

DELL INC
Form 424B5
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This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, but is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement Dated April 1, 2009

Prospectus Supplement

April , 2009

(To Prospectus Dated November 4, 2008)

\$

DELL INC.

% Notes due 2014

We are offering \$ million aggregate principal amount of % Notes due 2014 (the notes). We will pay interest on the notes each and . The first interest payment will be made on , 2009. The notes will mature on , 2014. We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time at the redemption price set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption in this prospectus supplement.

The notes will be unsecured obligations of Dell Inc. and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors on page S-5.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price (1)	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us (1)	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from April , 2009, if settlement occurs after that date.

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.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear system, against payment in New York, New York, on April , 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC

**Morgan Stanley
Bank**

UBS Investment

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You should rely only on the information provided in or incorporated by reference in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering and sale of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. We and the underwriters require persons in whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus comes to inform themselves about and to observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation to purchase, any of the notes in any jurisdiction in which such offer or invitation would be unlawful. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this document may only be accurate on the date of this document. The information contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the respective dates of those documents. Our business, financial condition and results of operations may have changed since then.

We provide information to you about this offering of our notes in two separate documents that are bound together: (1) this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific details regarding this offering, and (2) the accompanying prospectus, which provides general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference herein, before you invest. These documents contain information you should consider when making your investment decision.

All references to we, us or our in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus mean Dell Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless we indicate otherwise.

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SUMMARY

This summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and those documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the risk factors and our consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto, before making an investment decision.

Our Company

General

We listen to customers and deliver innovative technology and services they trust and value. As a leading technology company, we offer a broad range of product categories, including mobility products, desktop PCs, software and peripherals, servers and networking, services, and storage. According to IDC Worldwide Quarterly PC Tracker, or IDC, we are the number one supplier of computer systems in the United States and the number two supplier worldwide.

Our company is a Delaware corporation and was founded in 1984 by Michael Dell on a simple concept: by selling computer systems directly to customers, we can best understand their needs and efficiently provide the most effective computing solutions to meet those needs. Over time we have expanded our business model to include a broader portfolio of products, including services, and we have also added new distribution partners, such as retail, system integrators, value-added resellers, and distributors, which allow us to reach even more end-users around the world. Our corporate headquarters are located in Round Rock, Texas, and we conduct operations worldwide through our subsidiaries. To optimize our global supply chain to best serve our global customer base, we have manufacturing locations around the world and are expanding our relationships with third-party original equipment manufacturers. When we refer to our company and its business in this prospectus supplement, we are referring to the business and activities of our consolidated subsidiaries. We operate principally in one industry, and we manage our business in four operating segments: Americas Commercial; Europe, Middle East and Africa Commercial; Asia Pacific-Japan Commercial; and Global Consumer. On December 31, 2008, we announced that we will organize globally around our four major customer segments – large enterprise, public sector, and small and medium businesses, as well as consumer, which is already organized globally. We will be re-aligning our internal management and external financial reporting for the new organization structure and will begin reporting on these worldwide businesses once we complete the global reorganization, which is expected to be in the first half of Fiscal 2010.

We are committed to managing and operating our business in a responsible and sustainable manner around the globe. This includes our commitment to environmental responsibility in all areas of our business. In Fiscal 2008, we announced our commitment to becoming carbon neutral in our operations and have a number of efforts that take the environment into account at every stage of the product lifecycle. This also includes our focus on maintaining a strong control environment, high ethical standards and financial reporting integrity.

Business Strategy

Direct relationships with our customers give us an advantage of seeing changing customer requirements and needs earlier than companies who do not have the same breadth of direct relationships. As a result, we are able to develop products with simpler and more productive technology to better serve our customers. As we continue to expand our global presence, we are further diversifying our revenue and profit streams. Our strategy is to focus on higher margin products, services, and solutions to increase overall profitability as we balance our liquidity, profitability, and growth. We are also focused on improving our competitiveness by reducing overall

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costs. In May 2008, we announced a \$3 billion cost reduction initiative, which includes both cost of goods sold and operating expenses. In the fourth quarter of Fiscal 2009, we identified additional savings opportunities and have increased our cost-reduction target to \$4 billion by the end of Fiscal 2011. Our growth strategy involves reaching more customers worldwide through new distribution partners, such as retail, expanding our relationships with value-added resellers and distributors, and augmenting select areas of our business through targeted acquisitions. Our goal continues to be to optimize the balance of liquidity, profitability, and growth with a focus on increasing the mix of our product portfolio to higher margin products and recurring revenue streams.

Our Corporate Offices and Internet Address

Our principal executive offices are located at One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas, 78682-2244. Our telephone number is (512) 728-4737. Our website address is www.dell.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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The Offering

The following summary contains basic information about the notes and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of the notes, please read Description of Notes in this prospectus supplement and Description of Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

Issuer	Dell Inc.
Notes Offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of % Notes due 2014
Interest Rate	The % Notes due 2014 will bear interest at a rate of % per annum
Interest Payment Dates	and of each year, beginning , 2009
Maturity Date	, 2014, for the Notes due 2014
Ranking	<p>The notes will be:</p> <p>our general unsecured obligations;</p> <p>pari passu in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness;</p> <p>effectively junior to our secured indebtedness up to the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness; and</p> <p>senior in right of payment to any of our future subordinated indebtedness.</p> <p>The notes will effectively rank junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of our subsidiaries with respect to the assets of those subsidiaries. In the event of bankruptcy, liquidation, or reorganization of any of these subsidiaries, the subsidiaries will pay the holders of their debt and other obligations, including trade creditors, before they will be able to distribute any of their assets to us.</p>
Optional Redemption	We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time at the redemption price described under the heading Description of Notes Optional Redemption.
Certain Covenants	The indenture governing the notes contains covenants that, among other things, limits our ability to:

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create certain liens;

enter into sale and lease-back transactions; and

consolidate or merge with, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, another person.

Each of these covenants is subject to a number of significant exceptions. You should read [Description of Notes Covenants](#) for a description of these covenants.

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Absence of a Public Market for the Notes	The notes will be freely transferable, but will also be new securities for which there will not initially be a market. We do not intend to apply to list the notes on any securities exchange. No assurances can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market or that an active public market for the notes will develop.
Form and Denomination	The notes will be represented by one or more global notes. Each global note will be deposited with the trustee, as custodian for the Depository Trust Company, or DTC. The notes will be issued only in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
Same-Day Settlement	The global notes will be shown on, and transfers of the global notes will be effected only through, records maintained in book-entry form by DTC and its direct and indirect participants. The notes are expected to trade in DTC's Same Day Funds Settlement System until maturity or redemption. Therefore, secondary market trading activity in the notes will be settled in immediately available funds.
Trading	We do not expect to list the notes for trading on any securities exchange.
Trustee, Registrar and Exchange Agent	The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A.
Governing Law	The notes and the indenture relating to the notes are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. This information should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009.

	January 30, 2009	February 1, 2008	Years Ended February 2, 2007	February 3, 2006	January 28, 2005
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	26x	47x	49x	90x	128x

Earnings included in the calculation of this ratio consist of (i) our pre-tax income from continuing operations, plus (ii) our fixed charges less capitalized interest but including amortization of capitalized interest, plus (iii) our minority interests in the income of subsidiaries. Fixed charges included in the calculation of this ratio consist of (i) our interest expensed, plus (ii) our interest capitalized, plus (iii) a reasonable estimation of the interest factor included in rental expense.

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RISK FACTORS

If you purchase our notes, you will take on financial risk. Before buying our notes in this offering, you should carefully consider the risks relating to an investment in the notes described below, as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Additionally, you should carefully consider the risks to our business described in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, in particular the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009. These risks could result in the loss of all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to the Notes

Despite our current levels of debt, we may still incur substantially more debt and increase the risks associated with our proposed leverage.

The provisions contained or to be contained in the agreements relating to our indebtedness do not completely prohibit our ability to incur additional indebtedness, and the amount of indebtedness that we could incur could be substantial. Accordingly, we or our subsidiaries could incur significant additional indebtedness in the future, much of which could constitute secured or senior indebtedness. If we incur any additional debt that ranks equally with the notes, the holders of that debt will be entitled to share ratably with the holders of these notes in any proceeds distributed in connection with any bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or similar proceedings. If new debt is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we now face could intensify. As of January 30, 2009, we had \$1.8 billion of indebtedness for borrowed money ranking equally in right of payment with the notes.

Effective subordination of the notes may reduce amounts available for payment of the notes.

The notes are unsecured. Accordingly, the notes will effectively rank junior to all of our secured obligations. In the event of bankruptcy, liquidation or similar proceedings, or if payment under any secured obligation is accelerated, claims of any secured creditors for the assets securing the obligation will be prior to any claim of the holders of the notes for these assets. After the claims of the secured creditors are satisfied, there may not be assets remaining to satisfy our obligations under the notes. The indenture governing the notes permits us and our subsidiaries to incur secured debt under specified circumstances.

The notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. Accordingly, the notes effectively will also be subordinated to the unsecured indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries are separate legal entities that have no obligation to pay any amounts due under the notes or to make any funds available therefor, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. Except to the extent that we are a creditor with recognized claims against our other subsidiaries, all claims of creditors (including trade creditors) and holders of preferred stock, if any, of our other subsidiaries will have priority with respect to the assets of such subsidiaries over our claims (and therefore the claims of our creditors, including holders of the notes). As of January 30, 2009, our subsidiaries had approximately \$13.8 billion of balance sheet liabilities, excluding deferred service revenues and intercompany liabilities.

Changes in our credit ratings may adversely affect the value of the notes.

There can be no assurance of the credit ratings that may be assigned to the notes or that any such credit ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any such ratings will not be lowered, suspended or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies, if, in each rating agency's judgment, circumstances so warrant. Further, any such ratings are limited in scope, and do not address all material risks relating to an investment in the notes, but rather reflect only the view of each rating agency at the time the rating is issued. An explanation of the significance of such rating may be obtained from such rating agency. Actual or anticipated changes or downgrades in our credit

ratings, including any announcement that our ratings are under further review for a downgrade, could affect the market value of the notes and increase our corporate borrowing costs.

