

Nsoro MasTec, LLC
Form S-3ASR
April 08, 2009
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 8, 2009

Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

MASTEC, INC.

(Exact Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

65-0829355
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

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800 S. Douglas Road, 12th Floor

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

(305) 599-1800

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,

Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

For the Co-Registrants, Please see Co-Registrant Information on the following page

Alberto de Cardenas, Esq.

Executive Vice President & General Counsel

800 S. Douglas Road, 12th Floor

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

(305) 599-1800

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,

Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies of communications to:

Barbara J. Oikle, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

1221 Brickell Avenue

Miami, Florida 33131

(305) 579-0500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement, as determined by market conditions and other factors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum		Amount of
		Offering Price per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Registration Fee(1)
Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share, Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, Depositary Shares, Debt Securities, Guarantees(2), Warrants, Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units				

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate offering price and number or amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be sold at indeterminate prices, either by the issuer or by selling security holders. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon conversion of, or in exchange for, or upon exercise of, convertible or exchangeable securities. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the Registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (2) Represents guarantees, if any, of the debt securities by the Co-Registrants or one or more of the future subsidiaries of the Registrant. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) under the Securities Act, no separate registration fee will be paid in respect of any such guarantees.

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(Exact Name of Co-Registrants as Specified in its Charter)	(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Number)	(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
Church & Tower, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0227979
Direct Star TV, LLC	1623	North Carolina	54-2074685
GlobeTec Construction, LLC	1623	Florida	20-0197046
MasTec Brazil I, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0890223
MasTec Brazil II, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0890224
MasTec Contracting Company, Inc.	1623	Nevada	04-3736337
MasTec Latin America, Inc.	1623	Delaware	65-0726671
MasTec North America, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0829357
MasTec North America AC, LLC	1623	Florida	14-1943970
MasTec Property Holdings, LLC	1623	Nevada	26-4027848
MasTec Services Company, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0791004
MasTec Spain, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0890231
MasTec Venezuela, Inc.	1623	Florida	65-0890232
Nsoro MasTec, LLC	1623	Florida	26-3078035
Nsoro MasTec International, Inc.	1623	Nevada	26-4097196
Power Partners MasTec, LLC	1623	North Carolina	26-1623356
Pumpco, Inc.	1623	Texas	74-2196341
Three Phase Line Construction, Inc.	1623	New Hampshire	02-0486688
Three Phase Acquisition Corp.	1623	New Hampshire	26-1623833
Wanzek Construction, Inc.	1623	North Dakota	45-0311915

The address, including zip code of each Co-Registrant's principal executive offices is 800 S. Douglas Road, 12th Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134. The telephone number, including area code, of each of the Co-Registrants is (305) 599-1800.

The address, including zip code of the agent for service for each of the Co-Registrants is Alberto de Cardenas, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of MasTec, Inc., 800 S. Douglas Road, 12th Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134. The telephone number, including area code, of the agent for service for each of the Co-Registrants is (305) 599-1800.

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PROSPECTUS

**Common Stock, Preferred Stock,
Depositary Shares, Debt Securities, Guarantees, Warrants,
Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units**

We are MasTec, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. This prospectus relates to the public offer and sale of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, guarantees, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units which we and the subsidiary guarantors named below or in a related prospectus supplement may offer from time to time in one or more series. We and/or selling security holders may offer and sell the securities separately, together or as units, in separate classes or series, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of sale and set forth in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering materials carefully before you invest.

We and/or selling security holders may offer the securities from time to time through public or private transactions, and in the case of our common stock, on or off the New York Stock Exchange, at prevailing market prices or at privately negotiated prices. Sales may be made directly to purchasers or to or through agents, broker-dealers or underwriters. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the names of the agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities will also be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MTZ.

Before buying any offered securities, you should carefully consider the Risk Factors contained in this prospectus, beginning on page 4.

