Hercules Capital, Inc.
Form 497
September 18, 2018

Filed Pursuant to Rule 497
Registration No. 333-224281

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated June 5, 2018)

$

% Notes due 2033

We are an internally-managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio s total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity-related investments.

We are offering $ in aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2033, or the Notes. The Notes will mature on October 30, 2033. We will pay interest quarterly on the Notes on January 30, April 30, July 30 and October 30 of each year, beginning on October 30, 2018. We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time, at the redemption price set forth under Specific Terms of the Notes and the Offering Optional Redemption in this prospectus supplement. The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of $25 and integral multiples of $25 in excess thereof.

The Notes will be our direct unsecured obligations and rank *pari passu*, or equally in right of payment, with all outstanding and future unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness issued by Hercules Capital, Inc.

We intend to apply to list the Notes on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, and we expect trading in the Notes on the NYSE to begin within 30 days of the original issue date under the symbol HCXY. The Notes are expected to trade flat, which means that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes that is not reflected in the trading price. Currently, there is no public market for the Notes.

An investment in the Notes involves risks that are described in the Supplementary Risk Factors section beginning on page S-14 in this prospectus supplement and the Risk Factors section beginning on page 14 of the accompanying prospectus.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain important information you should know before investing in the Notes. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before investing and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, or by telephone by calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.htgc.com. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains information about us.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price	$	$
Sales load (underwriting discounts and commissions)(1)	$	$
Proceeds to us (before expenses)(2)	$	$

(1) Reflects an underwriting discount that may vary between sales to retail investors and sales to institutional investors.

(2) Before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, estimated at $. See Underwriting in this prospectus supplement for complete details of underwriters compensation.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional $ total aggregate principal amount of Notes offered hereby, solely to cover overallotments, if any, within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement. If the underwriters exercise this option in full, the total public offering price will be $, the total sales load (underwriting discounts and commissions) paid by us will be $, and total proceeds, before expenses, will be $.

THE NOTES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF A BANK AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

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

Delivery of the Notes in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company will be made on or about September , 2018.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, *A Stifel Company*	**Morgan Stanley**	**UBS Investment Bank**

Lead Manager

Janney Montgomery Scott

Co-Managers

BB&T Capital Markets **B. Riley FBR** **Ladenburg Thalmann** **Compass Point** **Wedbush Securities**

The date of this prospectus supplement is September , 2018.

[Table of Contents](#)

[Index to Financial Statements](#)

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. 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 assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus supplement or such prospectus, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information and disclosure. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus together with the additional information described under the heading, Available Information before investing in our Notes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

Prospectus

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus supplement and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of this offering, we encourage you to read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents that are referenced in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with any accompanying supplements. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the Company, Hercules, HTGC, we, us and our refer to Hercules Capital, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries and its affiliated securitization trusts.

Our Company

We are a specialty finance company focused on providing senior secured loans to high-growth, innovative venture capital-backed companies in a variety of technology, life sciences, and sustainable and renewable technology industries. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio s total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. Effective January 1, 2006, we elected to be treated for tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code.

As of June 30, 2018, our total assets were approximately $1.8 billion, of which our investments comprised $1.7 billion at fair value and $1.8 billion at cost. Since inception through June 30, 2018, we have made debt and equity commitments of more than $8.0 billion to our portfolio companies.

We also make investments in qualifying small businesses through our two wholly-owned small business investment companies, or SBICs. Our SBIC subsidiaries, Hercules Technology II, L.P., or HT II, and Hercules Technology III, L.P., or HT III, hold approximately $115.4 million and $294.8 million in assets, respectively, and accounted for approximately 5.2% and 13.4% of our total assets, respectively, prior to consolidation at June 30, 2018. At June 30, 2018, we have issued $190.2 million in Small Business Administration, or SBA, guaranteed debentures in our SBIC subsidiaries. See Regulation Small Business Administration Regulations in the accompanying prospectus for additional information regarding our SBIC subsidiaries.

As of June 30, 2018, our investment professionals, including Manuel A. Henriquez, our co-founder, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, are currently comprised of 35 professionals who have, on average, more than 15 years of experience in venture capital, structured finance, commercial lending or acquisition finance with the types of technology-related companies that we are targeting. We believe that we can leverage the experience and relationships of our management team to successfully identify attractive investment opportunities, underwrite prospective portfolio companies and structure customized financing solutions.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Organizational Chart

The following chart summarizes our organizational structure as of September 13, 2018. This chart is provided for illustrative purposes only.

