

PLUG POWER INC
Form 424B5
April 22, 2014
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-195431

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED APRIL 22, 2014

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated April 22, 2014

15,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

We are offering 15,000,000 shares of our common stock in this offering.

*Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **PLUG**. The last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on April 21, 2014 was \$7.01 per share.*

*Investing in our securities involves risks. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.*

	<i>Per Share</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Public offering price per share</i>	\$	\$
<i>Underwriting discounts and commissions</i>	\$	\$
<i>Proceeds, before expenses, to Plug Power Inc.</i>	\$	\$
<i>We have granted the underwriters an option for a period of 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to purchase up to 2,250,000 additional shares of common stock from us. If the underwriters exercise this option in full, the total underwriting discounts and commissions will be \$ and total proceeds, before expenses, to us will be \$.</i>		

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on or about April , 2014.

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

Book-Running Managers

MORGAN STANLEY

BARCLAYS

Co-Managers

*Cowen and Company
Prospectus Supplement dated April , 2014*

FBR

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u>	S-2
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-3
<u>Summary</u>	S-4
<u>The Offering</u>	S-7
<u>Summary of Consolidated Financial Data</u>	S-9
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-10
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-15
<u>Dilution</u>	S-16
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	S-17
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>	S-23
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-24
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-25
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-27
<u>Material US Tax Considerations</u>	S-32
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-35
<u>Experts</u>	S-35
	Page
Accompanying Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u>	2
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference</u>	2
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	4
<u>About the Company</u>	5
<u>Description of Securities</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	8
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	9
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	10
<u>Legal Matters</u>	12
<u>Experts</u>	12

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is part of the registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process and consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, including the documents incorporated by reference, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts combined. This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus or with any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the SEC before the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated into each by reference include important information about us, the securities being offered and other information you should know before investing in our securities. You should also read and consider information in the documents we have referred you to in the section of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus entitled **Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference** and **Where You Can Find Additional Information**.

You should rely only on this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is in addition to or different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not offering to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as the case may be, or in the case of the documents incorporated by reference, the date of such documents regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any sale of our securities. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

All references in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to Plug Power, the Company, we, us, our mean Plug Power Inc. and our subsidiaries, unless we state otherwise or the context otherwise requires.

No action is being taken in any jurisdiction outside the United States to permit a public offering of the securities or possession or distribution of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus in that jurisdiction. Persons who come into possession of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus in jurisdictions outside the United States are required to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions as to this offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus applicable to that jurisdiction.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act with respect to the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement, filed as part of the registration statement, does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules, portions of which have been omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us, we refer you to the registration statement and to its exhibits and schedules.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the Public Reference Room. The SEC also maintains an internet website at www.sec.gov that contains periodic and current reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding registrants that are filed electronically with the SEC.

These documents are also available, free of charge, through the Investors section of our website, which is located at www.plugpower.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and you should not consider information on our website to be part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains statements that are not historical facts and are considered forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial position or state other forward-looking information. In some cases you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as anticipate, believe, could, continue, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, projected or the negative of such words or other similar words or phrases. We believe that it is important to communicate our future expectations to our investors. However, there may be events in the future that we are not able to accurately predict or control and that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to unduly rely on forward-looking statements because they involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to: the risk that we continue to incur losses and might never achieve or maintain profitability; the risk that we will need to raise additional capital to fund our operations and such capital may not be available to us; our lack of extensive experience in manufacturing and marketing products may impact our ability to manufacture and market products on a profitable and large-scale commercial basis; the risk that unit orders will not ship, be installed and/or converted to revenue, in whole or in part; the risk that pending orders may not convert to purchase orders, in whole or in part; the risk that a loss of one or more of our major customers could result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition; the risk that a sale of a significant number of shares of stock could depress the market price of our common stock; the risk that negative publicity related to our business or stock could result in a negative impact on our stock value and profitability; the risk of potential losses related to any product liability claims and contract disputes; the risk of loss related to an inability to maintain an effective system of internal controls or key personnel; risks related to use of flammable fuels in our products; the cost and timing of developing, marketing and selling our products and our ability to raise the necessary capital to fund such costs; the ability to achieve the forecasted gross margin on the sale of our products; the risk that our actual net cash used for operating expenses may exceed the projected net cash for operating expenses; the cost and availability of fuel and fueling infrastructures for our products; market acceptance of our products, including GenDrive systems; the volatility of our stock price; our ability to establish and maintain relationships with third parties with respect to product development, manufacturing, distribution and servicing and the supply of key product components; the cost and availability of components and parts for our products; our ability to develop commercially viable products; our ability to reduce product and manufacturing costs; our ability to successfully expand our product lines; our ability to successfully expand internationally; our ability to improve system reliability for our GenDrive systems; competitive factors, such as price competition and competition from other traditional and alternative energy companies; our ability to protect our intellectual property; the cost of complying with current and future federal, state and international governmental regulations; risks associated with potential future acquisitions; and other risks and uncertainties referenced under Risk Factors below and in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. Readers should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which the statements were made and are not guarantees of future performance. Except as may be required by applicable law, we do not undertake or intend to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus or the respective dates of documents incorporated by reference herein or therein that include forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary may not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should read the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, including Risk Factors contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and the financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus.

Overview

We are a leading provider of alternative energy technology focused on the design, development, commercialization and manufacture of fuel cell systems for the industrial off-road (forklift or material handling) market.

We are focused on proton exchange membrane, or PEM, fuel cell and fuel processing technologies and fuel cell/battery hybrid technologies, from which multiple products are available. A fuel cell is an electrochemical device that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity and heat without combustion. Hydrogen is derived from hydrocarbon fuels such as liquid petroleum gas, or LPG, natural gas, propane, methanol, ethanol, gasoline or biofuels. Hydrogen can also be obtained from the electrolysis of water. Hydrogen can be purchased directly from industrial gas providers or can be produced on-site at consumer locations.

We sell and continue to develop fuel cell product solutions to replace lead-acid batteries in material handling vehicles and industrial trucks for some of North America's largest distribution and manufacturing businesses. We are focusing our efforts on material handling application (forklifts) at multi-shift high volume manufacturing and high throughput distribution sites where our products and services provide a unique combination of productivity, flexibility and environmental benefits. Our current product line includes: GenDrive, a hydrogen fueled PEM fuel cell system providing power to material handling vehicles; GenKey, our turn-key solution offering complete simplicity to customers transitioning their material handling vehicles to fuel cell power; GenFuel, our hydrogen fueling delivery system; and GenCare, our ongoing maintenance program for both GenDrive fuel cells and GenFuel products.

We sell our products worldwide, with a primary focus on North America, through our direct product sales force, leveraging relationships with original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, and their dealer networks. We are party to a joint venture based in France with Axane, S.A. under the name Hypulsion, to develop and sell hydrogen fuel cell systems for the European material handling market. We sell to businesses, government agencies and commercial consumers.

We were organized in the State of Delaware on June 27, 1997.