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

Prospectus dated April 8, 2009.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Because these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus provides you only with a general description of the securities we or the selling security holders may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the terms of the securities offered. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read this prospectus, any supplement and any free writing prospectus related to the applicable securities that is prepared by us or on our behalf or that is otherwise authorized by us, together with the additional information described under the heading **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** found on page 29.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the supplement to this prospectus and any free writing prospectus related to the applicable securities that is prepared by us or on our behalf or that is otherwise authorized by us. We nor the selling security holders have authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We nor the selling security holders will make an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, as well as information we have previously filed with the SEC and incorporate herein by reference, is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

We nor the selling security holders will use this prospectus to offer and sell securities unless it is accompanied by a supplement that more fully describes the securities being offered and the terms of the offering.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

We are making this statement pursuant to the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements described in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We make statements in this prospectus, including statements that are incorporated by reference, that are forward-looking. When used in this prospectus or in any other presentation, statements which are not historical in nature, including the words *anticipate*, *estimate*, *could*, *should*, *may*, *plan*, *seek*, *expect*, *believe*, *intend*, *target*, *will*, *project* and variations of these words and negatives the expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. They also include statements regarding:

our future growth and profitability;

our competitive strengths; and

our business strategy and the trends we anticipate in the industries and economies in which we operate.

These statements are based on our current expectations and are subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, that are difficult to predict, and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include:

economic downturns, reduced capital expenditures, reduced financing availability, customer consolidation and technological and regulatory changes in the industries we serve;

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market conditions, technical and regulatory changes in our customers' industries;

our ability to retain qualified personnel and key management from acquired businesses, integrate acquired businesses with MasTec within expected timeframes and achieve the revenue, cost savings and earnings levels from such acquisitions at or above the levels projected.

impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and any similar local or state regulations affecting renewable energy transmission, broadband and related projects and expenditures;

our ability to attract and retain qualified managers and skilled employees;

increases in fuel, maintenance, materials, labor and other costs;

liquidity issues related to our securities held for sale;

adverse determinations on any claim, lawsuit or proceeding;

the highly competitive nature of our industry;

our dependence on a limited number of customers;

the ability of our customers to terminate or reduce the amount of work, or in some cases prices paid for services under many of our contracts;

the adequacy of our insurance, legal and other reserves and allowances for doubtful accounts;

any exposure related to our divested state Department of Transportation projects and assets;

the restrictions imposed by our credit facility, senior notes and any future loans or securities;

the outcome of our plans for future operations, growth and services, including backlog and acquisitions;

any dilution or stock price volatility which shareholders may experience in connection with shares we may issue as consideration for earn-out obligations entered into, or as a result of conversions of convertible stock issued, in connection with past or future acquisitions; and

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the other factors referenced in this prospectus, including, without limitation, under Risk Factors or any prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and other factors detailed from time to time in the reports we file with the SEC.

We believe these forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which are based on current expectations. Furthermore, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. If any of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if any of our underlying assumptions are incorrect, our actual results may differ significantly from the results that we express in or imply by any of our forward-looking statements. These and other risks are detailed in this prospectus, in the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus and in other documents that we file with the SEC. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus to reflect future events or circumstances, except as required by law. We qualify any and all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary factors.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before deciding to purchase any of our securities, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties under the heading **Risk Factors** contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and under similar headings in our subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K, as well as the other risks and uncertainties described in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information** in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties we discuss in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are those we currently believe may materially affect our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial also may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

OUR COMPANY

This summary highlights selected information and does not contain all the information that is important to you. You should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and the documents to which we have referred to in **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** on page 29 of this prospectus for information about us and our financial statements.

We are a leading specialty contractor operating mainly throughout the United States and across a range of industries. Our core activities are the building, installation, maintenance and upgrade of utility and communications infrastructure, including but not limited to, electrical utility transmission and distribution, wind farm, other renewable energy and natural gas infrastructure, wireless, wireline and satellite communications and water and sewer systems. Our primary customers are in the following industries: utilities (including wind farms and other renewable energy, natural gas gathering systems and pipeline infrastructure), communications (including telephony, satellite television and cable television) and government (including water and sewer, utilities and communications work on military bases).

We, or our predecessor companies, have been in business for over 70 years and as of December 31, 2008, operate through a network of approximately 200 locations and 8,400 employees.

