding period. For a United States Holder that does not elect to amortize bond premium, the amount of such premium will be included in the United States Holder's tax basis when the debt security matures or is disposed of by the United States Holder. Therefore, a United States Holder that does not elect to amortize premium and holds the debt security to maturity will generally be required to treat the premium as capital loss when the debt security matures.

Amortizable bond premium in respect of a foreign currency debt security will be computed in the specified currency and will reduce interest income in the specified currency. At the time amortized bond premium offsets interest income, exchange gain or loss, which will be taxable as ordinary income or loss, will be realized on the amortized bond premium on such debt security based on the difference between (i) the spot rate of exchange on the date or dates such premium is recovered through interest payments on the debt security and (ii) the spot rate of exchange on the date on which the United States Holder acquired the debt security. See *Original Issue Discount Acquisition Premium* above for a discussion of the treatment of a debt security purchased for an amount less than or equal to the remaining redemption amount but in excess of the debt security's adjusted issue price.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information returns may be required to be filed with the IRS relating to payments made to particular United States Holders of debt securities. In addition, United States Holders may be subject to a backup withholding tax on such payments if they do not provide their taxpayer identification numbers to the paying agent in the manner required, fail to certify that they are not subject to backup withholding tax, or otherwise fail to comply with applicable backup withholding tax rules. United States Holders may also be subject to information reporting and backup withholding tax with respect to the proceeds from a disposition of the debt securities. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a credit against the United States Holder's United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Non-United States Holders

Under current United States federal income tax law:

withholding of United States federal income tax will not apply to a payment on a debt security to a Non-United States Holder, provided that,

- (1) the holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote and is not a controlled foreign corporation related to us (actually or constructively) through stock ownership;

- (2) the beneficial owner provides a statement (generally, on an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or other applicable W-8) signed under penalties of perjury that includes its name and address and certifies that it is a Non-United States Holder in compliance with applicable requirements; and
- (3) neither we nor our paying agent has actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner of the debt security is a United States Holder.

withholding of United States federal income tax will generally not apply to any gain realized on the disposition of a debt security.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Non-United States Holder may be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) with respect to payments of interest (and payments of principal made after December 31, 2016) on a debt security unless (x) the Non-United States Holder (or any foreign intermediary through which it holds the debt security) is not a foreign financial institution (as defined below), the Non-United States Holder (or any such foreign intermediary through which it holds the debt security) has provided any required information with respect to the Non-United States Holder's direct and indirect U.S. owners, if any; and (y) if the Non-United States Holder (or any intermediary through which it holds the debt security) is a foreign financial institution (as defined under FATCA), the Non-United States Holder (or any such foreign intermediary through which it holds the debt security) is FATCA compliant, as described below.

Any gain realized on the disposition of a debt security generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless the Non-United States Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met. However, the gross proceeds from a sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a debt security effected after December 31, 2016 may be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax under FATCA unless (x) the Non-United States Holder (or any foreign intermediary through which it holds the debt security) is not a foreign financial institution (as defined under FATCA), the Non-United States Holder (or any such foreign intermediary through which it holds the debt security) has provided any required information with respect to its direct and indirect U.S. owners, if any; and (y) if the Non-United States Holder (or any intermediary through which it holds the debt security) is a foreign financial institution, such Non-United States Holder (or any such foreign intermediary through which it holds the note) is FATCA compliant, as described below.

A foreign financial institution will be FATCA compliant if it (x) has entered into an agreement with the U.S. government, pursuant to which it agrees, among other responsibilities, to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities information about its direct and indirect U.S. accountholders and investors (to the extent that an applicable intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA (IGA) has not waived the requirement to enter into such an agreement); (y) has complied with the terms of an applicable IGA and has registered its status as compliant with such IGA with the U.S. government; or (z) otherwise has established an exemption.

In general, backup withholding and information reporting will not apply to a payment of interest on a debt security to a Non-United States Holder, or to proceeds from the disposition of a debt security by a Non-United States Holder, in each case, if the holder certifies under penalties of perjury that it is a Non-United States Holder and neither we nor our paying agent has actual knowledge, or reason to know, to the contrary. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be refunded or credited against the Non-United States Holder's United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. In certain circumstances, if a debt security is not held through a qualified intermediary, the amount of payments made on such debt security, the name and address of the beneficial owner and the amount, if any, of tax withheld may be reported to the IRS.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

through underwriters, dealers or agents;

directly to purchasers; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We may directly solicit offers to purchase securities or agents may be designated to solicit offers. We will, in the prospectus supplement relating to an offering, name any agent that could be viewed as an underwriter under the Securities Act and describe any commissions that we must pay. Any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment or, if indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, on a firm commitment basis. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

at a fixed price or prices which may be changed from time to time;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the method of distribution of the securities and any applicable restrictions.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities of a particular series will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including the following:

the name of any agent or underwriters;

the public offering or purchase price;

any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to the agent or underwriters;

all other items constituting underwriting compensation;

any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to dealers; and

any exchanges on which the securities will be listed.

If any underwriters or agents are utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will enter into an underwriting agreement or other agreement with them at the time of sale to them, and we will set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering the names of the underwriters or agents and the terms of the related agreement with them.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which the prospectus is delivered, we will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

Agents, underwriters and dealers participating in a sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the debt securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions, under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters, dealers and other persons may be entitled under agreements which they may enter into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase securities from us pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date stated in the prospectus supplement. Each contract will be for an amount not less than, and the aggregate amount of securities sold pursuant to such contracts shall not be less nor more than, the respective amounts stated in the prospectus supplement. Institutions with whom the contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and other institutions, but shall in all cases be subject to our approval. Delayed delivery contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that:

the purchase by an institution of the securities covered under that contract may not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which that institution is subject; and

if the securities are also being sold to underwriters acting as principals for their own account, the underwriters will have purchased such securities not sold for delayed delivery. The underwriters and other persons acting as our agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of delayed delivery contracts.

Certain agents, underwriters and dealers, and their associates and affiliates may be customers of, have borrowing relationships with, engage in other transactions with, and/or perform services, including investment banking services, for us or one or more of our respective affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, any underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on such securities. Specifically, any underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any such other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any such other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. Any such underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions may be an underwriter and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. The applicable prospectus supplement may provide that the original issue date for your securities may be more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities. Accordingly, in such a case, if you wish to trade securities on any date prior to the third

business day before the original issue date for your securities, you will be required, by virtue of the fact that your securities initially are expected to settle in more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities, to make alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The securities may be new issues of securities and may have no established trading market. The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any underwriters that purchase the securities for

Table of Contents

public offering and sale may make a market in such securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We can make no assurance as to the liquidity of or the existence of trading markets for any of the securities.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, the validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed upon by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Applied Materials, Inc. and its subsidiaries as of October 26, 2014 and October 27, 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended October 26, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of October 26, 2014 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance on the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents