

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD
Form 10-K
February 07, 2019

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File No. 001-14428

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

(Exact Name Of Registrant As Specified In Its Charter)

Bermuda

98-014-1974

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

Renaissance House, 12 Crow Lane, Pembroke HM 19 Bermuda

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(441) 295-4513

(Registrant's telephone number)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Shares, Par Value \$1.00 per share	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Series C 6.08% Preference Shares, Par Value \$1.00 per share	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Series E 5.375% Preference Shares, Par Value \$1.00 per share	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Depository Shares, each representing a 1/1,000th interest in a Series F 5.750% Preference Share, Par Value \$1.00 per share	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company, as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act. Large accelerated filer , Accelerated filer ,

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Non-accelerated filer , Smaller reporting company , Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of Common Shares held by nonaffiliates of the registrant at June 30, 2018 was \$4,752.5 million based on the closing sale price of the Common Shares on the New York Stock Exchange on that date.

The number of Common Shares, par value US \$1.00 per share, outstanding at February 4, 2019 was 42,207,390.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this report.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.
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NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 (this “Form 10-K”) of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. (the “Company” or “RenaissanceRe”) contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which, with respect to future business decisions, are subject to change. These uncertainties and contingencies can affect actual results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, us. In particular, statements using words such as “may”, “should”, “estimate”, “expect”, “anticipate”, “intend”, “believe”, “predict”, “potential”, or words of similar import generally involve forward-looking statements. For example, we may include certain forward-looking statements in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” with regard to trends in results, prices, volumes, operations, investment results, margins, combined ratios, fees, reserves, market conditions, risk management and exchange rates. This Form 10-K also contains forward-looking statements with respect to our business and industry, such as those relating to our strategy and management objectives, market standing and product volumes, competition and new entrants in our industry, industry capital, insured losses from loss events, government initiatives and regulatory matters affecting the reinsurance and insurance industries.

The inclusion of forward-looking statements in this report should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our current objectives or plans will be achieved. Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those addressed by the forward-looking statements, including the following:

- the failure to obtain regulatory approvals or satisfy other conditions to completion of the proposed TMR Stock Purchase (as defined herein);
- risks that the TMR Stock Purchase disrupts or distracts from current plans and operations;
- the ability to recognize the benefits of the TMR Stock Purchase;
- the amount of the costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the TMR Stock Purchase;
- the frequency and severity of catastrophic and other events we cover;
- the effectiveness of our claims and claim expense reserving process;
- our ability to maintain our financial strength ratings;
- the effect of climate change on our business;
- collection on claimed retrocessional coverage, and new retrocessional reinsurance being available on acceptable terms and providing the coverage that we intended to obtain;
- the effects of United States (“U.S.”) tax reform legislation and possible future tax reform legislation and regulations, including changes to the tax treatment of our shareholders or investors in our joint ventures or other entities we manage;
- the effect of emerging claims and coverage issues;
- continued soft reinsurance underwriting market conditions;
- our reliance on a small and decreasing number of reinsurance brokers and other distribution services for the preponderance of our revenue;
- our exposure to credit loss from counterparties in the normal course of business;
- the effect of continued challenging economic conditions throughout the world;
- a contention by the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) that Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd. (“Renaissance Reinsurance”), or any of our other Bermuda subsidiaries, is subject to taxation in the U.S.;
- the success of any of our acquisitions or strategic investments, including our ability to manage our operations as our product and geographical diversity increases;

our ability to retain our key senior officers and to attract or retain the executives and employees necessary to manage our business;

the performance of our investment portfolio;

losses we could face from terrorism, political unrest or war;

- the effect of cybersecurity risks, including technology breaches or failure, on our business;

our ability to successfully implement our business strategies and initiatives;

our ability to determine the impairments taken on our investments;

the effects of inflation;

the ability of our ceding companies and delegated authority counterparties to accurately assess the risks they underwrite;

the effect of operational risks, including system or human failures;

our ability to effectively manage capital on behalf of investors in joint ventures or other entities we manage;

foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations;

our ability to raise capital if necessary;

our ability to comply with covenants in our debt agreements;

changes to the regulatory systems under which we operate, including as a result of increased global regulation of the insurance and reinsurance industries;

changes in Bermuda laws and regulations and the political environment in Bermuda;