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. Our principal executive offices are located at 800 S. Douglas Road, 12th Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134. Our telephone number is (305) 599-1800.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004⁽¹⁾
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	2.8	1.3	2.2	1.6	
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends ⁽²⁾	2.8	1.3	2.2	1.6	

(1) For the year ended December 31, 2004, we had an earnings-to-fixed charges and earnings-to-fixed charges and preferred stock dividends coverage deficiency of approximately \$11.2 million.

(2) To date, we have not issued preferred stock or incurred any preferred stock dividends.

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For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings were calculated using pretax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interest and equity in joint ventures, adding fixed charges and distributed income from joint ventures and subtracting interest capitalized. Fixed charges consist of interest expensed and capitalized, amortization of premiums, discounts, capitalized expenses related to indebtedness and estimated interest within rental expense.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Primary Offerings

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we expect to use the net proceeds of the sale of these securities for general corporate purposes, which may include:

acquisitions of assets and businesses;

repayment of indebtedness outstanding at that time; and

general working capital.

Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the related supplement to this prospectus.

Secondary Offerings

The details of any secondary offerings will be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement, and we will not receive any proceeds from any selling security holder's sale of our securities registered hereunder.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

The following summarizes certain material terms and provisions of our capital stock. It does not purport to be complete, however, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Florida law and by the actual terms and provisions contained in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-laws, each as amended and restated.

Overview

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of March 10, 2009, we had approximately 75,592,136 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding. All issued and outstanding shares of our common stock are duly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The following descriptions set forth certain general terms and provisions of our common and preferred stock to which a supplement to this prospectus may relate. The particular terms of the shares of common or preferred stock being offered and the extent to which the general provisions may apply will be described in the applicable supplement to this prospectus. If so indicated in the applicable supplement to this prospectus, the terms of any series of shares of preferred stock may differ from the terms set forth below, except with respect to those terms required by our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-laws.

General Description of our Common Stock

Each share of our common stock entitles its owner to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of our shareholders. The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, in its discretion, from funds legally available for the payment of dividends. If we liquidate or dissolve, the owners of our common stock will be entitled to share proportionately in our assets, if any, legally available for distribution to shareholders, but only after we have paid all of our debts and liabilities.

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Our common stock has no preemptive rights, no sinking fund provisions and no subscription, redemption or conversion privileges, and it is not subject to any further calls or assessments by us. Our common stock does not have cumulative voting rights, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock voting for the election of directors can elect all members of our Board of Directors eligible for election in any year. See Description of Common and Preferred Stock-Material Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Additionally, the vote or concurrence of our shareholders holding a majority in interest of our common stock is sufficient for certain other actions that require the vote or concurrence of shareholders.

As of March 10, 2009, Jorge Mas, our Chairman, Jose Mas, our President and Chief Executive Officer, and other members of the Mas family who are employed by MasTec beneficially own approximately 29.3% of our issued and outstanding shares of common stock. Consequently, they have the power to control our management and affairs and are in a position to substantially influence:

the vote of most matters submitted to our shareholders, including any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets;

the nomination of individuals to our Board of Directors; and

a change in our control.

The Mas family's ability to exercise significant control over our management and affairs may discourage, delay or prevent a takeover attempt that you might consider in your best interest and that might result in you receiving a premium for your common stock.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

General Description of Preferred Stock

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation authorize our Board of Directors, without further shareholder approval, to:

issue preferred stock in one or more series;

establish the number of shares to be included in each such series; and

fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions on those shares.

The Board of Directors may establish a class or series of preferred stock with preferences, powers and rights (including voting rights) senior to the rights of the holders of our common stock. If we issue any of our preferred stock, it may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

Material Provisions of Our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-laws contain material provisions that may make the acquisition of control of us more difficult.

Business Combinations. Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation contain material provisions which may make it more difficult for a person or entity that is the holder of more than 10% of our outstanding voting stock to force us to approve a business combination. For purposes of this discussion, a business combination includes any:

merger or consolidation of us with or into another corporation;

sale or lease of all or any substantial part of our property and assets; or

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issuance of our securities in exchange for sale or lease to us of property and assets having an aggregate fair market value of \$1 million or more.