Our principal executive offices are located at 968 Albany-Shaker Road, Latham, New York, 12110, and our telephone number is (518) 782-7700. Our corporate website address is www.plugpower.com. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Our Strategy

The key elements of our business strategy are:

Grow sales force to address increasing demand for Plug Power products.

Direct capital expenditures at expanding into new markets, including Europe and Asia.

S-4

Table of Contents

Invest capital to improve vertical integration.

Complete opportunistic acquisitions.

Focus on hydrogen generation and distribution opportunities.

Recent Developments

Walmart Stores, Inc. Multi-site GenKey Contract

In February 2014, we received a multiple site purchase order from Wal-Mart Stores East, LP, or Walmart, to roll out our hydrogen fuel cell solution to power electric forklift truck fleets in six distribution centers in North America. The purchase order included over 1,700 GenDrive fuel cell units to be deployed over the next two years, GenFuel infrastructure construction and hydrogen fuel supply, and a six-year GenCare service contract for each site. This agreement may be terminated by Walmart at its option by written notice to us, with certain amounts due from Walmart depending on the date of termination in respect of the commissioning process at each site.

Walmart has been integrating our fuel cell technology into its distribution centers lift trucks since 2006, having ordered 624 units through December 31, 2013. Taking into account this new purchase order, the total number of fuel cell units ordered by Walmart from us in 2014 through the date of this prospectus supplement was 2,025 units.

Acquisition of ReliOn, Inc.

On April 2, 2014, we and our wholly owned subsidiary, Emergent Power Inc., or Emergent Power, entered into an asset purchase agreement with ReliOn, Inc., or ReliOn, pursuant to which Emergent Power acquired substantially all of the assets of ReliOn, including patents, technology and other intangible assets, and equipment and other tangible assets, or the ReliOn Acquisition. ReliOn is a developer of hydrogen fuel cell stack technology based in Spokane, Washington, with 6.0mW of deployed capacity at approximately 1,800 sites.

As consideration, we issued 530,504 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or the ReliOn Shares, and assumed certain specified liabilities of ReliOn. The ReliOn Shares were valued at \$4,000,000. Pursuant to the asset purchase agreement, we filed a registration statement with the SEC to register the resale of the ReliOn Shares.

In connection with the ReliOn Acquisition, Emergent Power and Cummins Inc. entered into a License Agreement pursuant to which Emergent Power granted to Cummins Inc. a non-exclusive, world-wide, royalty-free license to a portfolio of patents acquired as part of the ReliOn Acquisition that relate generally to fuel cell systems.

The ReliOn Acquisition added additional key fuel cell intellectual property that we are in the process of integrating into a portion of our GenDrive product line, increasing the number of our issued patents to 186.

Memorandum of Understanding with Hyundai Hysco Co. Ltd.

On April 21, 2014, we signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Hyundai Hysco Co. Ltd., or Hyundai, to create a joint venture partnership to develop, manufacture and sell hydrogen fuel cell products and stacks for applications in countries throughout Asia using Hyundai's advanced stack and plate technology. The MOU provides that the parties intend to finalize the joint venture by July 31, 2014.

S-5

Table of Contents

Stock Option and Incentive Plan Amendment

On April 22, 2014, our Board of Directors approved an amendment and restatement of our 2011 Stock Option and Incentive Plan which, among other things, increases the number of shares issuable under the plan from 6,500,000 to 17,000,000. The amended plan will be effective only if the requisite vote of our stockholders is obtained. Our Board of Directors intends to submit the amended plan to a vote of our stockholders at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Unit Orders and Other Guidance

The following preliminary estimates (including the guidance referenced below) are derived from our preliminary internal financial reports and are subject to revision based on the completion of our quarter-end accounting and financial reporting processes necessary to finalize the financial statements. Because the financial statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2014 have not yet been finalized, and will be subject to further quarter end closing adjustments and review procedures by our auditors, the results and other financial information regarding this period is subject to change, and actual results for this period may differ materially from these preliminary estimates. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on these preliminary estimates. See **Forward-Looking Statements** and **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2014, as amended by our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A filed with the SEC on April 22, 2014. We do not undertake any obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of the receipt of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law.

From January 1, 2014 through the date of this prospectus supplement, we estimate that we shipped 158 units, and experienced no cancellations or adjustments to existing orders. We currently estimate that orders received in 2014 through the date of this prospectus supplement comprised a total value of approximately \$80 million, consisting of 2,438 units.

On March 13, 2014, we announced that we expect our total revenues for the three month period ended March 31, 2014 to be between \$5.0 million and \$6.0 million, as compared to total revenues of \$6.4 million for the same period in 2013. We also announced on that date that we expect our EBITDAS* for the three month period ended March 31, 2014 to be a loss of between \$5.0 million and \$6.0 million, as compared to a loss of \$4.8 million for the same period in 2013.

Based on our preliminary internal financial reports, we currently expect that our total revenues for the three month period ended March 31, 2014 will be approximately at or moderately higher than the mid-point of the previously announced range, and that our EBITDAS* for the same period will be moderately lower than the mid-point of the previously announced range.

*EBITDAS is defined as operating income (loss), as adjusted for depreciation and amortization expense and charges for equity compensation. EBITDAS is a non-GAAP measure of our financial performance and should not be considered as alternatives to net income or any other performance measure derived in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of our liquidity. We believe that presenting EBITDAS provides useful information to management, analysts and investors regarding financial and business trends relating to our results of operations and financial condition. Our industry peers may provide similar supplemental non-GAAP information, although they may not use the same or comparable terminology and may not make identical adjustments.

S-6

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by us	15,000,000 shares. We have also granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to 2,250,000 additional shares
Common stock outstanding following the offering	15,000,000 shares (or 17,250,000 shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full)
Use of proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full) after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures and potential acquisitions.
NASDAQ Capital Market Symbol	PLUG
Risk factors	Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and other information included or incorporated into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.
The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding after the offering is based on 106,190,652 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2013, and excludes:	

4,703,326 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.22 per share;

1,148,924 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans as of December 31, 2013;

165,906 shares of common stock in treasury;

650,002 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units;

10,972,859 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock at an exercise price of 0.236529 per share; and

24,137,878 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$0.78 per share.

The number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2014, was 143,958,761, which excludes 4,785,485 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of March 31, 2014, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.19 per share; 971,775 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans as of March 31, 2014; 165,906 shares of common stock held in treasury; 650,002 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units; 11,065,880 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock at an exercise price of 0.234520 per share; and 4,250,490 shares of common stock issuable upon the

S-7

Table of Contents

exercise of warrants outstanding as of March 31, 2014, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.82 per share.

Except as otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement is as of December 31, 2013, and assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase up to an additional 2,250,000 shares of common stock in this offering.

S-8

Table of Contents**SUMMARY SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following tables set forth selected financial data and other operating information of the Company. The consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 and the selected statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 as set forth below have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that are incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus from our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2014, and incorporated by reference herein. The consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 and the selected statements of operations data for each of the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 as set forth below have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, not included in this prospectus supplement. The information is only a summary and you should read it in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, and other financial information and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, and incorporated by reference herein. Historical results are not necessary indicative of the results for future periods.