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Your ability to transfer the notes may be limited by the absence of an active trading market, and there is no assurance that any active trading market will develop for the notes.

The notes are a new issue of securities for which there is no established public market. We do not intend to have the notes listed on a national securities exchange or to arrange for quotation on any automated dealer quotation systems. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations; however, the underwriters are not obligated to make a market in the notes, and they may discontinue their market-making activities at any time without notice. Therefore, we cannot assure you as to the development or liquidity of any trading market for the notes. The liquidity of any market for the notes will depend on a number of factors, including:

the number of holders of notes;

our operating performance and financial condition;

the market for similar securities;

the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the notes; and

prevailing interest rates.

Historically, the market for debt securities similar to the notes has been subject to disruptions that have caused substantial volatility in the prices of securities similar to the notes. We cannot assure you that the market, if any, for the notes will be free from similar disruptions or that any such disruptions may not adversely affect the prices at which you may sell your notes. Therefore, we cannot assure you that you will be able to sell your notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable.

Our holding company structure creates a dependence on the earnings of our subsidiaries and may impair our ability to repay the notes.

We are a holding company whose assets consist of direct and indirect ownership interests in, and whose business is conducted substantially through, its subsidiaries. Consequently, our ability to repay our debt, including the notes, depends on the earnings of our subsidiaries, as well as our ability to receive funds from such subsidiaries through dividends, repayment of intercompany notes or other payments. The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends, repay intercompany notes or make other advances to us is subject to restrictions imposed by applicable laws, tax considerations and the terms of agreements governing our subsidiaries. Our foreign subsidiaries in particular may be subject to currency controls, repatriation restrictions, withholding obligations on payments to us, and other limits.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents to which we refer you in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are based on our current expectations. Actual results in future periods may differ materially from those expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements because of a number of risks and uncertainties. In addition to other factors and matters contained in or incorporated by reference in this document, including those disclosed under Risk Factors, these statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, including, among others:

weakening global economic conditions and instability in financial markets;

strong competition;

our ability to generate substantial non-U.S. net revenue;

our ability to accurately predict product, customer and geographic sales mix and seasonal sales trends;

information technology and manufacturing infrastructure failures;

our ability to effectively manage periodic product transitions;

our ability to successfully transform our sales capability and to add to the scope of our product and services offerings;

disruptions in component or product availability;

our reliance on vendors;

our reliance on third-party suppliers for quality product components, including reliance on several single-source or limited-source suppliers;

our ability to access the capital markets;

risks relating to our internal controls;

unfavorable results of legal proceedings;

our acquisition of other companies;

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our ability to properly manage the distribution of our products and services;

our cost-cutting measures;

effective hedging of our exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates;

risks related to counterparty defaults;

obtaining licenses to intellectual property developed by others on commercially reasonable and competitive terms;

our ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel;

loss of government contracts;

expiration of tax holidays or favorable tax rate structures, or unfavorable outcomes in tax compliance and regulatory matters;

changing environmental laws;

the effect of armed hostilities, terrorism, natural disasters and public health issues;

any incurrence of substantially more debt or increase in the risks associated with our proposed leverage;

effective subordination of the notes reducing amounts available for payment of the notes;

changes in our credit ratings adversely affecting the value of the notes;

your ability to transfer the notes being limited since there is no active trading market for them; and

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other risks detailed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Other unknown or unpredictable factors also could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The use of words such as anticipates, estimates, expects, intends, plans, and believes, among others, generally identify forward-looking statements; however, these words are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. In addition, any statements that refer to expectations, projections or other characterizations of future events or circumstances are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are inherently subject to uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. We are not under any obligation and do not intend to publicly update or review any of these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, even if experience or future events make it clear that any expected results expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements will not be realized. Please carefully review and consider the various disclosures made in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus that attempt to advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business, results of operations, financial condition or prospects.

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INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus includes estimates of market share and industry data and forecasts that we obtained from industry publications and surveys, including those of IDC and internal company estimates. Industry publications and surveys and forecasts generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but there can be no assurance as to the accuracy or completeness of the included information. We and the underwriters have not independently verified any of the data from third-party sources nor have we or the underwriters ascertained the underlying economic assumptions relied upon therein. Unless otherwise noted, all references to industry share and total industry growth data in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are for computer systems (including desktops, notebooks, and x86 servers) and are based on information provided by IDC on February 17, 2009. Market share and industry data and forecasts based on internal company estimates may vary materially from others in our industry. We cannot assure you that internal company estimates are accurate or that estimated growth rates will be achieved. Our estimates involve risks and uncertainties, and are subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds that we will receive from the sale of our notes in this offering are \$ _____, after deducting underwriting discounts and our estimated offering expenses. We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include, among other things, repurchase of our common stock, acquisitions, investments, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and advancements to or investments in our subsidiaries. The net proceeds may be temporarily invested prior to use. We cannot predict whether these investments will yield a favorable return.

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The following table sets forth a summary of our cash, cash equivalents and investments and capitalization as of January 30, 2009:

on a historical basis; and

as adjusted to give effect to the receipt of estimated net proceeds of \$ from the issuance of our notes in this offering. You should read this table in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009, and Risk Factors described or incorporated by reference herein, as applicable.

	As of January 30, 2009	
	Historical	As Adjusted for this Offering
	(in millions; unaudited)	
Cash, cash equivalents and short term investments	\$ 9,092	\$
Long-term debt:		
4.70% Notes due 2013	\$ 599	\$ 599
5.65% Notes due 2018	499	499
7.10% Notes due 2028	298	298
6.50% Notes due 2038	400	400
% Notes due 2014 offered hereby		
Total Notes	1,796	
Other long-term debt	102	102
Total long-term debt	1,898	
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock and capital in excess of \$.01 par value; shares issued and outstanding: none		
Common stock and capital in excess of \$.01 par value; shares authorized: 7,000; shares issued: 3,338; shares outstanding: 1,944	11,189	11,189
Treasury stock at cost: 919 shares	(27,904)	(27,904)
Retained earnings	20,677	20,677
Accumulated other comprehensive income	309	309
Total stockholders' equity	4,271	4,271
Total capitalization	\$ 6,169	\$

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DESCRIPTION OF BANK INDEBTEDNESS

We have a commercial paper program with a supporting senior unsecured revolving credit facility that allows us to obtain favorable short-term borrowing rates. The commercial paper program and related revolving credit facility were increased from \$1.0 billion to \$1.5 billion on April 4, 2008. We pay facility commitment fees at rates based upon our credit rating. Unless extended, \$500 million expires on April 3, 2009, and \$1.0 billion expires on June 1, 2011. The credit facility requires compliance with conditions that must be satisfied prior to any borrowing, as well as ongoing compliance with specified affirmative and negative covenants, including maintenance of a minimum interest coverage ratio. Amounts outstanding under the facility may be accelerated for typical defaults, including failure to pay principal or interest, breaches of covenants, non-payment of judgments or debt obligations in excess of \$200 million, occurrence of a change of control, and certain bankruptcy events. There were no events of default as of January 30, 2009.

At January 30, 2009, there was \$100 million outstanding under the commercial paper program and no outstanding advances under the related revolving credit facilities. The weighted average interest rate on these outstanding short-term borrowings was 0.19%. At February 1, 2008, there were no outstanding advances under the commercial paper program or the related credit facility. We use the proceeds of the program for short-term liquidity needs.

Dell India Pvt Ltd., or Dell India, our wholly-owned subsidiary, maintains unsecured short-term credit facilities with Citibank N.A. Bangalore Branch India, or Citibank India, that provide a maximum capacity of \$30 million to fund Dell India's working capital and import buyers' credit needs. The capacity increased from \$30 million to \$55 million on August 6, 2008. The incremental \$25 million line of credit expired on December 31, 2008, and was not renewed. Financing is available in both Indian Rupees and foreign currencies. The borrowings are extended on an unsecured basis based on our guarantee to Citibank N.A. Citibank India can cancel the facilities in whole or in part without prior notice, at which time any amounts owed under the facilities will become immediately due and payable. Interest on the outstanding loans is charged monthly and is calculated based on Citibank India's internal cost of funds plus 0.25%. At January 30, 2009, and February 1, 2008, outstanding advances from Citibank India totaled \$12 million and \$23 million, respectively. There have been no events of default.

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DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

The notes, consisting of \$ million aggregate principal amount of our % Notes due 2014, will be issued pursuant to a supplemental indenture (the Supplemental Indenture) to be dated as of April , 2009, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the Trustee), to an indenture (the Indenture) to be dated as of April , 2009, the form of which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part. See Where You Can Find More Information. The terms of the notes include those stated in the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act).

The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes and does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes, including the definitions therein of certain terms. This description may not contain all information that you may find useful. You should read the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes because they, not this description, define your rights as holders of these notes. You may request copies of these agreements at our address set forth under the heading Where You Can Find More Information. Certain terms used in this description are defined under the subheading Definitions. References to we, us and our in this section of this prospectus supplement are only to Dell Inc. and not to any of its Subsidiaries.

General

The notes will mature on , 2014.

Interest will accrue on the notes from April , 2009 or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or provided for, payable semi-annually in arrears on and of each year commencing on , 2009 to the person (or any predecessor) in whose name the notes are registered at the close of business on or , as the case may be, next preceding such interest payment date. Interest will be computed assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

We are not required to make any mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes. We may at any time and from time to time purchase notes in the open market or otherwise.

The notes will be issued only in fully registered form in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and any greater integral multiple of \$1,000. The notes will be represented by Global Securities registered in the name of the nominee of the DTC.

We have appointed the Trustee at its offices at 101 Barclay Street 7 East, New York, NY 10014, to serve as registrar and paying agent under the Indenture. No service charge will be made for any transfer, exchange or redemption of notes, except in certain circumstances, for any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection therewith.