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation require at least 80% of the voting power of all of our outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, to vote in favor of a business combination with any person or entity that is directly or indirectly the holder of more than 10% of our outstanding voting stock in order for that transaction to be approved. This voting requirement may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of us. However, this voting requirement is not applicable to business combinations if either:

our Board of Directors has approved a memorandum of understanding with the other corporation with respect to the transaction prior to the time that the other corporation became a holder of more than 10% of our outstanding voting stock; or

the transaction is proposed by a corporation of which we are the majority owner.

Classified Board of Directors and Related Provisions. Our By-laws provide that the number of our directors will be established from time to time by a majority vote of our Board of Directors and our shareholders. Our By-laws also provide that our Board of Directors will be divided into three classes of directors, with each class having a number of directors as nearly equal as possible to each other class and that directors will serve for staggered three-year terms. As a result, one-third of our Board of Directors will be elected each year. These classified board provisions could prevent a party who acquires control of a majority of our outstanding voting stock from obtaining control of the Board of Directors until the second annual shareholders meeting following the date on which the acquirer obtains its controlling interest.

Our shareholders may remove any of our directors or our entire Board of Directors if the votes in favor of removal constitute at least a majority of all of our outstanding voting stock entitled to vote. However, our By-laws also provide that our shareholders may only remove our directors for cause and only by a vote at a meeting that is called for the purpose of removing the director or directors. Our By-laws define cause as failing to substantially perform one's duties to us (other than as a result of physical or mental disability) or willfully engaging in gross misconduct injurious to us. If there is a vacancy on our Board of Directors, a majority of either our remaining directors or our shareholders may fill the vacancy.

Shareholder Action By Written Consent. Our By-laws provide that any actions which our shareholders may take at a shareholders' meeting can be taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting.

In order to effect a shareholder action by written consent in lieu of a meeting, holders of our outstanding voting stock, having at least the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize the action at a shareholders' meeting, must sign a written consent which states the action to be taken. If our shareholders take any action by written consent in lieu of a meeting, we must notify all of our shareholders that did not consent to the action in writing within 10 days after receiving the written consent and describe the action to them.

Indemnification. Our Articles of Incorporation and/or By-laws provide that we will indemnify each of our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law. Our By-laws permit us to purchase insurance on behalf of our directors, officers, employees and agents against liabilities that they may incur in those capacities, whether or not we would have the power to indemnify them against such liabilities.

Florida Anti-Takeover Statute

As a Florida corporation, we are subject to certain anti-takeover provisions that apply to public corporations under Florida law. Pursuant to Section 607.0901 of the Florida Business Corporation Act, or the Florida Act, a publicly held Florida corporation may not engage in a broad range of business combinations or other extraordinary corporate transactions with an interested shareholder without the approval of the holders of two-thirds of the voting shares of the corporation (excluding shares held by the interested shareholder), unless:

the transaction is approved by a majority of disinterested directors before the shareholder becomes an interested shareholder;

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the interested shareholder has owned at least 80% of the corporation's outstanding voting shares for at least five years preceding the announcement date of any such business combination;

the interested shareholder is the beneficial owner of at least 90% of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation, exclusive of shares acquired directly from the corporation in a transaction not approved by a majority of the disinterested directors; or

the consideration paid to the holders of the corporation's voting stock is at least equal to certain fair price criteria.

An interested shareholder is defined as a person who together with affiliates and associates beneficially owns more than 10% of a corporation's outstanding voting shares. We have not made an election in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation to opt out of Section 607.0901.

In addition, we are subject to Section 607.0902 of the Florida Act which prohibits the voting of shares in a publicly held Florida corporation that are acquired in a control share acquisition unless (i) our Board of Directors approved such acquisition prior to its consummation or (ii) after such acquisition, in lieu of prior approval by our Board of Directors, the holders of a majority of the corporation's voting shares, exclusive of shares owned by officers of the corporation, employee directors or the acquiring party, approve the granting of voting rights as to the shares acquired in the control share acquisition. A control share acquisition is defined as an acquisition that immediately thereafter entitles the acquiring party to 20% or more of the total voting power in an election of directors.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may issue depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest of a share of a particular class or series of our preferred stock, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement which will more fully describe the terms of those depositary shares. Shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement among us, the depositary named therein and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts issued by the preferred stock depositary which will evidence the depositary shares. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary receipt will be entitled, in proportion to the fractional interest of a share of a particular class or series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares evidenced by that depositary receipt, to all the rights and preferences of the class or series of preferred stock represented by those depositary shares (including dividend, voting, conversion, redemption and liquidation rights).