	2013	Years Ended December 31,			2009
		2012	2011	2010	
		(in thousands, except per share data)			
Statements Of Operations:					
Product Revenue	\$ 18,446	\$ 20,792	\$ 19,592	\$ 13,414	\$ 3,584
Service Revenue	6,659	3,615	3,631	2,325	1,249
Research and development contract revenue	1,496	1,701	3,886	3,598	7,460
Licensed technology revenue			517	136	
Total revenue	26,601	26,108	27,626	19,473	12,293
Cost of product revenue	20,414	25,354	22,626	17,800	5,550
Cost of service revenue	14,929	12,304	8,044	5,311	1,696
Cost of research and development contract revenues	2,506	2,805	6,232	6,371	12,433
Research and development expense	3,121	5,434	5,656	12,901	16,324
Selling, general and administrative expenses	12,325	14,577	14,546	25,572	15,427
Gain on sale of assets			(673)	(3,217)	
Amortization of intangible assets	2,271	2,306	2,322	2,264	2,132
Other income (expense), net	(34,115)	4,810	3,673	570	560
Net loss before income taxes	\$ (63,080)	\$ (31,862)	\$ (27,454)	\$ (46,959)	\$ (40,709)
Income tax benefit	410				
Net loss attributable to the Company	\$ (62,670)	\$ (31,862)	\$ (27,454)	\$ (46,959)	\$ (40,709)
Preferred stock dividends declared	(121)				
Net loss attributable to common shareholders	\$ (62,791)	\$ (31,862)	\$ (27,454)	\$ (46,959)	\$ (40,709)

Loss per share, basic and diluted	\$ (0.82)	\$ (0.93)	\$ (1.46)	\$ (3.58)	\$ (3.15)
-----------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	76,436	34,376	18,778	13,123	12,911
--	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Balance Sheet Data *(at end of the period):*

Unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and available-for-sale securities	\$ 5,027	\$ 9,380	\$ 13,857	\$ 21,359	\$ 62,541
Trading securities auction rate debt securities					53,397
Total assets	35,356	39,460	55,656	59,177	164,185
Borrowings under line of credit		3,381	5,405		59,375
Current portion of long-term obligations	718	650			533
Long-term obligations	38,254	7,390	9,577	3,141	2,426
Stockholders' (deficit) equity	(17,872)	15,030	29,036	42,913	88,269
Working capital	11,110	6,901	22,452	25,556	60,009

S-9

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. In addition to the other information contained in this prospectus supplement to the accompanying prospectus and in the documents we incorporate by reference, you should carefully consider the risks discussed below and under the heading **Risk Factors** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2014 before making a decision about investing in our securities. The risks and uncertainties discussed below and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or that we currently see as immaterial, may also harm our business. If any of these risks occur, our business, financial condition and operating results could be harmed, the trading price of our common stock could decline and you could lose part or all of your investment.*

Risks Related to this Offering and Our Common Stock

Our stock price has been and could remain volatile, which could further adversely affect the market price of our stock, our ability to raise additional capital and/or cause us to be subject to securities class action litigation.

The market price of our common stock has historically experienced and may continue to experience significant volatility. Between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014, the sales price of our common stock fluctuated from a high of \$11.72 per share to a low of \$0.12, and on April 21, 2014, the closing sale price of our common stock was \$7.01 per share. Our progress in developing and commercializing our products, our quarterly operating results, announcements of new products by us or our competitors, our perceived prospects, changes in securities analysts recommendations or earnings estimates and our ability to meet such estimates, changes in general conditions in the economy or the financial markets, adverse events related to our strategic relationships, significant sales of our common stock by existing stockholders, including one or more of our strategic partners, and other developments affecting us or our competitors could cause the market price of our common stock to fluctuate substantially. In addition, in recent years, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This volatility has affected the market prices of securities issued by many companies for reasons unrelated to their operating performance and may adversely affect the price of our common stock. Such market price volatility could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital. In addition, we may be subject to securities class action litigation as a result of volatility in the price of our common stock, which could result in substantial costs and diversion of management's attention and resources and could harm our stock price, business, prospects, results of operations and financial condition.

The market price of our common stock may be adversely affected by market conditions affecting the stock markets in general, including price and trading fluctuations on the NASDAQ Capital Market.

Market conditions may result in volatility in the level of, and fluctuations in, market prices of stocks generally and, in turn, our common stock and sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the market, in each case being unrelated or disproportionate to changes in our operating performance. The overall weakness in the economy has recently contributed to the extreme volatility of the markets which may have an effect on the market price of our common stock.

Future sales of a significant number of shares of our common stock or other dilution of our equity could depress the market price of our common stock.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market could occur at any time. As of March 31, 2014, Air Liquide Investissements d'Avenir et de Démonstration, or Air Liquide, our largest individual

stockholder, beneficially owned 11,105,204 shares, or approximately 7.2%, of our common stock. Air Liquide is subject to a lock-up agreement prohibiting sales of such shares for a period expiring 90 days after the date of this prospectus. Except as described under Underwriting, we are not restricted from issuing additional

S-10

Table of Contents

shares of our common stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, our common stock. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of shares of our common stock or sales of such other securities made after this offering or the perception that such sales could occur.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish, or cease publishing, research or reports about us, our business or our market, or if they change their recommendations regarding our stock adversely, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock is influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts may publish about us, our business, our market or our competitors. If any of these analysts who may cover us change their recommendation regarding our stock adversely, or provide more favorable relative recommendations about our competitors, our stock price would likely decline. If any analyst who may cover us were to cease coverage of our company or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline.

Our management will have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds we receive in this offering and might not apply the proceeds in ways that increase the value of your investment.

Our management will have broad discretion over the use of our net proceeds from this offering, and you will be relying on the judgment of our management regarding the application of these proceeds. Our management might not apply our net proceeds in ways that ultimately increase the value of your investment and we might not be able to yield a significant return, if any, on any investment of these net proceeds. Our failure to apply these funds effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, delay the development of our products and cause the price of our common stock to decline.

Investors in this offering will experience immediate and substantial dilution.

The public offering price of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement is substantially higher than the net tangible book value per share of our common stock. Therefore, if you purchase shares of common stock in this offering, you will incur immediate and substantial dilution in the pro forma net tangible book value per share of common stock from the price per share that you pay for the common stock. If the holders of outstanding options or warrants exercise those options or warrants at prices below the public offering price, you will incur further dilution. See the section entitled "Dilution" below for a more detailed discussion of the dilution associated with this offering.

We have not paid cash dividends to our shareholders and currently have no plans to pay future cash dividends.

We plan to retain earnings to finance future growth and have no current plans to pay cash dividends to shareholders (except in accordance with the terms of our outstanding Series C Preferred Stock). Because we have not paid cash dividends, holders of our securities will experience a gain on their investment in our securities only in the case of an appreciation of value of our securities. You should neither expect to receive dividend income from investing in our securities nor an appreciation in value.