Our Market Opportunity

We believe that technology-related companies compete in one of the largest and most rapidly growing sectors of the U.S. economy and that continued growth is supported by ongoing innovation and performance improvements in technology products as well as the adoption of technology across virtually all industries in response to competitive pressures. We believe that an attractive market opportunity exists for a specialty finance company focused primarily on investments in structured debt with warrants in technology-related companies for the following reasons:

- technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

- unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies due to the complexity of evaluating risk in these investments; and

- structured debt with warrants products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds.

Technology-Related Companies are Underserved by Traditional Lenders. We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

companies because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with these companies effectively.

The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies typically include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of these companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

Due to the difficulties described above, we believe traditional lenders generally refrain from entering the structured debt financing marketplace, instead preferring the risk-reward profile of asset-based lending. Traditional lenders generally do not have flexible product offerings that meet the needs of technology-related companies. The financing products offered by traditional lenders typically impose on borrowers many restrictive covenants and conditions, including limiting cash outflows and requiring a significant depository relationship to facilitate rapid liquidation.

Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies. Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently underserved. The venture capital market for the technology-related companies in which we invest has been active. Therefore, to the extent we have capital available, we believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

Structured Debt with Warrants Products Complement Equity Financing From Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds. We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured debt with warrants products provide access to growth capital that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we believe many technology-related companies at all stages of development target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have reached a more mature stage prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period sometimes required prior to liquidity events.

Our Business Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our investment objective includes the following key elements:

Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals. We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies.

Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities. We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk-adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from warrant and equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities (typically between 24 48 months), security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, and on select investment covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

Provide Customized Financing Complementary to Financial Sponsors Capital. We offer a broad range of investment structures and possess expertise and experience to effectively structure and price investments in technology-related companies.

Invest at Various Stages of Development. We provide growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development, including select publicly listed companies and select special opportunity lower middle market companies that require additional capital to fund acquisitions, recapitalizations and refinancings and established-stage companies.

Benefit from Our Efficient Organizational Structure. We believe that the perpetual nature of our corporate structure enables us to be a long-term partner for our portfolio companies in contrast to traditional investment funds, which typically have a limited life. In addition, because of our access to the equity markets, we believe that we may benefit from a lower cost of capital than that available to private investment funds.

Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database. We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance.

Recent Developments

Reduced Asset Coverage Requirements

The Small Business Credit Availability Act, or the SBCAA, which was signed into law in March 2018, decreased the minimum asset coverage ratio in Section 61(a) of the 1940 Act for business development companies from 200% to 150% (subject to either stockholder approval or approval of both a majority of the board of directors and a majority of directors who are not interested persons). On September 4, 2018, our Board of Directors, including a required majority (as such term is defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act), approved the application to us of the 150% minimum asset coverage ratio set forth in Section 61(a)(2) of the 1940 Act. As a result, the minimum asset coverage ratio applicable to us will be reduced from 200% to 150%, effective as of September 4, 2019, unless approved earlier by a vote of our stockholders, in which case the 150% minimum asset coverage ratio will be effective on the day after such approval. Our Board of Directors also authorized the submission of a proposal for stockholders to accelerate the application of the 150% minimum asset coverage ratio to us at a special meeting of stockholders. As a result of our Board of Director s approval, effective as of September 4, 2019 (or earlier if our stockholders approve the proposal to accelerate the application of the reduced asset coverage requirements to us), we will be able to incur additional indebtedness and, therefore, your risk of an investment in us may increase. In connection with the change in minimum coverage ratio, S&P Global Ratings (S&P) lowered our rating to a non-investment grade rating, and we terminated our ratings agreement with S&P. On September 6, 2018, DBRS, Inc. assigned us an investment grade rating. Other rating agencies may also decide to review our credit ratings and those of other business development companies in light of this new law as well as any corresponding changes to asset coverage ratios and consider downgrading such ratings, including a downgrade from an investment grade rating to a non-investment grade rating. Such a downgrade in our credit ratings may adversely affect our securities. See Supplementary Risk Factors Risks Related to the Notes A downgrade, suspension or withdrawal of a credit rating assigned by a rating agency to us or our unsecured debt, if any, or change in the debt markets could cause

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

the liquidity or market value of the Notes to decline significantly in this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Securities A downgrade, suspension or withdrawal of the credit rating assigned by a rating agency to us or our debt securities, if any, or change in the debt markets could cause the liquidity or market value of our debt securities to decline significantly in the accompanying prospectus.