Ranking

Senior Indebtedness versus Notes

The indebtedness evidenced by the notes will be our unsecured general obligations that will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding. As of January 30, 2009, we had \$1.8 billion of indebtedness for borrowed money ranking equally in right of payment

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with the notes. We have no secured debt, but any secured debt or other secured obligations we incur in the future will be effectively senior to the notes to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt or other obligations.

Liabilities of Subsidiaries versus Notes

Because we are a holding company, substantially all of our operations are conducted through our Subsidiaries. The notes will not be guaranteed by any of our Subsidiaries, and our obligations pursuant to the notes will not be guaranteed in the future. See Risk Factors Risks Related to the Notes Effective subordination of the notes may reduce amounts available for payment of the notes. Claims of creditors of such Subsidiaries, including trade creditors and creditors holding indebtedness or guarantees issued by such Subsidiaries, and claims of preferred stockholders of such Subsidiaries generally will have priority with respect to the assets and earnings of such Subsidiaries over the claims of our creditors, including holders of the notes. Accordingly, the notes will be effectively subordinated to creditors (including trade creditors) and preferred stockholders, if any, of our Subsidiaries.

As of January 30, 2009, our Subsidiaries had approximately \$13.8 billion of balance sheet liabilities, excluding deferred service revenues and intercompany liabilities. The Indenture does not restrict the ability of our Subsidiaries to incur indebtedness.

Issuance of Additional Notes

We may, without the consent of the holders, increase the principal amount of the notes by issuing additional notes in the future on the same terms and conditions, except for any differences in the issue price and interest accrued prior to the issue date of the additional notes, and with the same CUSIP number as the notes offered hereby. The notes offered by this prospectus supplement and any additional notes will be treated as a single class for purposes of the Indenture, including waivers, amendments and redemptions. Any additional notes will be fungible for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. Unless the context otherwise requires, for all purposes of the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture and this Description of Notes, references to the notes include any additional notes actually issued.

Optional Redemption

The notes will be redeemable, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at our option, at a redemption price at any time equal to the greater of:

(a) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed; and

(b) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon (not including any portion of such payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption), discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined below), plus basis points.

plus, in each case, accrued interest thereon to the date of redemption. Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on notes that are due and payable on interest payment dates falling on or prior to a redemption date will be payable on the interest payment date to the registered holders as of the close of business on the relevant record date according to the notes and the Indenture.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

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Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (i) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Quotation Agent obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations, or (iii) if only one Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation is received, such quotation.

Quotation Agent means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (i) Banc of America Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated or UBS Securities LLC (or their respective affiliates that are Primary Treasury Dealers) and their respective successors; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the United States (a Primary Treasury Dealer), we will substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer, and (ii) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for such Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

Selection and Notice of Redemption

If we are redeeming less than all the notes at any time, the Trustee will select notes on a pro rata basis to the extent practicable.

We will redeem notes of \$2,000 or less in whole and not in part. We will cause notices of redemption to be mailed first-class mail at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of notes to be redeemed at its registered address.

If any note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to that note will state the portion of the principal amount thereof to be redeemed. We will issue a new note in a principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original note in the name of the holder upon cancellation of the original note. Notes called for redemption become due on the date fixed for redemption. On and after the redemption date, interest ceases to accrue on notes or portions of them called for redemption.

Covenants

Except as set forth below, neither we nor any of our Subsidiaries will be restricted by the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture from:

incurring any indebtedness or other obligation;

paying dividends or making distributions on its capital stock; or

purchasing or redeeming its capital stock.

In addition, we will not be required to maintain any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity or to repurchase or redeem or otherwise modify the terms of any of the notes upon a change in control or other events involving us or any of our Subsidiaries which may adversely affect the creditworthiness of the notes.

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Among other things, neither the Supplemental Indenture nor the Indenture contains covenants designed to afford holders of the notes any protections in the event of a highly leveraged or other transaction involving us that may adversely affect holders of the notes.

As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we have a limited amount of property that constitutes Principal Property. The covenants in the Indenture will only apply to Subsidiaries that own Principal Property.

The Indenture contains the following covenants:

Limitation on Liens

We will not issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee, and will not permit any of our Subsidiaries to issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee, any debt for borrowed money secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge, lien, charge or other encumbrance (liens) upon any of our or our Subsidiaries Principal Property or upon any shares of stock or indebtedness of any of our Subsidiaries that owns any Principal Property (whether such Principal Property, shares or indebtedness are now existing or owed or hereafter created or acquired) without in any such case effectively providing concurrently with the issuance, incurrence, creation, assumption or guaranty of any such secured debt that the notes (together with, if we shall so determine, any other indebtedness of or guarantee by us or such Subsidiary ranking equally with the notes) shall be secured equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) such secured debt. The preceding provisions shall not require us to secure the notes if the liens consist of either Permitted Liens or liens securing excepted indebtedness (as described below).

Limitations on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

We will not, nor will we permit any of our Subsidiaries to, enter into any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction with respect to any Principal Property unless (a) we or such Subsidiary would be entitled to incur indebtedness secured by a lien on the Principal Property involved in such transaction at least equal in amount to the Attributable Debt with respect to such Sale and Lease-Back Transaction without equally and ratably securing the notes pursuant to the covenant described above under Limitation on Liens, or (b) we shall apply an amount equal to the Attributable Debt with respect to such Sale and Lease-Back Transaction within six months of such sale to the defeasance or retirement (other than any mandatory retirement, mandatory prepayment or sinking fund payment or by payment at maturity) of our or our Subsidiaries notes or other debt for borrowed money that matures more than one year after the creation of such debt or to the purchase, construction or development of other comparable property.

Excepted Indebtedness

Notwithstanding the covenants described above under Limitation on Liens and Limitations on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions, we and our Subsidiaries will be permitted to issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a lien or may enter into a Sale and Lease-Back Transaction, in either case without regard to the restrictions contained in the preceding two paragraphs, if the sum of the aggregate principal amount of all such indebtedness (or, in the case of a lien, the lesser of such principal amount and the fair market value of the property subject to such lien, as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors) and the Attributable Debt of all such Sale and Lease-Back Transactions, in each case not otherwise permitted in the preceding two paragraphs, does not exceed the greater of 10% of the Consolidated Net Tangible Assets or \$800 million.

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

We may not consolidate with or merge with or into any person, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets, or permit any person to consolidate with or merge into us, unless the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) either (1) we shall be the continuing person in the case of a merger or (2) the resulting, surviving or transferee person, if other than us (the Successor Company), is a person (if such person is not a corporation, then

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the Successor Company shall include a corporate co-issuer of the notes) organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any State or the District of Columbia and shall expressly assume all of our obligations under the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes;

(b) immediately after giving effect to the transaction (and treating any indebtedness that becomes an obligation of the Successor Company or any of our Subsidiaries as a result of the transaction as having been incurred by the Successor Company or the Subsidiary at the time of the transaction), no Default, Event of Default or event that, after notice or lapse of time, would become an Event of Default under the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture would occur or be continuing; and

(c) we shall have delivered to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the consolidation, merger, transfer or lease complies with the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture.

Upon any consolidation by us with, or merger by us into, any other person or any conveyance, transfer or lease of our properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety as described in the preceding paragraph, the Successor Company resulting from such consolidation or into which we are merged or the transferee or lessee to which such conveyance, transfer or lease is made, will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, us under the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture, and thereafter, except in the case of a lease, the predecessor (if still in existence) will be released from its obligations and covenants under the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes.

Events of Default

Each of the following events is an Event of Default with respect to the notes under the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture:

(a) the failure to pay the principal of (or premium, if any, on) the notes when due and payable;

(b) the failure to pay any interest installment on the notes when due and payable, which failure has continued for 30 days;

(c) the failure of us to perform any other covenant under the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture (other than a covenant included in the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than the notes), continued for 90 days after written notice to us by the Trustee or to us and the Trustee by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding notes; and

(d) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization involving us.

If an Event of Default enumerated above with respect to the notes shall occur and be continuing, then either the Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes may declare to be due and payable immediately by a notice in writing to us (and to the Trustee if given by the holders) the entire principal amount of all the notes. At any time after such declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the Trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes, by written notice to us and the Trustee, may, in certain circumstances, rescind and annul such declaration (except an acceleration due to a Default in payment of the principal or interest on notes).

No holder of any notes shall have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture or the notes or for any remedy thereunder, unless such holder previously shall have given to the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the notes and unless also the holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of outstanding notes shall have made written request upon the Trustee, and have offered to the Trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it, to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the Trustee,

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for 60 days after receipt of such notice, shall have failed to institute such proceeding and during such 60 day period, the Trustee shall not have received direction inconsistent with such request in writing by the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding notes. These limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a holder of a note for the enforcement of payment of the principal or interest on such note on or after the respective due date expressed in such note.

If a Default occurs and is continuing and is known to the Trustee, the Trustee must mail to each holder notice of the Default. Except in the case of a Default in the payment of principal or premium, if any, or interest on any note, the Trustee may withhold notice if the Trustee determines in good faith that withholding notice is not opposed to the interests of the holders.

We will also be required to deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, an officer's certificate indicating whether the signers of the certificate know of any failure of us to comply with all conditions and covenants of the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture during the previous year.

So long as we are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as the Exchange Act, our failure to comply with Section 314(a) of the Trust Indenture Act (relating to the filing of reports, information and other documents with the SEC), shall not constitute a Default or an Event of Default with respect to the notes.