Provisions in our charter documents and Delaware law may discourage or delay an acquisition that stockholders may consider favorable, which could decrease the value of our common stock.

Our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws, and Delaware corporate law contain provisions that could make it harder for a third party to acquire us without the consent of our board of directors. These provisions include those that:

Edgar Filing: PLUG POWER INC - Form 424B5

authorize the issuance of up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series without a stockholder vote;
limit stockholders' ability to call special meetings; establish advance notice requirements for

S-11

Table of Contents

nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by stockholders at stockholder meetings; and provide for staggered terms for our directors. We have a shareholders rights plan that may be triggered if a person or group of affiliated or associated persons acquires beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock. In addition, in certain circumstances, Delaware law also imposes restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between us and any holder of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock.

We currently are, and may from time to time become, a named party in contract disputes for which an adverse outcome could result in us incurring significant expenses, being liable for damages and subject to indemnification claims.

From time to time, we may be subject to contract disputes or litigation. In connection with any disputes or litigation in which we are involved, we may be forced to incur costs and expenses in connection with defending ourselves or in connection with the payment of any settlement or judgment or compliance with any injunctions in connection therewith if there is an unfavorable outcome. The expense of defending litigation may be significant. The amount of time to resolve lawsuits is unpredictable and defending ourselves may divert management's attention from the day-to-day operations of our business, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. In addition, an unfavorable outcome in any such litigation could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

In July 2008, Soroof Trading Development Company Ltd., or Soroof, filed a demand for arbitration against GE Fuel Cell Systems, LLC, or GEFCS, claiming breach of a distributor agreement and seeking damages of \$3 million. Prior to GEFCS' dissolution in 2006, we held a 40% membership interest and GE Microgen, Inc., or GEM, held a 60% membership interest in GEFCS. In January 2010, Soroof requested, and GEM and Plug Power Inc. agreed, that the arbitration proceeding be administratively closed pending final resolution of the matter in United States District Court, Southern District of New York. On January 22, 2010, Soroof filed a complaint in United States District Court, Southern District of New York naming, among others, Plug Power Inc., GEFCS, and GEM as defendants. In January 2012, following a motion for judgment on the pleadings and motion for summary judgment, the Court dismissed with prejudice four of Soroof's claims and dismissed without prejudice two of Soroof's claims. The Court also dismissed with prejudice all claims against GEFCS. Soroof filed an amended complaint in May 2012 against us, GEM, and General Electric Company, re-pleading the two claims that were dismissed without prejudice. In December 2012, the parties participated in a court settlement conference with the presiding judge at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The case was not resolved at the settlement conference.

Fact and expert discovery closed in March 2013. In May 2013 Soroof filed a motion to amend the case caption to change the name of the plaintiff entity and the Court denied the motion without prejudice and ordered that the parties take additional discovery limited to Soroof's name change. The parties agreed to defer this additional discovery until a ruling on the then-pending motions for summary judgment. In May 2013, we, together with GE and GEM, jointly filed a motion for summary judgment on all counts and Soroof also moved for partial summary judgment to pierce GEM's corporate veil in order to hold GE liable. In October 2013, the Court denied defendants' motion for summary judgment as well as Soroof's motion for partial summary judgment. Discovery concerning the name change issue and briefing on the motion to amend by Soroof has concluded. On April 8, 2014, the Court issued a decision granting Soroof's motion to amend the complaint to correct the name of the plaintiff entity. On April 9, 2014, Soroof filed its Third Amended Complaint correcting the name of the plaintiff entity. The defendants' Answer to the Third Amended Complaint is due on or about April 23, 2014. The parties expect to provide the Court with a pre-trial and trial schedule that will likely propose a trial date in the late fall of 2014.

We believe that it is too early to determine whether there is likely exposure to an adverse outcome and whether or not the probability of an adverse outcome is more than remote. We, GEFCS, GEM and General Electric Company, or GE, are party to an agreement under which we agreed to indemnify such parties for up to

S-12

Table of Contents

\$1 million of certain losses related to the Sorroof distributor agreement. GE has made a claim for indemnification against us under this agreement for all losses it may suffer as a result of the Sorroof dispute. To the extent that the dispute results in an adverse outcome for us or for any of the parties we have agreed to indemnify, we could suffer financially as a result of the damages we would have to pay on behalf of ourself or our indemnitees.

The failure to successfully integrate ReliOn's business and operations or fully realize synergies from the ReliOn Acquisition may adversely affect our future results.

On April 2, 2014, we consummated the ReliOn Acquisition. The success of the ReliOn Acquisition will depend, in part, on our ability to successfully integrate ReliOn's business and operations and fully realize the anticipated benefits and synergies from combining our business with ReliOn's business. However, to realize these anticipated benefits and operational synergies, we must successfully combine these businesses. If we are unable to achieve these objectives, the anticipated benefits and operational synergies of the ReliOn Acquisition may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected. Any failure to timely realize these anticipated benefits could have a material adverse effect on our revenues, expenses and operating results.

Furthermore, it is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, loss of key clients, decreases in revenues and increases in operating costs, as well as the disruption of our business, any or all of which could limit our ability to achieve the anticipated benefits and operational synergies of the ReliOn Acquisition and have a material adverse effect on our revenues and operating results.

Integration efforts between the two companies will also divert management attention and resources, which could also adversely affect our operating results.

We are not providing audited historical financial information for ReliOn or pro forma financial statements reflecting the impact of the ReliOn Acquisition on our historical financial information.

With the consummation of the ReliOn Acquisition on April 2, 2014, we are required to file an amendment to our previously filed current report on Form 8-K that contains audited financial statements of ReliOn as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, and, based on such audited financial statements, pro forma financial information reflecting the estimated pro forma impact of the ReliOn Acquisition on our financial results. We do not expect to file the amendment to the current report on Form 8-K with the required financial information until after the closing of this offering and, as a result, we are not in a position at this time to include this information in this prospectus supplement. As a result, investors will be required to determine whether to participate in this offering without the benefit of this historical and pro forma financial information.

It is possible that the audit of ReliOn's financial statements, our preparation of pro forma information or our experience in operating ReliOn's business will require us to adjust our expectations regarding the impact of the ReliOn Acquisition on our operating results.

If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal controls, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud, which could harm our brand and operating results.

Effective internal controls over financial reporting are necessary for us to provide reliable and accurate financial reports and effectively prevent fraud. We have devoted significant resources and time to comply with the internal control over financial reporting requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or SOX. In addition, Section 404 under SOX requires that we assess the design and operating effectiveness of our controls over financial reporting. We are not currently required to have our auditors attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial

reporting, however we may in the future. Our compliance with the annual internal control report requirement for each fiscal year will depend on the effectiveness of our financial reporting and data systems and controls. Inferior internal controls could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative effect on the trading price of our stock and our access to capital.

S-13

Table of Contents

In addition, our internal control systems rely on people trained in the execution of the controls. Loss of these people or our inability to replace them with similarly skilled and trained individuals or new processes in a timely manner could adversely impact our internal control mechanisms.

The requirements of being a public company may strain our resources, divert management's attention and affect our ability to attract and retain qualified board members and officers.