The depositary shares to be issued will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Immediately following the issuance and delivery of a class or series of preferred stock by us to the preferred stock depositary, we will cause the preferred stock depositary to issue, on our behalf, the depositary receipts. The following description of the depositary shares, and any description of the depositary shares in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the underlying deposit agreement and the depositary receipt, which we will file with the SEC at or prior to the time of the sale of the depositary shares. You should refer to, and read this summary together with, the deposit agreement and related depositary receipt. You can obtain copies of any form of deposit agreement or other agreement pursuant to which the depositary shares are issued by following the directions described under the caption **Where You Can Find More Information**.

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Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred stock depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of a class or series of preferred stock to the record holders of depositary receipts evidencing the related depositary shares in proportion to the number of those depositary receipts owned by those holders, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred stock depositary.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the preferred stock depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts entitled thereto, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred stock depositary, unless the preferred stock depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution, in which case the preferred stock depositary may, with our approval, sell that property and distribute the net proceeds from that sale to those holders.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the preferred stock depositary (unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption or converted into excess preferred stock or otherwise), the holders thereof will be entitled to delivery at that office, to or upon that holder's order, of the number of whole or fractional shares of the class or series of preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares evidenced by those depositary receipts. Holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to receive whole or fractional shares of the related class or series of preferred stock on the basis of the proportion of preferred stock represented by each depositary share as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, but holders of those shares of preferred stock will not thereafter be entitled to receive depositary shares therefor. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the preferred stock depositary will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of a class or series of preferred stock held by the preferred stock depositary, the preferred stock depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of the class or series of preferred stock so redeemed, provided we shall have paid in full to the preferred stock depositary the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the corresponding proportion of the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable with respect to that class or series of preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional depositary shares) or by any other equitable method determined by us that will not result in the issuance of any excess preferred stock.

From and after the date fixed for redemption, all dividends in respect of the shares of a class or series of preferred stock so called for redemption will cease to accrue, the depositary shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares so called for redemption will cease, except the right to receive any moneys payable upon their redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of those depositary receipts were entitled upon their redemption and surrender thereof to the preferred stock depositary.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of a class or series of preferred stock deposited with the preferred stock depositary are entitled to vote, the preferred stock depositary will mail the information contained in that notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares which represent that class or series of preferred stock. Each

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record holder of depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for that class or series of preferred stock) will be entitled to instruct the preferred stock depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The preferred stock depositary will vote the amount of that class or series of preferred stock represented by those depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which may be deemed necessary by the preferred stock depositary in order to enable the preferred stock depositary to do so. The preferred stock depositary will abstain from voting the amount of that class or series of preferred stock represented by those depositary shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary receipts evidencing those depositary shares. The preferred stock depositary shall not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instruction to vote, or for the manner or effect of any vote made, as long as that action or non-action is in good faith and does not result from negligence or willful misconduct of the preferred stock depositary.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each depositary receipt will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares evidenced by that depositary receipt, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares which represent the preferred stock and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the preferred stock depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts or that would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the related class or series of preferred stock will not be effective unless that amendment has been approved by the existing holders of at least two thirds of the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts then outstanding. No amendment shall impair the right, subject to certain exceptions in the deposit agreement, of any holder of depositary receipts to surrender any depositary receipt with instructions to deliver to the holder the related class or series of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented thereby, except in order to comply with law. Every holder of an outstanding depositary receipt at the time any of those types of amendments becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold that depositary receipt, to consent and agree to that amendment and to be bound by the deposit agreement as amended thereby.