- our dependence on the ability of our operating subsidiaries to declare and pay dividends;

aspects of our corporate structure that may discourage third-party takeovers and other transactions;

the cyclical nature of the reinsurance and insurance industries;

adverse legislative developments that reduce the size of the private markets we serve or impede their future growth;

consolidation of competitors, customers and insurance and reinsurance brokers;

the effect on our business of the highly competitive nature of our industry, including the effect of new entrants to, competing products for and consolidation in the (re)insurance industry;

other political, regulatory or industry initiatives adversely impacting us;

our ability to comply with sanctions and foreign corrupt practices laws with respect to our international operations;

increasing barriers to free trade and the free flow of capital;

international restrictions on the writing of reinsurance by foreign companies and government intervention in the natural catastrophe market;

the effect of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (the “OECD”) or European Union (“EU”) measures to increase our taxes and reporting requirements;

the effect of the vote by the U.K. to leave the EU;

changes in regulatory regimes and accounting rules that may impact financial results irrespective of business operations; and

our need to make many estimates and judgments in the preparation of our financial statements.

As a consequence, our future financial condition and results may differ from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of us. The factors listed above, which are discussed in more detail in “Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors”, in this Form 10-K, should not be construed as exhaustive. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to revise or update forward-looking statements to reflect new information, events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

In this Form 10-K, references to “RenaissanceRe” refer to RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. (the parent company) and references to “we,” “us,” “our” and the “Company” refer to RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. together with its subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise.

For your convenience, we have included a “Glossary of Selected Insurance and Reinsurance Terms” at the end of “Part I, Item 1. Business” of this Form 10-K.

All dollar amounts referred to in this Form 10-K are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

Due to rounding, numbers presented in the tables included in this Form 10-K may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

OVERVIEW

RenaissanceRe is a global provider of reinsurance and insurance. We provide property, casualty and specialty reinsurance and certain insurance solutions to customers, principally through intermediaries. Established in 1993, we have offices in Bermuda, Ireland, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (the “U.K.”), and the U.S. Our operating subsidiaries include Renaissance Reinsurance, Renaissance Reinsurance U.S. Inc. (“Renaissance Reinsurance U.S.”), RenaissanceRe Specialty U.S. Ltd. (“RenaissanceRe Specialty U.S.”), Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe Unlimited Company (“Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe”) and our Lloyd’s syndicate, RenaissanceRe Syndicate 1458 (“Syndicate 1458”). We also underwrite reinsurance on behalf of joint ventures, including Top Layer Reinsurance Ltd. (“Top Layer Re”), Upsilon RFO Re Ltd. (“Upsilon RFO”), DaVinci Reinsurance Ltd. (“DaVinci”), Vermeer Reinsurance Ltd. (“Vermeer”) and Fibonacci Reinsurance Ltd. (“Fibonacci Re”). In addition, through RenaissanceRe Medici Fund Ltd. (“Medici”), we invest in various insurance based investment instruments that have returns primarily tied to property catastrophe risk.

We aspire to be the world’s best underwriter by matching well-structured risks with efficient sources of capital and our mission is to produce superior returns for our shareholders over the long term. We seek to accomplish these goals by being a trusted, long-term partner to our customers for assessing and managing risk, delivering responsive and innovative solutions, leveraging our core capabilities of risk assessment and information management, investing in these core capabilities in order to serve our customers across the cycles that have historically characterized our markets and keeping our promises. Our strategy focuses on superior risk selection, superior customer relationships and superior capital management. We provide value to our customers and joint venture partners in the form of financial security, innovative products, and responsive service. We are known as a leader in paying valid claims promptly. We principally measure our financial success through long-term growth in tangible book value per common share plus the change in accumulated dividends, which we believe is the most appropriate measure of our financial performance and in respect of which we believe we have delivered superior performance over time.

Our core products include property, casualty and specialty reinsurance and certain insurance products principally distributed through intermediaries, with whom we seek to cultivate strong long-term relationships. We believe we have been one of the world’s leading providers of catastrophe reinsurance since our founding. In recent years, through the strategic execution of a number of initiatives, including organic growth and acquisitions, we have expanded our casualty and specialty platform and products and believe we are a leader in certain casualty and specialty lines of business. We have determined our business consists of the following reportable segments: (1) Property, which is comprised of catastrophe and other property reinsurance and insurance written on behalf of our operating subsidiaries and certain joint ventures managed by our ventures unit, and (2) Casualty and Specialty, which is comprised of casualty and specialty reinsurance and insurance written on behalf of our operating subsidiaries and certain joint ventures managed by our ventures unit.