As a public company, we are subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, the listing requirements of the NASDAQ Capital Market and other applicable securities rules and regulations. Compliance with these rules and regulations increase our legal and financial compliance costs, make some activities more difficult, time-consuming or costly and increase demand on our systems and resources. The Exchange Act requires, among other things, that we file annual, quarterly and current reports with respect to our business and operating results and maintain effective disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting. To maintain and, if required, improve our disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting to meet this standard, significant resources and management oversight are required.

Due to our market capitalization, we anticipate that beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, our management will be required to conduct an annual assessment of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting and include a report on our internal controls in our annual reports on Form 10-K pursuant to Section 404 of SOX and that we will be an accelerated filer beginning in 2015. In addition, we will be required to have our independent registered public accounting firm attest to and report on the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting. We will incur significant costs in order to implement and maintain our internal controls over financial reporting and comply with Section 404 of SOX, including necessary auditing and legal fees, and costs associated with accounting, internal audit, information technology, compliance and administrative staff.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive approximately \$ million in net proceeds from this offering. If the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full, the net proceeds of this offering will be approximately \$. Net proceeds is what we expect to receive after paying the expenses of this offering, including the underwriting discounts and commissions, as described in Underwriting below, and other estimated offering expenses payable by us, which include legal, accounting and printing fees.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and other general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures and potential acquisitions. Until we use the net proceeds of this offering, we intend to invest the funds in short-term, investment grade, interest-bearing securities.

S-15

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

If you invest in our common stock, your ownership interest will be diluted by the difference between the price per share you pay and the net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after this offering.

Our net tangible book value as of December 31, 2013, was approximately \$(18.4) million, or \$(0.17) per share of our common stock, based upon 106,190,652 shares of our common stock outstanding as of that date. Net tangible book value per share is determined by dividing our total tangible assets, less total liabilities, by the number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2013. Dilution in net tangible book value per share represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers of shares of common stock in this offering and the net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after this offering.

After giving effect to the sale of 15,000,000 shares of our common stock in this offering at the public offering price of \$ per share and after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us, our as adjusted net tangible book value as of December 31, 2013, would have been approximately \$ million, or \$ per share. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$ per share to existing stockholders and immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$ per share to new investors purchasing our common stock in this offering at the public offering price. The following table illustrates this dilution on a per share basis:

Public offering price per share	\$
Net tangible book value per share as of December 31, 2013	\$ (0.17)
Net tangible book value per share as of March 31, 2014	\$ 0.64
Increase in net tangible book value per share attributable to this offering	\$
Adjusted net tangible book value per share as of December 31, 2013, after giving effect to this offering	\$
Dilution in net tangible book value per share to new investors	\$
The foregoing table and discussion is based on 106,190,652 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2013, and excludes:	

4,703,326 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.22 per share;

1,148,924 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans as of December 31, 2013;

165,906 shares of common stock in treasury;

650,002 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units;

10,972,859 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock at a conversion price of 0.236529 per share; and

24,137,878 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$0.78 per share.

In addition, we may choose to raise additional capital due to market conditions or strategic considerations even if we believe we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans. To the extent that additional capital is raised through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, the issuance of these securities could result in further dilution to our stockholders.

S-16

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

This section describes the general terms of our common stock. For more detailed information, a holder of our common stock should refer to our certificate of incorporation, our by-laws and our shareholder rights agreement with respect to our preferred share purchase rights plan, copies of which are filed with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part.

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 245,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of March 31, 2014, there were 143,958,761 shares of our common stock outstanding and 10,431 shares of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock (Series C Preferred Stock) outstanding.

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. This information is qualified entirely by reference to the applicable provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law. For information on how to obtain copies of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part, see [Where You Can Find Additional Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference](#) in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Common Stock

Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters to be voted on by stockholders, including the election of directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws do not provide for cumulative voting rights. Because of this, the holders of a majority of our common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors can elect all of the directors standing for election. Subject to the preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock (including the Series C Preferred Stock), the holders of our outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities, subject to the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock (including the Series C Preferred Stock). Holders of our common stock have no preemptive, conversion or subscription rights, and there are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of our preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future (including the Series C Preferred Stock).

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or NASDAQ rules), to designate and issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in each such series, to fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the shares of each wholly unissued series, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, and to increase or decrease the

number of shares of any such series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding.

S-17

Table of Contents

We will fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock of each such series, as well as any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemptive rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class (or, in some cases, as a series) on an amendment to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation if the amendment would change the par value, the number of authorized shares of the class or the powers, preferences or special rights of the class or series so as to adversely affect the class or series, as the case may be. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our common stock. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could, among other things, have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in our control and may adversely affect the market price of the common stock and the voting and other rights of the holders of common stock. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock

The Series C Preferred Stock votes together with the common stock on an as-converted basis on all matters, including the election of directors, except as otherwise required by law. Each share of Series C Preferred Stock is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of whole shares of common stock into which such share of Series C Preferred Stock is convertible.

The Series C Preferred Stock ranks senior to the common stock with respect to rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company. The Series C Preferred Stock is entitled to receive dividends at a rate of 8% per annum payable in equal quarterly installments in cash or in shares of common stock, at the Company's option. The Series C Preferred Stock is convertible into shares of common stock, at a conversion price equal to \$0.234520 per share (as of March 31, 2014 and subject to adjustments), at the option of the holder thereof, (1) on or after May 8, 2014 or (2) upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, any sale, consolidation or merger of the Company resulting in a change of control, or any sale or other transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company. The Series C Preferred Stock has customary redemption rights at the election of either the Company or the holder thereof on or after May 8, 2016, as well as weighted average anti-dilution protection.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Section 203 generally prohibits a public Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to the date of the transaction, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction, which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding (a) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and (b) shares owned by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66- 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock, which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition involving the interested stockholder of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation;

S-19

Table of Contents

subject to exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder; and

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation or any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by the entity or person.

Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws. Provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws may delay or discourage transactions involving an actual or potential change in our control or change in our management, including transactions in which stockholders might otherwise receive a premium for their shares or transactions that our stockholders might otherwise deem to be in their best interests. Therefore, these provisions could adversely affect the price of our common stock. Among other things, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws:

permit our board of directors to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, with any rights, preferences and privileges as they may designate;

provide that the authorized number of directors may be changed only by resolution of the board of directors;

provide that all vacancies, including newly created directorships, may, except as otherwise required by law and subject to the rights of the holders of any series of preferred stock, be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of directors then in office, even if less than a quorum;

divide our board of directors into three classes;

require that any action to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders and not be taken by written consent;

provide that stockholders seeking to present proposals before a meeting of stockholders or to nominate candidates for election as directors at a meeting of stockholders must provide notice in writing in a timely manner, and also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice;

do not provide for cumulative voting rights (therefore allowing the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors to elect all of the directors standing for election, if they should so choose); and

provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the chairman of the board, our chief executive officer, our president or by the board of directors pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the total number of authorized directors.