We may terminate the deposit agreement upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice to the preferred stock depositary if a majority of each class or series of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement consents to that termination, whereupon the preferred stock depositary shall deliver or make available to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by that holder, that number of whole or fractional shares of each class or series of preferred stock as are represented by the depositary shares evidenced by those depositary receipts together with any other property held by the preferred stock depositary with respect to those depositary receipts. Additionally, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

all outstanding depositary shares issued thereunder shall have been redeemed;

there shall have been a final distribution in respect of each class or series of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and that distribution shall have been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares representing that class or series of preferred stock; or

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each share of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement shall have been converted into our stock not so represented by depositary shares.

Charges of Preferred Stock Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the deposit agreement. In addition, we will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred stock depositary in connection with the performance of its duties under the deposit agreement. However, holders of depositary receipts will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred stock depositary for any duties requested by those holders to be performed which are outside of those expressly provided for in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Preferred Stock Depositary

The preferred stock depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the preferred stock depositary, that resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor preferred stock depositary. A successor preferred stock depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

Miscellaneous

The preferred stock depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts any reports and communications from us which are received by it with respect to the related preferred stock.

Neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be liable if it is prevented from or delayed in, by law or any circumstances beyond its control, performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the preferred stock depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performing our respective duties thereunder in good faith and without negligence (in the case of any action or inaction in the voting of a class or series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares), gross negligence or willful misconduct, and neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary receipts, depositary shares or shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented thereby unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred stock depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented thereby for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give that information, and on documents believed in good faith to be genuine and signed by a proper party.

In the event the preferred stock depositary shall receive conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depositary receipts, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand, the preferred stock depositary shall be entitled to act on those claims, requests or instructions received from us.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

We may issue debt securities under an indenture between us and a U.S. banking institution, as the indenture trustee. Each indenture will be subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and we may supplement the indenture from time to time.

This prospectus summarizes what we believe to be the material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities that we may issue under the indentures. This summary is not complete and may not describe all of the provisions of the indentures or of any of the debt securities that might be important to you. For additional information, you should carefully read the forms of indenture that are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

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When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of those debt securities in a supplement to this prospectus. We will also indicate in the supplement whether the general terms in this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable supplement.

In the summary below, we have included references to the section numbers of the indentures so that you can easily locate the related provisions in the indentures for additional detail. You should also refer to the applicable indenture for the definitions of any capitalized terms that we use below but do not define in this prospectus. When we refer to particular sections of the indentures or to defined terms in the indentures, we intend to incorporate by reference those sections and defined terms into this prospectus.

Terms

The debt securities will be our direct obligations. The amount of debt securities we may offer under this prospectus is unlimited as to principal amount. We may issue the debt securities, from time to time and in one or more series, established in or pursuant to authority granted by one or more resolutions of our board of directors, and set forth in, or determined in the manner provided in, an officers' certificate, or established in one or more supplemental indentures. We may issue debt securities with terms different from those of our previously issued debt securities (Section 301).

Each indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee under such indenture, each such trustee with respect to one or more series of debt securities. Any trustee under the indentures may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to that series (Sections 608 and 609). If two or more persons act as trustee with respect to different series of debt securities, each trustee shall be a trustee of a trust under that indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee (Sections 101 and 609). Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus, each trustee may take any action described in this prospectus only with respect to the one or more series of debt securities for which it is trustee under the relevant indenture.

You should refer to the applicable supplement to this prospectus relating to a particular series of debt securities for the specific terms of the debt securities, including, but not limited to:

the title of the debt securities, whether the debt securities will be guaranteed and the identity of the guarantor or guarantors, if any;

the total principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on the total principal amount;

the price, expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the debt securities, at which we will issue the debt securities and any portion of the principal amount payable upon acceleration of the debt securities;

the terms, if any, by which holders of the debt securities may convert or exchange the debt securities for our common stock, our preferred stock or any of our other securities or property;

if the debt securities are convertible or exchangeable, any limitations on the ownership or transferability of the securities or property into which holders may convert or exchange the debt securities;

the date or dates, or the method for determining the date or dates, on which we will be obligated to pay the principal of the debt securities and the amount of principal we will be obligated to pay;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities of the series will bear interest, if any, or the method by which the rate or rates will be determined;

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