Definitions

Attributable Debt when used in connection with a Sale and Lease-Back Transaction involving a Principal Property shall mean, at the time of determination, the lesser of (a) the fair market value of property or assets involved in the Sale and Lease-Back Transaction (as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors), (b) the present value of the total net amount of rent required to be paid under such lease during the remaining term thereof (including any renewal term or period for which such lease has been extended), discounted at the rate of interest set forth or implicit in the terms of such lease or, if not practicable to determine such rate, the weighted average interest rate per annum borne by the debt securities of each series outstanding pursuant to the Indenture compounded semi-annually, or (c) if the obligation with respect to the Sale and Lease-Back Transaction constitutes an obligation that is required to be classified and accounted for as a capitalized lease for financial reporting purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the amount equal to the capitalized amount of such obligation determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and included in the financial statements of the lessee. For purposes of the foregoing definition, rent shall not include amounts required to be paid by the lessee, whether or not designated as rent or additional rent, on account of or contingent upon maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates and similar charges. In the case of any lease that is terminable by the lessee upon the payment of a penalty, such net amount shall be the lesser of the net amount determined assuming termination upon the first date such lease may be terminated (in which case the net amount shall also include the amount of the penalty, but no rent shall be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated) or the net amount determined assuming no such termination.

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Consolidated Net Tangible Assets means, as of any particular time, the aggregate amount of assets (less applicable reserves and other properly deductible items) after deducting therefrom (a) all current liabilities, except for (1) notes and loans payable, (2) current maturities of long-term debt and (3) current maturities of obligations under capital leases, and (b) certain intangible assets, to the extent included in such aggregate amount of assets, all as set forth on our and our consolidated Subsidiaries' most recent consolidated balance sheet and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Default means any event, act or condition which is, or after notice or passage of time or both would be, an Event of Default.

Nonrecourse Obligation means indebtedness or other obligations substantially related to (a) the acquisition of assets not previously owned by us or any of our Subsidiaries or (b) the financing of a project involving the development or expansion of properties of us or any of our Subsidiaries, as to which the obligee with respect to such indebtedness or obligation has no recourse to us or any of our Subsidiaries or any assets of us or any of our Subsidiaries other than the assets which were acquired with the proceeds of such transaction or the project financed with the proceeds of such transaction (and the proceeds thereof).

Permitted Liens means (a) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets of any person existing at the time such person becomes a Subsidiary, provided that such liens are not incurred in anticipation of such person becoming a Subsidiary; (b)(i) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets existing at the time of acquisition thereof by us or any of our Subsidiaries, or liens thereon to secure the payment of all or any part of the purchase price thereof or (ii) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets to secure any indebtedness for borrowed money incurred prior to, at the time of, or within one year after, the latest of the acquisition thereof, or, in the case of property, the completion of construction, the completion of improvements or the commencement of substantial commercial operation of such property for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price thereof, such construction or the making of such improvements; (c) liens to secure indebtedness owing to us or to any of our Subsidiaries; (d) liens existing at the date of the initial issuance of the notes; (e) liens on property or other assets of a person (which is not a Subsidiary) existing at the time such person is merged into or consolidated with us or any of our Subsidiaries or at the time of a sale, lease or other disposition of the properties of a person as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to us or any of our Subsidiaries; (f) liens in favor of the United States of America or any State, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), or any department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States of America or any State, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such liens; (g) liens created in connection with a project financed with, and created to secure, a Nonrecourse Obligation; (h) liens on any property to secure bonds for the construction, installation or financing of pollution control or abatement facilities, or other forms of industrial revenue bond financing, or indebtedness issued or guaranteed by the United States, any State or any department, agency or instrumentality thereof; and (i) extensions, renewals or replacements of any lien referred to in the foregoing clauses (a) through (h); *provided, however*, that any liens permitted by any of the foregoing clauses (a) through (h) shall not extend to or cover any of our or our Subsidiaries' property, as the case may be, other than the property specified in such clauses and improvements thereto.

person means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

Principal Property means the land, land improvements, buildings and fixtures (to the extent they constitute real property interests) (including any leasehold interest therein) constituting the principal corporate office, any manufacturing plant or any manufacturing facility (whether now owned or hereafter acquired) and the equipment located thereon which (a) is owned by us or any of our Subsidiaries; (b) has not been determined in good faith by our Board of Directors not to be materially important to the total business conducted by us and our Subsidiaries taken as a whole; and (c) has a net book value on the date as of which the determination is being made

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in excess of 1% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets as most recently determined on or prior to such date (including for purposes of such calculation the land, land improvements, buildings and such fixtures comprising such office, plant or facilities, as the case may be).

Sale and Lease-Back Transaction means any arrangement with any person providing for the leasing by us or any of our Subsidiaries of any Principal Property, which property has been or is to be sold or transferred by the Company or such Subsidiary to such person, other than (a) any such transaction involving a lease for a term of not more than three years, (b) any such transaction between us and any of our Subsidiaries or between our Subsidiaries, or (c) any such transaction executed by the time of or within one year after the latest of the acquisition, the completion of construction or improvement or the commencement of commercial operation of such Principal Property.

Subsidiary means (a) any person of which more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock is at the time owned, directly or indirectly, by us or by one or more of our Subsidiaries or (b) any other person (other than a corporation) in which we or one or more of our Subsidiaries directly or indirectly has more than 50% equity ownership and power to direct the policies, management and affairs thereof.

Voting Stock means stock that ordinarily has voting power for the election of directors, whether at all times or only so long as no senior class of stock has such voting power by reason of any contingency.

Reports

We will file with the Trustee and the SEC, and transmit to holders of the notes, such information, documents and other reports, if any, and such summaries thereof, as may be required pursuant to the Trust Indenture Act at the times and in the manner provided pursuant to the Trust Indenture Act; provided that we will file with the Trustee any such information, documents or reports required to be filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act within 30 days after such information, documents or reports are required to be filed with the SEC.

Waiver, Modification and Amendment

Subject to certain exceptions, modification and amendments of the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes may be made by us and the Trustee with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes affected thereby (including consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange for the notes), and any past default or compliance with any provisions may also be waived with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes; *provided, however*, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding note affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or installment of interest on, any note;

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on, any notes;

reduce any premium, if any, payable on the redemption of any note or change the date on which any note may or must be redeemed or repaid;

change the coin or currency in which the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any note is payable;

impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of any note;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding notes, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take certain actions;

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modify any of the provisions in the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture regarding the waiver of past Defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of notes except to increase any

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percentage vote required or to provide that certain other provisions of the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each note affected thereby; or

modify any of the above provisions.

Notwithstanding the preceding, we and the Trustee may, without the consent of any holders, modify or amend the terms of the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes with respect to the following:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, to convey, transfer, assign, mortgage or pledge any property to or with the Trustee, or to make such other provisions in regard to matters or questions arising under the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture, in each case as shall not adversely affect the interests of any holders of securities of that series in any material respect;

to evidence the succession of another person to us and the assumption by any such successor of our obligations as described above under Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets ;

to add any additional Events of Default;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of holders of the notes or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us;

to add one or more guarantees for the benefit of holders of the notes;

to add collateral security with respect to the notes;

to add or appoint a successor or separate trustee or other agent;

to provide for the issuance of any additional notes;

to comply with any requirement in connection with the qualification of the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to comply with the rules of any applicable securities depository;

to provide for uncertificated notes in addition to or in place of certificated notes; and

to make any change if the change does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of notes.

Other amendments and modifications of the Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture or the notes may be made with the consent of not less than a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each series affected by the amendment or modification (voting as one class), and our compliance with any provision of the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture with respect to any series of debt securities may be waived by written notice to the Trustee by the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each

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series affected by the waiver (voting as one class).

The consent of the holders of the notes is not necessary under the Supplemental Indenture or the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Transfer

The notes will be issued in registered form and will be transferable only upon the surrender of the notes being transferred for registration of transfer. We may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax, assessment or other governmental charge payable in connection with certain transfers.

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Satisfaction and Discharge

When we (1) deliver to the Trustee all outstanding notes for cancellation or (2) all outstanding notes have become due and payable, whether at maturity or on a redemption date as a result of the mailing of notice of redemption, and, in the case of clause (2), we irrevocably deposit with the Trustee funds sufficient to pay at maturity or upon redemption all outstanding notes, including interest thereon to maturity or such redemption date, and if in either case we pay all other sums payable under the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture by us, then the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture shall, subject to certain exceptions, cease to be of further effect.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

The Indenture provides that we may elect either (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the notes (except for, among other things, certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of the notes, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen notes, to maintain an office or agency with respect to the notes and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (legal defeasance) or (2) to be released from our obligations to comply with the restrictive covenants under the Supplemental Indenture and the Indenture, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a Default or an Event of Default with respect to the notes, and clause (c) under Events of Default will no longer be applied (covenant defeasance). Legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, will be conditioned upon, among other things, the irrevocable deposit by us with the Trustee, in trust, of an amount in U.S. dollars, or U.S. government obligations (that through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount), or both, sufficient to pay the principal or premium, if any, and interest on the notes on the scheduled due dates therefor.

If we effect covenant defeasance with respect to the notes and the notes are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default other than under clause (c) of Events of Default, the amount in U.S. dollars, or U.S. government obligations, or both, on deposit with the Trustee will be sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay amounts due on the notes at the time of the stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the notes at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, we would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

To effect legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, we will be required to deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance will not cause the holders and beneficial owners of the notes to recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, or a change in law to that effect.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option.

Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement

Global Notes

We will issue the notes in the form of one or more global notes in definitive, fully registered, book-entry form. The global notes will be deposited with or on behalf of DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear

Beneficial interests in the global 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 hold interests in the global notes through either DTC (in the United States), Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*,

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Luxembourg, which we refer to as Clearstream, or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, which we refer to as Euroclear, in Europe, either directly if they are participants in such systems or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream's and Euroclear's names on the books of their U.S. depositories, which in turn will hold such interests in customers' securities accounts in the U.S. depositories' names on the books of DTC.

We understand that:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations.

DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by The New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (successor to the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.).

Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as 35 securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

The rules applicable to DTC and its direct and indirect participants are on file with the SEC.

We understand that Clearstream is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its customers through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its customers, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to its customers, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Section. Clearstream customers are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations and may include the underwriters. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream customer, either directly or indirectly.