Distribution Declaration

On July 25, 2018, our Board of Directors declared a cash distribution of $0.31 per share, which was paid on August 20, 2018 to stockholders of record as of August 13, 2018. This distribution represents our fifty-second consecutive distribution since our initial public offering, bringing the total cumulative distribution to date to $14.64 per share.

Closed and Pending Commitments

As of September 13, 2018, we have:

- Closed debt and equity commitments of approximately $169.8 million to new and existing portfolio companies and funded approximately $109.5 million subsequent to June 30, 2018.

- Pending commitments (signed non-binding term sheets) of approximately $82.7 million.

The table below summarizes our year-to-date closed and pending commitments as follows:

Closed Commitments and Pending Commitments (in millions)	
January 1 June 30, 2018 Closed Commitments	$ 728.7
July 1 September 13, 2018 Closed Commitments[(a)]	$ 169.8
Pending Commitments (as of September 13, 2018)[(b)]	$ 82.7
Closed and Pending Commitments as of September 13, 2018	$ 981.2

a. Closed Commitments may include renewals of existing credit facilities. Not all Closed Commitments result in future cash requirements. Commitments generally fund over the two succeeding quarters from close.
b. Not all pending commitments (signed non-binding term sheets) are expected to close and they do not necessarily represent any future cash requirements.

ATM Equity Program Issuances

Subsequent to June 30, 2018 and as of September 13, 2018, we sold 2.2 million shares of common stock for total accumulated net proceeds of approximately $28.6 million, including $229,000 of offering expenses, under our at-the-market, or ATM, equity distribution agreement, dated September 8, 2017, or the Equity Distribution Agreement, with JMP Securities LLC, or JMP. As of September 13, 2018, approximately 5.6 million shares remain available for issuance and sale under the Equity Distribution Agreement.

Hercules Technology II Debentures Full Redemption

On July 13, 2018, we completed repayment of the $41.2 million of outstanding HT II debentures.

Amendment to Wells Facility

On July 31, 2018, we entered into a further amendment to the $120.0 million revolving senior credit facility with Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC (the Wells Facility) to extend the maturity date and fully repay the pro-rata portion of outstanding balances of Alostar Bank of Commerce and Everbank Commercial Finance Inc., thereby resigning both as lenders and terminating their commitments thereunder.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Departure of Officer

On August 16, 2018, Gerard R. Waldt, Jr., Controller and Interim Chief Accounting Officer, tendered his resignation from the Company. Mr. Waldt s resignation was not a result of any disagreement with the Company on any matter relating to the Company s operations, policies or practices. David Lund, the Company s current Interim Chief Financial Officer, assumed the duties of Interim Chief Accounting Officer effective as of August 23, 2018. The resignation of Mr. Waldt was effective on September 7, 2018.

Portfolio Company Developments

As of September 13, 2018, we held warrants or equity positions in two companies that have filed registration statements on Form S-1 with the SEC in contemplation of potential initial public offerings. Both companies filed confidentially under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (the JOBS Act). There can be no assurance that companies that have yet to complete their initial public offerings will do so in a timely manner or at all. Subsequent to June 30, 2018 and as of September 13, 2018, there were two companies that announced or completed liquidity events.

1. In August 2018, our portfolio company NuGEN Technologies, Inc., a leading provider for innovative next-generation sequencing kits and genomic sample preparation solutions for the fastest growing field within the genomics area, was acquired by the Tecan Group (SIX Swiss Exchange: TECN), a leading global provider of laboratory instruments and solutions in biopharmaceuticals, forensics and clinical diagnostics. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

2. In August 2018, our portfolio company Avnera Corporation, a fabless semiconductor firm making custom Analog System-on-Chip (ASoC) solutions for audio, voice, speech, sensor and artificial intelligence (AI) applications, was acquired by Skyworks Solutions, Inc. (NASDAQ: SWKS), an innovator of high-performance analog semiconductors connecting people, places and things. Skyworks paid $405.0 million in cash to Avnera equity holders at closing with up to an additional $20.0 million to be paid if certain performance targets are exceeded over a 12-month period post-closing period.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have offices in Boston, MA, New York, NY, Washington, DC, Hartford, CT, Reston, VA, and San Diego, CA. We maintain a website on the Internet at www.htgc.com. We make available, free of charge, on our website our proxy statement, annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. This information is available at the SEC s public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information about the operation of the SEC s public reference room by calling the SEC at (202) 551-8090. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website, at www.sec.gov, that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, who file documents electronically with the SEC.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE NOTES AND THE OFFERING