The amendment of any of these provisions, with the exception of the ability of our board of directors to issue shares of preferred stock and designate any rights, preferences and privileges thereto, would require approval by the holders of at least 66- 2/3% of our then outstanding common stock.

Shareholder Rights Plan

We have a shareholder rights plan, the purpose of which is, among other things, to enhance our Board's ability to protect stockholder interests and to ensure that stockholders receive fair treatment in the event any coercive takeover attempt of the Company is made in the future. The shareholder rights plan could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or could discourage a third party from acquiring, the Company or a large block of our common stock. The following summarizes material terms of the shareholder rights plan and the associated preferred share purchase rights. This description is subject to the detailed provisions of, and is

S-20

Table of Contents

qualified by reference to, the shareholder rights agreement which has been filed as an exhibit to our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated June 24, 2009, as amended by the Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on May 6, 2011, the Amendment No. 2 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on March 19, 2012, the Amendment No. 3 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on March 26, 2012, the Amendment No. 4 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on February 13, 2013, and the Amendment No. 5 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on May 20, 2013.

Each outstanding share of our common stock evidences one preferred share purchase right. Under the terms of the shareholder rights agreement, each preferred share purchase right entitles the registered holder to purchase from us one ten-thousandth of a share (each, a unit) of our Series A Junior Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, at a cash exercise price of \$6.50 per unit, subject to adjustment. Initially, the preferred share purchase rights are not exercisable and are attached to and trade with all shares of common stock. The preferred share purchase rights will separate from the common stock and will become exercisable upon the earlier of:

the close of business on the tenth calendar day following the first public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock, other than as a result of repurchases of stock by the Company or certain inadvertent actions by a stockholder, or

the close of business on the tenth business day (or such later day as the Board of Directors may determine) following the commencement of a tender offer or exchange offer that could result upon its consummation in a person or group becoming the beneficial owner of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock.

With respect to any person who beneficially owned 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock as of June 23, 2009, such person's share ownership will not cause the preferred share purchase rights to be exercisable unless:

such person acquires beneficial ownership of shares of common stock representing more than an additional 0.5% of the outstanding shares of common stock held by such person as of June 23, 2009; or

if after June 23, 2009, such person reduces its beneficial ownership of shares of common stock and such person subsequently acquires beneficial ownership of more than an additional 0.5% of the common stock. In the event that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a preferred share purchase right (other than an acquiring person or its associates or affiliates, whose preferred share purchase rights shall become null and void) will thereafter have the right to receive (a subscription right) upon exercise, in lieu of a number of units, that number of shares of common stock of the Company (or, in certain circumstances, including if there are insufficient shares of common stock to permit the exercise in full of the preferred share purchase rights, units of preferred stock, other securities, cash or property, or any combination of the foregoing) having a market value of two times the exercise price of the preferred share purchase rights.

In the event that, at any time following the date that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock:

we consolidate with, or merge with and into, any other person, and we are not the continuing or surviving corporation,

any person consolidates with the Company, or merges with and into the Company and we are the continuing or surviving corporation of such merger and, in connection with such merger, all or part of the shares of common stock are changed into or exchanged for stock or other securities of any other person or cash or any other property, or

S-21

Table of Contents

50% or more of our assets or earning power is sold, mortgaged or otherwise transferred, each holder of a preferred share purchase right (other than an acquiring person or its associates or affiliates, whose preferred share purchase rights shall become null and void) will thereafter have the right to receive (a merger right), upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the preferred share purchase rights. The holder of a preferred share purchase right will continue to have this merger right whether or not such holder has exercised its subscription right. Preferred share purchase rights that are or were beneficially owned by an acquiring person may (under certain circumstances specified in the shareholder rights agreement) become null and void.

The preferred share purchase rights may be redeemed in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per preferred share purchase right (payable in cash, common stock or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors) by the Board of Directors only until the earlier of:

the time at which any person becomes an acquiring person; or

the expiration date of the shareholder rights agreement.

Immediately upon the action of the Board of Directors ordering redemption of the preferred share purchase rights, the preferred share purchase rights will terminate and thereafter the only right of the holders of preferred share purchase rights will be to receive the redemption price.

The shareholder rights agreement requires an independent committee of the Board of Directors to review at least once every three years whether maintaining the shareholder rights agreement continues to be in the best interests of our stockholders.

The shareholder rights agreement may be amended by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion at any time prior to the time at which any person becomes an acquiring person. After such time the Board of Directors may, subject to certain limitations set forth in the shareholder rights agreement, amend the shareholder rights agreement only to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, to shorten or lengthen any time period, or to make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of preferred share purchase rights holders (excluding the interests of an acquiring person or its associates or affiliates). In addition, the Board of Directors may at any time prior to the time at which any person becomes an acquiring person, amend the shareholder rights agreement to lower the threshold at which a person becomes an acquiring person to not less than the greater of:

the sum of 0.001% and the largest percentage of the outstanding common stock then owned by any person, and

10%.

Until a preferred share purchase right is exercised, the holder will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company (beyond those as an existing stockholder), including the right to vote or to receive dividends. While the distribution of the preferred share purchase rights will not be taxable to stockholders or to the Company, stockholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the preferred share purchase rights become exercisable for units, other securities of the company, other consideration or for common stock of an acquiring company.

The preferred share purchase rights will expire at the close of business on June 23, 2019, unless previously redeemed or exchanged by the Company.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, Inc.. The transfer agent and registrar's address is 1717 Arch Street, Suite 1300, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103.

S-22

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol PLUG. The following table sets forth the high and low sale price per share of our common stock as reported by the NASDAQ Capital Market for the periods indicated:

	Sales prices	
	High	Low
Year ended December 31, 2014		
1st Quarter	\$ 11.72	\$ 1.89
2nd Quarter (through April 21, 2014)	\$ 8.37	\$ 6.53
Year ended December 31, 2013		
1st Quarter	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.12
2nd Quarter	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.15
3rd Quarter	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.26
4th Quarter	\$ 2.24	\$ 0.45
Year ended December 31, 2012		
1st Quarter	\$ 2.60	\$ 1.26
2nd Quarter	\$ 1.41	\$ 1.10
3rd Quarter	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.76
4th Quarter	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.47

As of April 14, 2014, there were approximately 644 record holders of our common stock. However, management believes that a significant number of shares are held by brokers under a nominee name and that the number of beneficial shareholders of our common stock exceeds 77,000.

Table of Contents

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate paying cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination as to the payment of dividends will depend upon capital requirements and limitations imposed by our credit agreements, if any, and such other factors as our board of directors may consider.

S-24

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our unaudited cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, the current portion of long-term debt and capitalization as of December 31, 2013:

on an actual basis;

On an as-adjusted basis to reflect the issuance of 530,504 shares of our common stock in connection with the ReliOn Acquisition; and

on an as-further-adjusted basis to give effect to our sale in this offering of 15,000,000 shares of common stock at \$ per share and after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses payable by us.

You should read this table in conjunction with Use of Proceeds as well as our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our audited consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus from our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, and incorporated by reference herein.