We understand that Euroclear was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., which we refer to as the Euroclear Operator, under contract with Euroclear Clearance Systems S.C., a Belgian cooperative corporation, which we refer to as the Cooperative. All operations are conducted by the Euroclear Operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not the Cooperative. The Cooperative establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers, and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the underwriters. Indirect access to Euroclear is also

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available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly.

We understand that the Euroclear Operator is licensed by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission to carry out banking activities on a global basis. As a Belgian bank, it is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

We have provided the descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear in this prospectus supplement solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of those organizations and are subject to change by them from time to time. None of us, the underwriters or the Trustee takes any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of the global notes with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amounts of the global notes; and

ownership of the notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the notes represented by a global note to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in notes represented by a global note to pledge or transfer those interests to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global note, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by that global note for all purposes under the indenture and under the notes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note will not be entitled to have notes represented by that global note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated notes and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the indenture or under the notes for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval of the Trustee. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a direct or indirect participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the indenture or a global note.

Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of notes by DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of those organizations relating to the notes.

Payments on the notes represented by the global notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner thereof. We expect that DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the notes represented by a global note, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the global note as shown in the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. The participants will be responsible for those payments.

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Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of its customers in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Clearstream.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law (collectively, the Terms and Conditions). The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of its participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Euroclear.

Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for the notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear, as applicable, and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional Eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by the U.S. depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving the notes in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their U.S. depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of the notes received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in the notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of the notes by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of the notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

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Certificated Notes

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

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

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

we determine not to have the notes represented by a global note.

Neither we nor the Trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the notes. We and the Trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes, including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the certificated notes to be issued.

Governing Law

The Supplemental Indenture, the Indenture and the notes will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Regarding the Trustee

The Trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., which maintains its corporate trust offices at 601 Travis Street, 16th Floor, Houston, TX, 77002. The Trustee provides certain corporate trust services to us in the ordinary course of business and may provide such services in the future. The Trustee is the trustee under an indenture covering certain of our outstanding notes and debentures.

The Indenture and provisions of the Trust Indenture Act contain limitations on the rights of the Trustee, should it become one of our creditors, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims as security or otherwise. The Trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions. However, if the Trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must either eliminate such conflict within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue or resign.

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MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion summarizes the material U.S. Federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to you if you invest in the notes. Except as discussed under **Non-U.S. Holders** and **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding** below, the discussion generally applies only to holders of notes that are U.S. holders. You will be a U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of notes that is: (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States for U.S. Federal income tax purposes; (ii) a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia; (iii) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. Federal income taxation regardless of its source; or (iv) a trust if (A) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (B) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. This summary applies only to those persons holding notes which: (1) are held as capital assets and (2) are purchased by those initial holders who purchase notes at the issue price, which will equal the first price at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold for money to the public (not including bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). It does not address considerations that may be relevant to you if you are an investor that is subject to special tax rules, such as a bank, thrift, real estate investment trust, regulated investment company, insurance company, dealer in securities or currencies, trader in securities or commodities that elects mark to market treatment, person that will hold notes as a position in a straddle, conversion or other integrated transaction, tax-exempt organization, a governmental body or an agency or instrumentality thereof, partnership or other entity classified as a partnership for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, certain former citizens and residents, a person who is liable for the alternative minimum tax, or a person whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. If an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. Federal income tax purposes holds the notes, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you own an interest in such an entity, you should consult your tax advisor. In addition, this discussion does not describe any tax consequences arising out of the tax laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction, or any possible applicability of U.S. Federal gift or estate tax.

This summary is based on laws, regulations, rulings and decisions now in effect, all of which may change. Any change could apply retroactively and could affect the continued validity of this summary.

You should consult your tax advisor about the tax consequences of purchasing or holding notes, including the relevance to your particular situation of the considerations discussed below, as well as the relevance to your particular situation of state, local, foreign or other tax laws.

Payments or Accruals of Interest

Payments or accruals of interest on a note will be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time that such interest is actually or constructively received, if you are on the cash method of tax accounting, or at the time such interest accrues, if you are on the accrual method of tax accounting. The notes are not expected to be issued with original issue discount.

Repurchase Options

We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at our option (see **Description of Notes** **Optional Redemption**). The Treasury regulations issued under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, relating to original issue discount contain rules for determining the yield and maturity of debt instruments that are subject to certain options or other contingent payments. Pursuant to those regulations, we believe that no option to redeem, or to cause us to redeem, the notes should be deemed exercised and thus, the existence of these options to redeem or elect repayment should not affect the calculation of the yield and maturity of the notes or the amount or timing of income recognition with respect to the notes.

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Purchase, Sale, Exchange, Redemption and Other Dispositions of Notes

Your tax basis in a note generally will equal the cost of the note to you reduced by any previous payments of principal. When you sell or exchange a note, or if a note that you hold is retired or redeemed, you generally will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount you realize on the transaction (less any accrued interest, which will be subject to tax in the manner described above under **Payments or Accruals of Interest**) and your tax basis in the note.

The gain or loss that you recognize on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a note generally will be capital gain or loss. The capital gain or loss on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a note will be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the note for more than one year on the date of disposition. Net long-term capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. holder generally is subject to tax at a lower rate than net short-term capital gain or ordinary income. The ability of U.S. holders to offset capital losses against ordinary income is limited.

Non-U.S. Holders

For purposes of the discussion below, interest income and gain on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of notes will be considered to be U.S. trade or business income if such income or gain is (i) effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business and (ii) in the case of a person eligible for the benefits of a bilateral income tax treaty to which the United States is a party, attributable to a permanent establishment (or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base) in the United States. The term **non-U.S. holder** means a beneficial owner of a note (other than a partnership) that is not a U.S. holder.

Subject to the discussion below regarding backup withholding, interest paid on the notes to non-U.S. holders, generally will not be subject to U.S. Federal income or withholding tax if such interest is not U.S. trade or business income and is **portfolio interest**. Generally, interest on the notes will qualify as portfolio interest if the non-U.S. holder (i) does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote, (ii) is not a controlled foreign corporation with respect to which we are a **related person** within the meaning of the Code, (iii) is not a bank that is receiving the interest on a loan made in the ordinary course of its trade or business, and (iv) certifies, under penalties of perjury on an IRS Form W-8BEN (or such successor form as the IRS designates), prior to the payment that such holder is not a U.S. person and provides such holder's name and address (or a financial institution holding the notes on behalf of the non-U.S. holder certifies, under penalties of perjury, that it has received an IRS Form W-8BEN (or successor form) from the beneficial owner or an intermediate financial institution and provides us with a copy). The gross amount of payments of interest that do not qualify for the portfolio interest exception and that are not U.S. trade or business income will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% unless the holder is eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that reduces or eliminates withholding. If interest on the notes constitutes U.S. trade or business income to the non-U.S. holder, such interest will not be subject to withholding, but such interest income will be taxed at regular, graduated U.S. rates rather than the 30% gross rate, and the non-U.S. holder will be required to file a U.S. Federal income tax return reporting such interest income. In the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation, such U.S. trade or business income may also be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) of such amount, subject to adjustments. To claim the benefits of a treaty exemption from or reduction in withholding, a non-U.S. holder must provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or such successor form as the IRS designates), and to claim an exemption from withholding because income is U.S. trade or business income, a non-U.S. holder must provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI (or such successor form as the IRS designates), as applicable, prior to the payment of interest. These forms may need to be periodically updated.

If you are a non-U.S. holder, any gain you realize on a sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of notes generally will be exempt from United States Federal income tax, including withholding tax. The exemption from United States Federal income tax will not apply to you if (i) the gain is U.S. trade or business income, in which

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case you will be taxed at regular graduated U.S. rates (and the branch profits tax also may apply if you are a corporate non-U.S. holder) or (ii) you are an individual who is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other requirements are met, in which case you will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30%.

Special rules may apply to certain non-U.S. holders (or their beneficial owners), such as controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, and certain expatriates, that are subject to special treatment under the Code. Such non-U.S. holders (or their beneficial owners) should consult their own tax advisors to determine the U.S. Federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

If you are a U.S. holder, you generally will be subject to information reporting and also may be subject to backup withholding tax, currently at a rate of 28%, when you receive interest payments on the note or proceeds upon the sale or other disposition of a note, if (i) you fail to provide your taxpayer identification number, or TIN, to the payor in the prescribed manner or otherwise establish that you are exempt from backup withholding (e.g. because you are a corporation or tax-exempt entity); (ii) the IRS notifies the payor that the TIN you provided is incorrect; (iii) under certain circumstances, you fail to report interest and dividend payments that you receive on your tax return and the IRS notifies the payor that withholding is required; or (iv) under certain circumstances, you fail to certify under penalties of perjury that (1) you provided the payor with your correct TIN, (2) you are not subject to backup withholding, and (3) you are a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you generally will not be subject to information reporting and backup withholding tax requirements with respect to payments on the notes if you comply with certification procedures to establish your non-U.S. status. A non-U.S. holder may generally satisfy these certification requirements by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8ECI (or successor form).

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a holder may be allowed as a refund or as a credit against the holder's U.S. Federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

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We are offering the notes described in this prospectus supplement through a number of underwriters. Banc of America Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and UBS Securities LLC are the representatives of the underwriters. On April 1, 2009, we entered into a firm commitment underwriting agreement with the representatives. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase, the aggregate principal amount of notes listed next to its name in the following table:

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Banc of America Securities LLC	\$
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	
UBS Securities LLC	
Total	\$

The underwriting agreement is subject to a number of terms and conditions and provides that the underwriters must buy all of the notes if they buy any of them. The underwriters will sell the notes to the public when and if the underwriters buy the notes from us.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes to the public at the public offering prices set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement, and to certain dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of _____ % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallocate, a concession not in excess of _____ % of the principal amount of the notes to certain other dealers. After the public offering of the notes, the public offering price and other selling terms may be changed.

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts, will be approximately \$225,000.