To best serve our clients in the places they do business, we have operating subsidiaries, joint ventures and underwriting platforms around the world, including DaVinci, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, Fibonacci Re, Upsilon RFO and Vermeer in Bermuda, Renaissance Reinsurance U.S. in the U.S., and Syndicate 1458 in the U.K. We write property and casualty and specialty reinsurance through our wholly owned operating subsidiaries, joint ventures and Syndicate 1458 and certain insurance products primarily

through Syndicate 1458. Although each underwriting platform may write any or all of our classes of business, our Bermuda platform has traditionally written, and continues to write, the preponderance of our property business and our U.S. platform and Syndicate 1458 write a significant portion of our casualty and specialty business. Syndicate 1458 provides us with access to Lloyd's extensive distribution network and worldwide licenses and also writes business through delegated authority arrangements. The underwriting results of our operating subsidiaries and underwriting platforms are included in our Property and Casualty and Specialty segment results as appropriate. Since a meaningful portion of the reinsurance and insurance we write provides protection from damages relating to natural and man-made catastrophes, our results depend to a large extent on the frequency and severity of such catastrophic events, and the coverages we offer to customers affected by these events. We are exposed to significant losses from these catastrophic events and other exposures we cover. Accordingly, we expect a significant degree of volatility in our financial results and our financial results may vary significantly from quarter-to-quarter and from year-to-year, based on the level of insured catastrophic losses occurring around the world. We view our exposure to casualty and specialty lines of business as an efficient use of capital given these risks are generally less correlated with our property lines of business. This has allowed us to bring additional capacity to our clients, across a wider range of product offerings, while continuing to be good stewards of our shareholders' capital.

We continually explore appropriate and efficient ways to address the risk needs of our clients and the impact of various regulatory and legislative changes on our operations. We have created and managed, and continue to manage, multiple capital vehicles across a number of jurisdictions and may create additional risk bearing vehicles or enter into additional jurisdictions in the future. In addition, our differentiated strategy and capability position us to pursue bespoke or large solutions for clients, which may be non-recurring. This, and other factors including the timing of contract inception, could result in significant volatility of premiums in both our Property and Casualty and Specialty segments. As our product and geographical diversity increases, we may be exposed to new risks, uncertainties and sources of volatility.

ACQUISITION OF TOKIO MILLENNIUM RE AND STATE FARM STOCK PURCHASE

Acquisition of Tokio Millennium Re

On October 30, 2018, we entered into the a Stock Purchase Agreement by and among the Company, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. ("Tokio") and, with respect to certain sections only, Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc. (the "TMR Stock Purchase Agreement"), pursuant to which we agreed, subject to the terms and conditions therein, to cause our wholly owned subsidiary RenaissanceRe Specialty Holdings (UK) Limited to purchase all of the share capital of Tokio Millennium Re AG, Tokio Millennium Re (UK) Limited and their subsidiaries (collectively, the "TMR Group Entities") (the "TMR Stock Purchase"). The TMR Group Entities comprise the treaty reinsurance business of Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc., including its third party capital management fronting business. The TMR Stock Purchase is expected to close in the first half of 2019, subject to the closing conditions set forth in the TMR Stock Purchase Agreement, including the receipt of required regulatory approvals. If consummated, the transaction would add a large portfolio of reinsurance risk to our own portfolio, currently representing approximately \$1.3 billion of incremental reinsurance premium. Following the closing, we anticipate re-underwriting this portfolio over time, and currently estimate that, in light of our existing risk appetite, we will target approximately \$700.0 million of gross reinsurance premiums. We will continue to evaluate the TMR Group Entities' operations in the period prior to closing, and it is possible that our analysis or views will evolve. We cannot assure you that the current cedants or other business partners of the TMR Group Entities will renew their business with us, and renewal of the current TMR Group Entities portfolio is not a condition to closing of the TMR Stock Purchase. Moreover, in the near to medium term we expect operational expenses to increase as we undertake the process of integrating the TMR Group Entities and their operations into our own after the closing. See "Note 20. Acquisition of Tokio Millennium Re" for additional information regarding the TMR Stock Purchase.

State Farm Stock Purchase

On December 20, 2018, we issued 1,947,496 of our common shares to State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company ("State Farm") in exchange for \$250.0 million in a private placement pursuant to an Investment Agreement we entered into with State Farm on October 30, 2018.