This prospectus supplement sets forth certain terms of the Notes that we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement and supplements the accompanying prospectus that is attached to the back of this prospectus supplement. This section outlines the specific legal and financial terms of the Notes. You should read this section together with the more general description of the Notes in the accompanying prospectus under the heading Description of Our Debt Securities before investing in the Notes. Capitalized terms used in this prospectus supplement and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the accompanying prospectus or in the indenture governing the Notes (as amended from time to time, the indenture).

Issuer	Hercules Capital, Inc.
Title of the securities	% Notes due 2033
Aggregate principal amount being offered	$
Overallotment option	The underwriters may also purchase from us up to an additional $ aggregate principal amount of Notes solely to cover overallotments, if any, within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.
Initial public offering price	% of the aggregate principal amount.
Principal payable at maturity	% of the aggregate principal amount; the principal amount of each Note will be payable on its stated maturity date at the office of the Trustee in The City of New York or at such other office designated by the Trustee.
Type of Note	Fixed rate note
Listing	We intend to apply to list the Notes on the New York Stock Exchange within 30 days of the original issue date under the symbol HCXY.
Interest rate	% per year

Day count basis	360-day year of twelve 30-day months
Original issue date of the Notes	September , 2018
Stated maturity date	October 30, 2033
Date interest starts accruing on the Notes	September , 2018
Interest payment dates for the Notes	Each January 30, April 30, July 30 and October 30, commencing October 30, 2018. If an interest payment date falls on a non-business day, the applicable interest payment will be made on the next business day and no additional interest will accrue as a result of such delayed payment.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Interest periods for the Notes	The initial interest period will be the period from and including September , 2018, to, but excluding, the initial interest payment date, and the subsequent interest periods will be the periods from and including an interest payment date to, but excluding, the next interest payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be.
Regular record dates for interest	Each January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.
Specified currency	U.S. Dollars
Place of payment	New York City or such other office designated by the Trustee
Ranking of Notes	The Notes will be our general unsecured obligations and will rank:

pari passu with our other outstanding and future unsecured indebtedness, including, without limitation, approximately $150.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.625% notes due 2022 (the 2022 Notes), approximately $83.5 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.25% notes due 2024 (the 2024 Notes), approximately $75.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.25% notes due 2025 (the 2025 Notes), and approximately $230.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.375% convertible notes due 2022 (the 2022 Convertible Notes), each as of June 30, 2018.

senior to any of our future indebtedness that expressly provides it is subordinated to the Notes.

effectively subordinated to all our existing and future secured indebtedness (including indebtedness that is initially unsecured to which we subsequently grant security), to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness.

structurally subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other obligations of any of our subsidiaries, including, without limitation, the indebtedness of HT II and HT III, borrowings under the Wells Facility, borrowings under the $100.0 million revolving senior secured credit facility with MUFG Union Bank, N.A. (the Union Bank Facility , and together with the Wells Facility, the Credit Facilities), and approximately $31.1 million of fixed rate asset-backed notes (the 2021 Asset-Backed Notes), each as of June 30, 2018. Note that there were no borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility and $58.3 million of borrowings outstanding on the Union Bank Facility as of June 30, 2018.