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

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or on any automated dealer quotation system. The underwriters may make a market in the notes after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop. If an active public market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

In connection with the offering of the notes, certain of the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the notes. Specifically, the underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position. In addition, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the notes in the open market to cover short positions or to stabilize the price of the notes. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the notes above independent market levels, but no representation is made hereby of the magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the market price of the notes. The underwriters will not be required to engage in these activities, and may engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities, at any time without notice.

In the ordinary course of business, the underwriters or their affiliates have provided and may in the future provide commercial, financial advisory or investment banking services for us and our subsidiaries for which they have received or will receive customary compensation. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our \$1.5 billion commercial paper program and our \$1.5 billion senior unsecured revolving credit facility. We currently

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have currency trades in place with affiliates of Banc of America Securities LLC as counterparty. In the past we have entered into interest rate hedging arrangements with affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and we currently have interest rate hedging arrangements with affiliates of UBS Securities LLC. In the past, we have engaged affiliates of Banc of America Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and UBS Securities LLC for repurchases of our common stock.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), each underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not made and will not make an offer of the notes to the public in that relevant member state, except that it may make an offer of the notes to the public in that relevant member state at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive (as defined below), if they have been implemented in that relevant member state:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year, (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances which do not require us to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the expression an offer of the notes to the public in relation to any notes in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe to the notes, as the same may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and references to the Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 (financial promotion) of the Financial Service and Markets Act 2000 (the FSMA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to such underwriter or us; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the notes will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Dallas, Texas. The underwriters have been represented by Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements, financial statement schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Dell Inc. for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We maintain an Internet website at www.dell.com. All of our reports filed with the SEC (including Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and Proxy Statements) are accessible through the Investor Relations section of our website at www.dell.com/investor, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them electronically with the SEC. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

You should rely only upon the information provided in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the other information that we have specifically provided to you in connection with this offering. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus supplement.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus information that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. We incorporate into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference the following documents filed by us with the SEC (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 in any Current Report on Form 8-K and any other information that is deemed furnished and not filed), each of which should be considered an important part of this document:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2009; and

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 19, 2009 and March 9, 2009.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 in any Current Report on Form 8-K and any other information that is deemed furnished and not filed) on or after the date of the filing of the registration statement and prior to the termination of the offering or prior to the date we file with the SEC an amendment to the registration statement relating to this offering which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold. Our future filings with the SEC will automatically update and supersede any inconsistent information herein and in our other filings with the SEC.

Any person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this document is delivered may request copies of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into those documents, without charge, by written or oral request directed to Dell Investor Relations, Dell Inc., One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682, telephone (512) 728-7800. Copies of these documents can also be obtained on the Investor Relations section of Dell's website at <http://www.dell.com/investor> or from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above.

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PROSPECTUS

DELL INC.

Debt Securities

This prospectus relates to debt securities that we may sell from time to time in one or more offerings, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of each offering. We will provide specific terms of the debt securities to be sold by us and the methods by which we will sell them in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell securities without a prospectus supplement describing the methods and terms of the offering.

We may offer and sell these debt securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

You should review carefully each of the factors referred to under *Risk Factors* beginning on page 2 of this prospectus and contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement for a discussion of important risks you should consider before investing in our securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is November 4, 2008.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with additional or different information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell or purchase nor is it soliciting an offer to buy or sell these securities in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement is accurate only as of its date and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933. By using an automatic shelf registration statement, we may, at any time and from time to time, sell debt securities in one or more offerings in an unlimited amount.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the debt securities offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to **Dell, we, us, and our** refer to Dell Inc. and its subsidiaries.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Dell listens to customers and delivers innovative technology and services they trust and value. As a leading technology company, we offer a broad range of product categories, including desktop PCs, notebooks, software and peripherals, servers and networking products, services, and storage. According to the IDC Worldwide Quarterly PC Tracker, we are the number one supplier of personal computer systems in the United States and the number two supplier worldwide.

Our company is a Delaware corporation and was founded in 1984 by Michael Dell on a simple concept: by selling computer systems directly to customers, we can best understand their needs and efficiently provide the most effective computing solutions to meet those needs. Our corporate headquarters are located in Round Rock, Texas, and we conduct operations worldwide through subsidiaries.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. Our telephone number is (512) 338-4400.

RISK FACTORS

Our business is subject to uncertainties and risks. You should carefully consider and evaluate all of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the risk factors incorporated by reference from our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as updated by our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other SEC filings filed after such annual report. It is possible that our business, financial condition, liquidity or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We maintain an Internet website at www.dell.com. All of our reports filed with the SEC (including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and proxy statements) are accessible through the Investor Relations section of our website at www.dell.com/investor, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them electronically with the SEC. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

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This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and the debt securities being offered. This prospectus, which forms part of the registration statement, omits certain of the information contained in the registration statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Reference is hereby made to the registration statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to us and the securities offered hereby. Statements contained in this prospectus concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus information that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. We incorporate into this prospectus by reference the following documents filed by us with the SEC, each of which should be considered an important part of this prospectus:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2008, as amended by our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 5, 2008 (as amended, Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2008);

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended May 2, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-Q/A filed with the SEC on June 27, 2008, and August 1, 2008; and

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 12, 2008, March 31, 2008, April 17, 2008, April 24, 2008, May 19, 2008, June 5, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 16, 2008.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 in any Current Report on Form 8-K and any other information that is deemed furnished and not filed) on or after the date of the filing of the registration statement and prior to the termination of the offering or prior to the date we file with the SEC an amendment to the registration statement relating to this offering which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold. Our future filings with the SEC will automatically update and supersede any inconsistent information in this prospectus and in our other filings with the SEC.

Any person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered may request copies of this prospectus and any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into those documents, without charge, by written or oral request directed to Dell Investor Relations, Dell Inc., One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682, telephone (512) 728-7800. Copies of these documents can also be obtained on the Investor Relations section of Dell's website at <http://www.dell.com/investor> or from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents to which we refer you in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are based on Dell's current expectations. Actual results in future periods may differ materially from those expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements because of a number of risks and uncertainties. In addition to other factors and matters contained or incorporated by reference in this document, these statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, including, among others:

- general economic, business and industry conditions;
- our ability to reestablish a cost advantage over our competitors;
- our ability to generate substantial non-U.S. net revenue;
- our ability to accurately predict product, customer and geographic sales mix and seasonal sales trends;
- information technology and manufacturing infrastructure failures;
- our ability to effectively manage periodic product transitions;
- disruptions in component or product availability;
- our reliance on vendors;
- our reliance on third-party suppliers for quality product components, including reliance on several single-source or limited-source suppliers;
- our ability to access the capital markets;
- risks relating to our internal controls;
- unfavorable results of legal proceedings could harm our business and result in substantial costs;
- our acquisition of other companies;
- our ability to properly manage the distribution of our products and services;
- our cost-cutting measures;
- our ability to effectively hedge our exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates;
- our ability to obtain licenses to intellectual property developed by others on commercially reasonable and competitive terms;
- our ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel;
- loss of government contracts;
- expiration of tax holidays or favorable tax rate structures;
- changing environmental laws;
- the effect of armed hostilities, terrorism, natural disasters and public health issues; and
- other risks detailed in our filings with the SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2008. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we otherwise state in the applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the offered securities for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include, among other things, repurchase of our common stock, acquisitions, investments, additions to working capital, capital expenditures, repayment of debt and advancements to or investments in our subsidiaries. The net proceeds may be temporarily invested or applied to repay short-term or revolving debt prior to use.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

	Six Months Ended		Years Ended			
	August 1, 2008	February 1, 2008	February 2, 2007	February 3, 2006	January 28, 2005	January 30, 2004
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	33x	47x	49x	90x	128x	96x
Earnings included in the calculation of this ratio consist of (i) our operating income, plus (ii) investment and other income, plus (iii) our fixed charges less capitalized interest, plus (iv) our minority interests in the income of subsidiaries. Fixed charges included in the calculation of this ratio consist of (i) our interest expensed, plus (ii) our interest capitalized, plus (iii) a reasonable estimation of the interest factor included in rental expense.						

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be our direct unsecured obligations. The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be issued in one or more series under an indenture between us and one or more commercial banks, as trustee, a form of which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. The terms of the debt securities include those stated in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Trust Indenture Act").

The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of the indenture for the debt securities, does not purport to be complete, and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the indenture, including the definitions therein of certain terms. This description may not contain all information that you may find useful. You should read the indenture because it, not this description, defines your rights as a holder of the debt securities. The summary below of the general terms of the debt securities will be supplemented by the more specific terms in the prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities.

Certain terms used in this description are defined under the subheading "Definitions." Capitalized terms used and not defined in this summary have the meanings specified in the indenture. References to "Dell," "we," "us" and "our" in this section of the prospectus are only to Dell Inc. and not to any of its Subsidiaries.

General

The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that can be issued thereunder. The debt securities may be issued in one or more series as may be authorized from time to time by our board of directors.

A prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will include specific terms relating to that offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of the debt securities of the series;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series that may be authenticated and delivered under the indenture;

the price or prices at which we will sell the debt securities;

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

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, or the method of determining the rate or rates, and the date or dates from which such interest will accrue;

the dates on which interest will be payable and the related record dates;

the place or places where the principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of the series will be payable;

whether the debt securities are redeemable and any redemption dates, prices, obligations and restrictions on the debt securities;

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any mandatory or optional sinking fund or analogous provisions;

any exchange features of the debt securities;

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

the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of principal of and any premium and interest shall be payable if other than United States dollars;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities;

the terms of payment upon acceleration;

any deletions from, changes in or additions to the events of default or the covenants or definitions specified in the indenture or in the terms relating to permitted consolidations, mergers or sale of assets;

any changes or additions to the provisions of the indenture relating to defeasance;

whether any of the debt securities are to be issuable in whole or in part in the form of global securities, and, if so, the depository for the global securities;

the trustee and any authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars; and

any other material terms of the debt securities.