CORPORATE STRATEGY

We aspire to be the world's best underwriter by matching well-structured risks with efficient sources of capital and our mission is to produce superior returns for our shareholders over the long term. Our strategy for achieving these objectives, which is supported by our core values, our principles and our culture, is to operate an integrated system of what we believe are our three competitive advantages: superior customer relationships, superior risk selection and superior capital management. We believe all three competitive advantages are required to achieve our objectives, and we aim to seamlessly coordinate the delivery of these competitive advantages for the benefit of our ceding insurers, brokers, investors in our joint ventures and shareholders.

Superior Customer Relationships. We seek to be a trusted long-term partner to our customers for assessing and managing risk and delivering responsive solutions. We believe our modeling and technical expertise, our risk management products and our track record of keeping our promises have made us a provider of first choice in many lines of business to our customers worldwide. We seek to offer stable, predictable and consistent risk-based pricing and a prompt turnaround on claims.

Superior Risk Selection. We seek to build a portfolio of risks that produces an attractive risk-adjusted return on utilized capital. We develop a perspective of each risk using both our underwriters' expertise and sophisticated risk selection techniques, including computer models and databases such as Renaissance Exposure Management System ("REMS®"). We pursue a disciplined approach to underwriting and seek to select only those risks that we believe will produce a portfolio with an attractive return, subject to prudent risk constraints. We manage our portfolio of risks dynamically, both within sub-portfolios and across the Company.

Superior Capital Management. We seek to write as much attractively priced business as is available to us and then manage our capital accordingly. We generally seek to raise capital when we forecast increased demand in the market, at times by accessing capital through joint ventures or other structures, and seek to return capital to our shareholders or joint venture investors when the demand for our coverages appears to decline and when we believe a return of capital would be beneficial to our shareholders or joint venture investors. In using joint ventures, we aim to leverage our access to business and our underwriting capabilities on an efficient capital base, develop fee income, generate profit commissions, diversify our portfolio and provide attractive risk-adjusted returns to our capital providers. We routinely evaluate and review potential joint venture opportunities and strategic investments.

We believe we are well positioned to fulfill our objectives by virtue of the experience and skill of our management team, our integrated and flexible underwriting and operating platform, our significant financial strength, our strong relationships with brokers and customers, our commitment to superior service and our proprietary modeling technology. In particular, we believe our strategy, high performance culture, and commitment to our customers and joint venture partners help us to differentiate ourselves by offering specialized services and products at times and in markets where capacity and alternatives may be limited.

SEGMENTS

Our reportable segments are defined as follows: (1) Property, which is comprised of catastrophe and other property reinsurance and insurance written on behalf of our operating subsidiaries and certain joint ventures managed by our ventures unit, and (2) Casualty and Specialty, which is comprised of casualty and specialty reinsurance and insurance written on behalf of our operating subsidiaries and certain joint ventures managed by our ventures unit. In addition to our two reportable segments, we have an Other category, which primarily includes our strategic investments, investments unit, corporate expenses, capital servicing costs, noncontrolling interests, certain expenses related to acquisitions and the remnants of our former Bermuda-based insurance operations.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, our Property and Casualty and Specialty segments accounted for 53.2% and 46.8%, respectively, of our gross premiums written. Operating results relating to our segments are included in "Part II, Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

The following table shows gross premiums written allocated between our segments:

Year ended December 31, (in thousands)	2018	2017	2016
Property	\$1,760,926	\$1,440,437	\$1,111,263
Casualty and Specialty	1,549,501	1,357,110	1,263,313
Other category	—	(7)	—
Total gross premiums written	\$3,310,427	\$2,797,540	\$2,374,576

We write proportional business as well as excess of loss business. In addition, we maintain delegated authority arrangements through Syndicate 1458, which are included in our Property and Casualty and Specialty segments, as appropriate. Our relative mix of business between proportional business and excess of loss business has fluctuated in the past and will likely vary in the future. Proportional and delegated authority business typically have relatively higher premiums per unit of expected underwriting income, together with a higher acquisition expense ratio and combined ratio, than traditional excess of loss reinsurance, as these coverages tend to be exposed to relatively more attritional, and frequent, losses while being subject to less expected severity.

The following table shows gross premiums written allocated between excess of loss, proportional and delegated authority for each of our segments:

Year ended December 31, 2018	Property	Casualty and Specialty	Other	Total
(in thousands)				