Denominations	We will issue the Notes in denominations of $25 and integral multiples of $25 in excess thereof.
Business day	Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday that is not a day on which banking institutions in New York City, or in such other place of payment designated by the Trustee, are authorized or required by law or executive order to close.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Optional redemption	We may redeem in whole or in part at any time, or from time to time, at our option on or after October 30, 2023 upon not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days written notice by mail prior to the date fixed for redemption thereof, at a redemption price of 100% of the outstanding principal amount thereof plus accrued and unpaid interest payments otherwise payable for the then-current quarterly interest period accrued to but not including the date fixed for redemption.
	You may be prevented from exchanging or transferring the Notes when they are subject to redemption. In case any Notes are to be redeemed in part only, the redemption notice will provide that, upon surrender of such Note, you will receive, without a charge, a new Note or Notes of authorized denominations representing the principal amount of your remaining unredeemed Notes. Any exercise of our option to redeem the Notes will be done in compliance with the indenture and the 1940 Act.
	If we redeem only some of the Notes, the Trustee or The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, as applicable, will determine the method for selection of the particular Notes to be redeemed, in accordance with the indenture and the 1940 Act, in each case, to the extent applicable. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the date of redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes called for redemption.
Sinking fund	The Notes will not be subject to any sinking fund.
Repayment at option of Holders	Holders will not have the option to have the Notes repaid prior to the stated maturity date.
Defeasance and covenant defeasance	The Notes are subject to defeasance by us.
	The Notes are subject to covenant defeasance by us.
Form of Notes	The Notes will be represented by global securities that will be deposited and registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. Except in limited circumstances, you will not receive certificates for the Notes. Beneficial interests in the Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the

	Notes through either DTC, if they are a participant, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in DTC.
Trustee, Paying Agent and Security Registrar	U.S. Bank National Association
Other covenants	In addition to the covenants described in the prospectus attached to this prospectus supplement, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes:
	We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act or any successor provisions,

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

whether or not we continue to be subject to such provisions of the 1940 Act, but giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC. Currently, these provisions generally prohibit us from making additional borrowings, including through the issuance of additional debt or the sale of additional debt securities, unless our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% through September 4, 2019 and 150% thereafter (or earlier if our stockholders approve the proposal to accelerate the application of the reduced asset coverage requirements to us) after such borrowings. See Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business Structure Recently passed legislation may allow us to incur additional leverage in the accompanying prospectus.

We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate Section 18(a)(1)(B) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act or any successor provisions, giving effect to (i) any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC and (ii) no-action relief granted by the SEC to another business development company (or to us if we determine to seek such similar no-action or other relief) permitting the business development company to declare any cash dividend or distribution notwithstanding the prohibition contained in Section 18(a)(1)(B) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act in order to maintain the business development company s status as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. Currently, these provisions generally prohibit us from declaring any cash dividend or distribution upon any class of our capital stock, or purchasing any such capital stock if our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is below 200% through September 4, 2019 and 150% thereafter (or earlier if our stockholders approve the proposal to accelerate the application of the reduced asset coverage requirements to us) at the time of the declaration of the dividend or distribution or the purchase and after deducting the amount of such dividend, distribution or purchase. See Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business Structure Recently passed legislation may allow us to incur additional leverage in the accompanying prospectus.

If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the Trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable United States generally accepted accounting principles, as applicable (U.S. GAAP).

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

Modifications to events of default	The following events of default, as described in the prospectus attached to this prospectus supplement: We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, a debt security of the series on its due date, and do not cure this default within five days. On the last business day of each of 24 consecutive calendar months, we have an asset coverage of less than 100%. with respect to the Notes has been revised to read as follows: We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, any Note on its due date. On the last business day of each of 24 consecutive calendar months, we have an asset coverage of less than 100%, giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.
Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures	Interests in the Notes will trade in DTC s Same Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such Notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. None of the issuer, the Trustee or the paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.
Further issuances	We have the ability to issue additional debt securities under the indenture with terms different from the Notes and, without the consent of the holders thereof, to reopen the Notes and issue additional Notes.
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the $ million aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering will be approximately $ million after deducting the underwriting discount of approximately $ million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately $ payable by us. We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering (i) to fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objective, (ii) to make acquisitions, (iii) to retire certain debt obligations (which may include the

	2024 Notes), and (iv) for other general corporate purposes.
Governing Law	The Notes and the indenture are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

Index to Financial Statements

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The matters discussed in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as in future oral and written statements by management of Hercules Capital, Inc. that are forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. We generally identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, could, intends, target, projects, believes, estimates, predicts, potential or continue or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. Important assumptions include our ability to originate new investments, achieve certain margins and levels of profitability, the availability of additional capital, and the ability to maintain certain debt to asset ratios. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans or objectives will be achieved. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include statements as to:

- our current and future management structure;
- our future operating results;
- our business prospects and the prospects of our prospective portfolio companies;
- the impact of investments that we expect to make;
- our informal relationships with third parties including in the venture capital industry;
- the expected market for venture capital investments and our addressable market;
- the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- our ability to access debt markets and equity markets;