We may issue debt securities as original issue discount securities to be sold at a substantial discount from their principal amount. United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to any such original issue discount securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Payments on Debt Securities; Transfers

We will make payments on the debt securities to the persons in whose names the securities are registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest payments. As explained under "Book-Entry Debt Securities" below, The Depository Trust Company or its nominee will be the initial registered holder unless the prospectus supplement provides otherwise.

We will make payments on the debt securities at the trustee's office, except that, at our option, we may pay interest (other than interest due on the maturity date of the principal of a debt security) by check mailed to the person entitled to such interest.

Form and Denominations

We will issue the debt securities in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

We will not charge any fee to register any transfer or exchange of the debt securities, except for taxes or other governmental charges, if any.

Book-Entry Debt Securities

The prospectus supplement will indicate whether we are issuing the related debt securities as book-entry securities. Book-entry securities of a series will be issued in the form of one or more global notes that will be deposited with The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, and will evidence all of the debt securities of that series. This means that we will not issue certificates to each holder. We will issue one or more global securities to DTC, which will keep a computerized record of its participants (for example, your broker) whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participant will then keep a record of its clients who own the debt securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a security evidenced by individual certificates, a global security may

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not be transferred, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global security as a whole to one another. Beneficial interests in global securities will be shown on, and transfers of beneficial interests in global notes will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants. Each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest to exercise any rights of a holder of debt securities under the indenture.

The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities such as debt securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair your ability to acquire or transfer beneficial interests in the global security.

We will make payments on each series of book-entry debt securities to DTC or its nominee, as the sole registered owner and holder of the global security. Neither we, the trustee nor any of their agents will be responsible or liable for any aspect of DTC's records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

DTC has advised us that, when it receives any payment on a global security, it will immediately, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, credit the accounts of participants with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the global security as shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to you, as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global security, will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices (as is now the case with securities held for customer accounts registered in street name) and will be the sole responsibility of the participants.

A global security representing a series will be exchanged for certificated debt securities of that series if (a) DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and we do not appoint a successor within 90 days or (b) we decide, in accordance with applicable procedures of DTC, that the global security shall be exchangeable. If that occurs, we will issue debt securities of that series in certificated form in exchange for the global security. An owner of a beneficial interest in the global security then will be entitled to physical delivery of a certificate for debt securities of the series equal in principal amount to that beneficial interest and to have those debt securities registered in its name. We would issue the certificates for the debt securities in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof, and in registered form only without coupons.

DTC has informed us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for securities that its participants (known as direct participants) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among direct participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between direct participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants in DTC include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to the DTC system is also available to others, known as indirect participants, such as U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC participants are on file with the SEC. More information about DTC can be found at www.dtcc.com.

Covenants

Except as set forth below or as otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement with respect to any series of debt securities, neither we nor any of our Subsidiaries will be restricted by the indenture from:

incurring any indebtedness or other obligation;

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paying dividends or making distributions on capital stock; or

purchasing or redeeming capital stock.

Unless the terms of a particular series of debt securities provide otherwise, we will not be required to maintain any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity or to repurchase or redeem or otherwise modify the terms of any of the debt securities upon a change in control or other events involving us or any of our Subsidiaries which may adversely affect the creditworthiness of the debt securities. Among other things, the indenture will not contain covenants designed to afford holders of the debt securities any protections in the event of a highly leveraged or other transaction involving us that may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

As of the date of this prospectus, we have a limited amount of property that constitutes Principal Property. The covenants in the indenture described below will only apply to our Subsidiaries that own Principal Property.

The indenture contains the following covenants:

Limitation on Liens

Unless the terms of a particular series of debt securities provide otherwise, we will not, nor will we permit any of our Subsidiaries to, issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee any debt for borrowed money secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge, lien, charge or other encumbrance (liens) upon any of our or our Subsidiaries Principal Property or upon any shares of stock or indebtedness of any of our Subsidiaries that own any Principal Property (whether such Principal Property, shares of stock or indebtedness are now existing or owed or hereafter created or acquired) without, in any such case, effectively providing concurrently with the issuance, incurrence, creation, assumption or guaranty of any such debt for borrowed money that the debt securities of such series (together with, if we so determine, any other indebtedness of or guarantee by us or our Subsidiaries ranking equally with the debt securities of such series and then existing or thereafter created) shall be secured equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) such debt until such time as such debt is no longer secured by a lien. The preceding provisions do not require us to secure any debt securities of such series if the liens consist of either Permitted Liens or liens securing excepted indebtedness (as described below).

Limitations on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

Unless the terms of a particular series of debt securities provide otherwise, we will not, nor will we permit any of our Subsidiaries to, enter into any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction with respect to any Principal Property unless (a) we or such Subsidiary would be entitled to incur indebtedness secured by a lien on the Principal Property involved in such transaction in an amount at least equal to the Attributable Indebtedness with respect to such Sale and Lease-Back Transaction without equally and ratably securing the debt securities of such series pursuant to the covenant described above under Limitation on Liens, or (b) we shall apply an amount equal to the Attributable Indebtedness with respect to such Sale and Lease-Back Transaction within six months of such transaction to the defeasance or retirement (other than any mandatory retirement, mandatory prepayment or sinking fund payment or by payment at maturity) of debt securities or other debt for borrowed money of us or any of our Subsidiaries that matures more than one year after the creation of such debt or to the purchase, construction or development of other comparable property.

Excepted Indebtedness

Notwithstanding the covenants described above under Limitation on Liens and Limitations on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions, we and our Subsidiaries will be permitted to issue, incur, create, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a lien or may enter into a Sale and Lease-Back Transaction, in either case without regard to the restrictions contained in such covenants, if the sum of our and our Subsidiaries aggregate principal amount of all such debt for borrowed money secured by liens (other than Permitted Liens) upon our and our Subsidiaries Principal Property or upon any shares of stock or indebtedness of any of our Subsidiaries that own Principal Property (or, in the case of a lien, the lesser of such principal amount and the fair market value of the

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property subject to such lien, as determined in good faith by our board of directors) and all Attributable Indebtedness with respect to all such Sale and Lease-Back Transactions, in each case not otherwise permitted in the preceding two paragraphs, does not exceed the greater of 10% of the Consolidated Net Tangible Assets or \$800 million.

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

We may not consolidate with or merge with or into any person, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets, or permit any person to consolidate with or merge into us, unless the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) either (1) we are the continuing person in the case of a merger or (2) the resulting, surviving or transferee person, if other than us (the Successor Company), is a person (if such person is not a corporation, then the Successor Company shall include a corporate co-issuer of the debt securities) organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia and shall expressly assume all of our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture;
- (b) immediately after giving effect to the transaction (and treating any debt for borrowed money that becomes an obligation of the Successor Company or any of our Subsidiaries as a result of the transaction as having been incurred by the Successor Company or the Subsidiary at the time of the transaction), no default, Event of Default (as described below) or event that, after notice or lapse of time, would become an Event of Default under the indenture would occur or be continuing; and
- (c) we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the consolidation, merger, transfer or lease complies with the indenture.

Upon any consolidation by us with, or merger by us into, any other person or any conveyance, transfer or lease of our properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety as described in the preceding paragraph, the Successor Company resulting from such consolidation or into which we are merged or the transferee or lessee to which such conveyance, transfer or lease is made, will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, us under the indenture, and thereafter, except in the case of a lease, the predecessor (if still in existence) will be released from its obligations and covenants under the indenture and all outstanding debt securities.

Events of Default

Each of the following events is an Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities under the indenture (unless such event is specifically inapplicable to a particular series of debt securities as described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto):

- (a) the failure to pay the principal of (or premium, if any, on) any debt security of that series when due and payable;
- (b) the failure to pay any interest installment on any debt security of that series when due and payable, which failure has continued for 30 days;
- (c) the failure to deposit any sinking fund payment, when and as due by the terms of a debt security of that series;
- (d) the failure of us to perform any other covenant under the indenture (other than a covenant included in the indenture solely for the benefit of another series of debt securities), continued for 90 days after written notice to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series;
- (e) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization involving us; and

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(f) any other Event of Default provided with respect to debt securities of that series.

If an Event of Default enumerated above with respect to debt securities of any series at the time outstanding shall occur and be continuing, then either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare to be due and payable immediately by a notice in writing to us and to the trustee the entire principal amount (or, if the debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of all the debt securities of that series. At any time after such declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by written notice to us and the trustee, may, in certain circumstances, rescind and annul such declaration.

No holder of any debt securities of any series shall have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy thereunder, unless such holder previously shall have given to the trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of that series and the holders of not less than 25% of the principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series shall have made written request upon the trustee, and have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request, to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the trustee shall not have received direction inconsistent with such request in writing by the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series and shall have failed to institute such proceeding within 60 days of such notice. These limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities for the enforcement of payment of the principal or interest on such debt security on or after the respective due date expressed in such debt security.

Definitions

Attributable Indebtedness when used in connection with a Sale and Lease-Back Transaction involving a Principal Property means, at the time of determination, the lesser of (a) the fair market value of property or assets involved in the Sale and Lease-Back Transaction (as determined in good faith by our board of directors), (b) the present value of the total net amount of rent required to be paid under such lease during the remaining term thereof (including any renewal term or period for which such lease has been extended), computed by discounting from the respective due dates to such date such total net amount of rent at the rate of interest set forth or implicit in the terms of such lease or, if not practicable to determine such rate, the rate per annum equal to the weighted average interest rate per annum borne by the debt securities of each series outstanding pursuant to the indenture compounded semi-annually, or (c) if the obligation with respect to the Sale and Lease-Back Transaction constitutes an obligation that is required to be classified and accounted for as a capitalized lease for financial reporting purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the amount equal to the capitalized amount of such obligation determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and included in the financial statements of the lessee. For purposes of the foregoing definition, rent shall not include amounts required to be paid by the lessee, whether or not designated as rent or additional rent, on account of or contingent upon maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates and similar charges. In the case of any lease that is terminable by the lessee upon the payment of a penalty, such net amount shall be the lesser of the net amount determined assuming termination upon the first date such lease may be terminated (in which case the net amount shall also include the amount of the penalty, but no rent shall be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated) or the net amount determined assuming no such termination.