	As of December 31, 2013		
	As Adjusted		
	for the		
	ReliOn		
	Acquisition		
	(unaudited)		
	Actual		As Further
			Adjusted for
			this Offering
	(in thousands, except share and per share data)		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,026,523	\$ 5,440,523	\$
Redeemable Preferred Stock:			
Series C redeemable preferred stock, par value \$0.01			
(aggregate involuntary liquidation preference \$17,007,931)			
10,431 shares authorized, issued and outstanding actual, as			
adjusted and as further adjusted	\$ 2,371,800	\$ 2,371,800	
Stockholders' equity:			
Common Stock, par value \$0.01; 245,000,000 shares			
authorized; 106,190,652 shares issued and outstanding,			
actual; 106,721,156 shares issued and outstanding, as			
adjusted and shares issued and outstanding as further			
adjusted	\$ 1,063,566	\$ 1,068,871	
Additional paid-in capital	\$ 831,155,925	\$ 831,155,925	
Accumulated deficit	\$ (849,437,066)	\$ (849,437,066)	
Less common stock in treasury 165,906 shares	\$ (1,552,382)	\$ (1,552,382)	
Total stockholders' (deficit) equity	\$ (17,872,150)	\$ (17,866,845)	
Total capitalization	\$ 35,355,621	\$ 35,360,926	\$

The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding after the offering is based on 106,190,652 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2013, and excludes:

4,703,326 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.22 per share;

1,148,924 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans as of December 31, 2013;

165,906 shares of common stock in treasury;

650,002 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units;

10,972,859 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock at an exercise price of 0.236529 per share; and

S-25

Table of Contents

24,137,878 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2013, at a weighted average exercise price of \$0.78 per share.

The number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2014, was 143,958,761, which excludes 4,785,485 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of March 31, 2014, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.19 per share; 971,775 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans as of March 31, 2014; 165,906 shares of common stock held in treasury; 650,002 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting of restricted stock units; 11,065,880 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series C Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock at an exercise price of 0.234520 per share; and 4,250,490 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of March 31, 2014, at a weighted average exercise price of \$3.82 per share. Our cash and cash equivalents as of March 31, 2014 was \$63,231,651. Our cash and cash equivalents as of March 31, 2014 was \$63,231,651.

S-26

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions in an underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters named below, for whom Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and Barclays Capital Inc. are acting as representatives, have severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to them, severally, the number of shares indicated below:

Name	Number of Shares
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	
Barclays Capital Inc.	
Cowen and Company, LLC	
FBR Capital Markets & Co.	
Total:	15,000,000

The underwriters and the representatives are collectively referred to as the underwriters and the representatives, respectively. The underwriters are offering the shares of common stock subject to their acceptance of the shares from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement are subject to the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement if any such shares are taken. However, the underwriters are not required to take or pay for the shares covered by the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares described below.

The underwriters initially propose to offer part of the shares of common stock directly to the public at the offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and part to certain dealers. After the initial offering of the shares of common stock, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the representatives.

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to 2,250,000 additional shares of common stock at the public offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, less underwriting discounts and commissions. To the extent the option is exercised, each underwriter will become obligated, subject to certain conditions, to purchase about the same percentage of the additional shares of common stock as the number listed next to the underwriter's name in the preceding table bears to the total number of shares of common stock listed next to the names of all underwriters in the preceding table.

The following table shows the per share and total public offering price, underwriting discounts and commissions, and proceeds before expenses to us. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional 2,250,000 shares of common stock.

	Total
Per Share	No Exercise Full Exercise

Edgar Filing: PLUG POWER INC - Form 424B5

Public offering price	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$	\$

The estimated offering expenses payable by us, exclusive of the underwriting discounts and commissions, are approximately \$. We have agreed to reimburse the underwriters for expense relating to clearance of this offering with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority up to \$.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the trading symbol PLUG .

S-27

Table of Contents

We and all of our directors and officers have agreed that, without the prior written consent of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC on behalf of the underwriters, we and they will not, during the period ending 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement (the "restricted period"):

offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, lend or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of common stock;

file any registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the offering of any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock; or

enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock.

whether any such transaction described above is to be settled by delivery of common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. In addition, we and each such person agrees that, without the prior written consent of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC on behalf of the underwriters, we or such other person will not, during the restricted period, make any demand for, or exercise any right with respect to, the registration of any shares of common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock.

With respect to the Company, the restrictions described in the immediately preceding paragraph, among other things and subject to exceptions, do not apply to:

the Shares to be sold pursuant to this offering;

the issuance by the Company of shares of common stock upon the exercise or settlement of any option, warrant or restricted stock unit outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement and described herein, or upon the conversion of the Company's Series C Preferred Stock outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement and described herein;

the issuance of common stock, options to acquire common stock or restricted stock units pursuant to the Company's stock option plans or other employee compensation plans as such plans are in existence on the date of this prospectus supplement and described herein;

issuances of common stock as matching contributions under the Company's 401(k) plan;

the filing of a registration statement on Form S-8 relating to any employee benefit plan;

the issuance of securities as payment in satisfaction of accrued dividends payable upon the Series C Preferred Stock, *provided* that any issuances made pursuant to this exception will be subject to the same transferability restrictions set forth above; or

the establishment of a trading plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act, for the transfer of shares of common stock, *provided* that (i) such plan does not provide for the transfer of common stock during the restricted period and (ii) to the extent a public announcement or filing under the Exchange Act, if any, is required of or voluntarily made by the Company regarding the establishment of such plan, such announcement or filing shall include a statement to the effect that no transfer of Common Stock may be made under such plan during the restricted period.

With respect to the parties to the lock-up agreements, the restrictions described above, among other things and subject to exceptions, do not apply to:

transactions relating to shares of common stock or other securities acquired in open market transactions after the completion of this offering, *provided* that no filing under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act shall be required or shall be voluntarily made in connection with subsequent sales of common stock or other securities acquired in such open market transactions;

S-28

Table of Contents

transfers of shares of common stock or any security convertible into common stock as a bona fide gift or by will or intestate succession upon the death of the relevant party to the agreement;

distributions of shares of common stock or any security convertible into common stock to limited partners, members, owners or shareholders of the undersigned;

the receipt from the Company of shares of common stock upon the exercise of options, warrants, restricted stock units or other equity awards, *provided* that any shares of common stock received pursuant to this exception shall be subject to the restrictions on transferability set forth above;

dispositions or transfers of securities exercisable for shares of common stock solely in connection with the cashless exercise of options and warrants outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement and described herein, *provided* that (x) any shares of common stock received upon the exercise of any options or warrants pursuant to exception shall be subject to the restrictions on transferability set forth above and (y) if the signing party is required to file a report under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act reporting a reduction in beneficial ownership of shares of common stock during the restricted period due to any disposition or transfer pursuant to this exception, such party shall include a statement in such report to the effect that the disposition or transfer was made in connection with the exercise of an option or warrant and that the underlying shares of common stock issued upon such exercise remain subject to the terms of this agreement;