Consolidated Net Tangible Assets means, as of any particular time, the aggregate amount of assets (less applicable reserves and other properly deductible items) after deducting therefrom: (a) all current liabilities, except for (1) notes and loans payable, (2) current maturities of long-term debt and (3) current maturities of obligations under capital leases; and (b) to the extent included in such aggregate amount of assets, all goodwill, trade names, trademarks, patents, organization expenses, unamortized debt discount and expenses (other than capitalized unamortized product development costs, such as, without limitation, capitalized hardware and software development costs), all as set forth on our and our consolidated Subsidiaries most recent consolidated balance sheet and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

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Exchange Act means the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Nonrecourse Obligation means indebtedness or other obligations substantially related to (a) the acquisition of assets not previously owned by us or our Subsidiaries or (b) the financing of a project involving the development or expansion of our or our Subsidiaries' properties, as to which the obligee with respect to such indebtedness or obligation has no recourse against us or our Subsidiaries or any of our or our Subsidiaries' assets other than the assets which were acquired with the proceeds of such transaction or the project financed with the proceeds of such transaction (and the proceeds thereof).

Permitted Liens means (a) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets of any person existing at the time such person becomes one of our Subsidiaries; provided that such liens are not incurred in anticipation of such person becoming a Subsidiary; (b)(i) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets existing at the time of acquisition thereof by us or any of our Subsidiaries, or liens thereon to secure the payment of all or any part of the purchase price thereof, or (ii) liens on property, shares of stock, indebtedness or other assets to secure any debt for borrowed money incurred prior to, at the time of, or within one year after, the latest of the acquisition thereof, or, in the case of property, the completion of construction, the completion of improvements or the commencement of substantial commercial operation of such property for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price thereof, such construction or the making of such improvements; (c) liens to secure debt for borrowed money owing to us or any of our Subsidiaries; (d) liens existing on the date of initial issuance of the debt securities of such series; (e) liens on property or other assets of a person (which is not one of our Subsidiaries) existing at the time such person is merged into or consolidated with us or any of our Subsidiaries or at the time of a sale, lease or other disposition of the properties of a person as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to us or any of our Subsidiaries; (f) liens in favor of the United States of America or any State, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), or any department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States of America or any State, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any debt incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such liens; (g) liens created in connection with a project financed with, and created to secure, a Nonrecourse Obligation; (h) liens on any property to secure bonds for the construction, installation or financing of pollution control or abatement facilities, or other forms of industrial revenue bond financing, or indebtedness issued or guaranteed by the United States, any state, or any department, agency or instrumentality thereof; and (i) extensions, renewals or replacements (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements), in whole or in part, of any lien referred to in the foregoing clauses (a) through (h) without increase of the principal of the debt for borrowed money secured thereby; provided, however, that any liens permitted by any of the foregoing clauses (a) through (h) shall not extend to or cover any of our or our Subsidiaries' property, as the case may be, other than the property specified in such clauses and improvements thereto.

person means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

Principal Property means the land, land improvements, buildings and fixtures (to the extent they constitute real property interests) (including any leasehold interest therein) constituting the principal corporate office, any manufacturing plant or any manufacturing facility (whether now owned or hereafter acquired) and the equipment located thereon which (a) is owned by the us or any of our Subsidiaries; (b) has not been determined in good faith by our board of directors not to be materially important to the total business conducted by us and our Subsidiaries taken as a whole; and (c) has a net book value on the date as of which the determination is being made in excess of 1% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets as most recently determined on or prior to such date (including for purposes of such calculation the land, land improvements, buildings and such fixtures comprising such office, plant or facility, as the case may be).

Sale and Lease-Back Transaction means any arrangement with any person providing for the leasing by us or any of our Subsidiaries of any Principal Property that has been or is to be sold or transferred by us or any of our Subsidiaries to such person, other than (a) any such transaction involving a lease for a term of not more than

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three years, (b) any such transaction between us and any of our Subsidiaries or between our Subsidiaries, or (c) any such transaction executed by the time of or within one year after the latest of the acquisition, the completion of construction or improvement or the commencement of commercial operation of such Principal Property.

Subsidiary means (a) any person of which more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock is at the time owned, directly or indirectly, by us or any of our Subsidiaries, or (b) any other person (other than a corporation) in which we or any of our Subsidiaries directly or indirectly has more than 50% equity ownership and power to direct the policies, management and affairs thereof.

voting stock means stock that ordinarily has voting power for the election of directors, whether at all times or only so long as no senior class of stock has such voting power by reason of any contingency.

Ranking

The debt securities will be effectively subordinated in right of payment to all of our existing and future secured or guaranteed indebtedness, if any, to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness or of the value of our Subsidiaries providing guarantees. In addition, we are a holding company and conduct all of our operations through our Subsidiaries, and the debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all obligations of our Subsidiaries. As of August 1, 2008, our Subsidiaries had approximately \$11.4 billion of liabilities, including trade payables.

Substantially all of our operating income and cash flow is generated by our Subsidiaries. As a result, funds necessary to meet our debt service obligations are provided in part by distributions or advances from our Subsidiaries. Under certain circumstances, contractual and legal restrictions, as well as the financial condition and operating requirements of our Subsidiaries, could limit our ability to obtain cash from our Subsidiaries for the purpose of meeting our debt service obligations, including the payment of principal and interest on the debt securities.

Waiver, Modification and Amendment

Subject to certain exceptions, modification and amendments of the indenture may be made by us and the trustee with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected thereby (including consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange for the debt securities of such series) and any past default (other than a default in payment of or any premium or interest on any debt security of such series or in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities of the affected series) or compliance with any provisions may also be waived with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or installment of interest on, any debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any debt security;

reduce the amount of the principal of an original issue discount debt security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

change the place of payment where, or the coin or currency in which, the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security is payable;

impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity, redemption date or repayment date of any debt security;

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reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take certain actions;

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modify any of the provisions in the indenture regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of debt securities; or

modify any of the above provisions.

Notwithstanding the preceding, we and the trustee may, without the consent of any holders, modify or amend the terms of the indenture and the debt securities of any series with respect to the following:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, to convey, transfer, assign, mortgage or pledge any property to or with the trustee, or to make such other provisions in regard to matters or questions arising under the indenture, in each case as shall not adversely affect the interests of any holders of securities of that series in any material respect;

to modify or amend the indenture in such a manner as to permit the qualification of the indenture or any supplemental indenture under the Trust Indenture Act as then in effect;

to evidence the succession of another person to our company and the assumption by any such successor of our obligations as described above under Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets;

to add any additional Events of Default;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of holders of such debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us;

to add one or more guarantees for the benefit of holders of debt securities or to secure any or all of the debt securities;

to add to, change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture with respect to one or more series of debt securities, subject to certain exceptions;

to add or appoint a successor or separate trustee or other agent;

to comply with the rules of any applicable securities depository;

to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities of such series in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities; and

to make any change if the change does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of that series.

Satisfaction and Discharge

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The indenture provides that the trustee will execute proper instruments acknowledging the satisfaction and discharge of the indenture with respect to debt securities of any series when (1) all outstanding debt securities of such series have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or (2) all outstanding debt securities of such series not delivered to the trustee for cancellation have (a) become due and payable, (b) will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year and are not repayable at the option of the holder of such security prior thereto or (c) are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for giving notice of redemption by the trustee in our name and at our expense and are not repayable at the option of the holder of such security prior thereto. In the case of satisfaction and discharge of debt securities not delivered to the trustee for cancellation, we must irrevocably deposit funds, government securities or a combination thereof with the trustee sufficient to make payments on the series of debt securities on the dates those payments are due and payable (at maturity or upon redemption) or fulfill such other means of satisfaction and discharge specified in any supplemental

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indenture applicable to such series of debt securities. We must also pay all other sums due under the indenture and provide an officers' certificate and opinion of counsel as described in the indenture.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

The indenture provides that, if such provision is made applicable to the debt securities of any series pursuant to the provisions of the indenture, we may elect either (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities (except for, among other things, certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency with respect to such debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (legal defeasance) or (2) to be released from our obligations to comply with the restrictive covenants under the indenture, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a Default or an Event of Default with respect to the outstanding debt securities of such series, and clause (c) under Events of Default will no longer be applied (covenant defeasance). Legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, will be conditioned upon, among other things, the irrevocable deposit by us with the trustee, in trust, of an amount in U.S. dollars, or U.S. Government obligations, or both, applicable to the debt securities of such series which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay the principal or premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of such series on the scheduled due dates therefor.

If we effect covenant defeasance with respect to a series of debt securities and the debt securities of such series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default other than an Event of Default described under clause (c) of Events of Default, the amount in U.S. dollars, or U.S. Government obligations, or both, on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay amounts due on the debt securities of such series at the time of the stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of such securities at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, we would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

To effect legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, we will be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance will not cause the holders of the debt securities of such series to recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option.

Governing Law

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

Regarding the Trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will serve as trustee under the indenture and is the trustee under an indenture covering certain of our outstanding notes and debentures. We may appoint a separate trustee for any series of debt securities. As used herein in the description of a series of debt securities, the term trustee refers to the trustee appointed with respect to the series of debt securities.

The indenture and provisions of the Trust Indenture Act contain limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become one of our creditors, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must either eliminate such conflict within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue or resign.

The trustee or its affiliates may provide certain banking and financial services to us in the ordinary course of business.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus in any of the following ways:

through agents;

through underwriters, brokers or dealers;

directly to one or more purchasers; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the validity of the debt securities to be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Dallas, Texas. If certain legal matters in connection with an offering of the securities made by this prospectus and a related prospectus supplement are passed on by counsel for the underwriters of such offering, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement related to that offering.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Dell Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 5, 2008 and the financial statement schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Dell Inc. for the year ended February 1, 2008 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

April , 2009

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC

Morgan Stanley

UBS Investment Bank