if the party is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity, any transfer of shares of common stock or other securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock owned pursuant to a stock sale, merger, consolidation or other similar transaction involving the sale or transfer of all or substantially all of such party's assets to a bona fide third party purchaser that is not any entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the party to the lock-up agreement, provided that (i) such transfer may not be undertaken for the purpose of avoiding the restrictions imposed by the lock-up agreements (ii) any transferee shall sign and deliver a lock-up letter substantially in the form of the lock-up agreement and (iii) if the foregoing transaction is not consummated, the shares of common stock or other securities will remain subject to the restrictions on transferability contained in the lock-up agreement;

if the party is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity, any transfer made by the party to another corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity that controls, is controlled by or under common control of the party and such transfer is not for value; or

sales of common stock issued as a Payment-In-Kind dividend on the Company's Series C Preferred Stock made under an existing trading plan established by the party pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act, and the establishment of trading plans pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act for the transfer of shares of common stock, *provided* that (i) in the case of trading plans established after the date of this prospectus supplement, such plan does not provide for the transfer of common stock during the restricted period and (ii) to the extent a public announcement or filing under the Exchange Act, if any, is required of or voluntarily made by or on behalf of the undersigned or the Company regarding the establishment of such

plan, such announcement or filing shall include a statement to the effect that no transfer of common stock may be made under such plan during the restricted period.

provided that in the case of any transfer or distribution pursuant to the second, third and sixth, bullets above, it will be a condition of the transfer or distribution, as the case may be, that (i) each transferee, donee or distributee shall sign and deliver a lock-up letter substantially in the form of the lock-up agreement and (ii) no filing under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, reporting a reduction in beneficial ownership of shares of common stock, shall be required or shall be voluntarily made during the restricted period

Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, in its sole discretion, may release the common stock and other securities subject to the lock-up agreements described above in whole or in part at any time with or without notice.

S-29

Table of Contents

In order to facilitate the offering of the common stock, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common stock. Specifically, the underwriters may sell more shares than they are obligated to purchase under the underwriting agreement, creating a short position. A short sale is covered if the short position is no greater than the number of shares available for purchase by the underwriters under the option. The underwriters can close out a covered short sale by exercising the option or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out a covered short sale, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the open market price of shares compared to the price available under the option. The underwriters may also sell shares in excess of the option, creating a naked short position. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering. As an additional means of facilitating this offering, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, shares of common stock in the open market to stabilize the price of the common stock. These activities may raise or maintain the market price of the common stock above independent market levels or prevent or retard a decline in the market price of the common stock. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

We and the underwriters have agreed to indemnify each other against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

A prospectus supplement in electronic format may be made available on websites maintained by one or more underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering. The representatives may agree to allocate a number of shares of common stock to underwriters for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the representatives to underwriters that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory, commercial banking and investment banking services for us or our affiliates, for which such underwriter received or will receive customary fees and expenses. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own accounts and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve our securities and/or our instruments. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

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) an offer to the public of any shares of our common stock may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any shares of our common stock may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or

S-30

Table of Contents

- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of shares of our common stock shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or any underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any shares of our common stock 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 any shares of our common stock to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase any shares of our common stock, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State, and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

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 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares of our common stock in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to 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 shares of our common stock in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock to non-U.S. holders, but does not purport to be a complete analysis of all the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as of the date hereof. These authorities may be changed or subject to differing interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect, so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those set forth below. We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions.

This summary also does not address the tax considerations arising under the laws of any U.S. state or local or any non-U.S. jurisdiction, the Medicare tax on net investment income or any alternative minimum tax consequences. In addition, this discussion does not address tax considerations applicable to an investor's particular circumstances or to investors that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

tax-exempt organizations;

dealers in securities or currencies;

traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;

persons that own, or are deemed to own, more than five percent of our capital stock;

certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

persons who hold our common stock as a position in a hedging transaction, straddle, conversion transaction or other risk reduction transaction;

persons who do not hold our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, for investment purposes);

persons deemed to sell our common stock under the constructive sale provisions of the Code;

regulated investment companies;

pension plans;

controlled foreign corporations;

passive foreign investment companies; or

persons that acquire our common stock as compensation for services.

In addition, if a partnership, including any entity or arrangement classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Accordingly, partnerships that hold our common stock, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor with respect to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to your particular situation, as well as any tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock arising under the U.S. federal estate or gift tax rules or under the laws of any U.S. state or local or any non-U.S. or other taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

S-32

Table of Contents

Non-U.S. Holder Defined

For purposes of this discussion, you are a non-U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of our common stock that is for United States federal income tax purposes (i) a foreign corporation, (ii) a nonresident alien individual, or (iii) a foreign estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net-income basis on income or gain from a note or share of common stock.

Distributions

If we make distributions on our common stock, those payments will constitute dividends for U.S. tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. To the extent those distributions exceed both our current and our accumulated earnings and profits, they will constitute a return of capital and will first reduce your basis in our common stock, but not below zero, and then will be treated as gain from the sale of stock.

Any dividend paid to you generally will be subject to U.S. withholding tax either at a rate of 30% of the gross amount of the dividend or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. In order to receive a reduced treaty rate, you must provide us with an IRS Form W-8BEN (generally including a U.S. taxpayer identification number) or successor form or other appropriate version of IRS Form W-8 certifying qualification for the reduced rate.

Dividends received by you that are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States) generally are exempt from such withholding tax. In order to obtain this exemption, you must provide us with an IRS Form W-8ECI or successor form or other applicable IRS Form W-8 properly certifying such exemption. Such effectively connected dividends, although not subject to withholding tax, are taxed at the same graduated rates applicable to U.S. persons, net of certain deductions and credits, subject to an applicable income tax treaty providing otherwise. In addition, if you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, dividends you receive that are effectively connected with your conduct of a U.S. trade or business (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the you in the United States) may also be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

If you are eligible for a reduced rate of withholding tax pursuant to a tax treaty, you may be able to obtain a refund of any excess amounts currently withheld if you file an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Gain on Sale or Other Disposition of Common Stock

Subject to the discussion below regarding backup withholding and FATCA, a non-U.S. Holder generally will not be required to pay U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business (and, if an income tax treaty applies, the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the U.S.), in which case you will be required to pay tax on the net gain derived from the sale under regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates, and for a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation, such non-U.S. holder may be subject to the branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty;

you are an individual who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year in which the sale or disposition occurs and certain other conditions are met, in which case you will be required to pay a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the sale, which tax may be offset by U.S. source capital losses (even though you are not considered a resident of the United States) (subject to applicable income tax or other treaties); or

our common stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest by reason of our status as a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a USRPHC, at any time within the

S-33

Table of Contents

shorter of the five-year period preceding the disposition or your holding period for our common stock. We believe that we are not currently and will not become a USRPHC. However, because the determination of whether we are a USRPHC depends on the fair market value of our U.S. real property relative to the fair market value of our other business assets, there can be no assurance that we will not become a USRPHC in the future. Even if we become a USRPHC, however, as long as our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market, such common stock will be treated as U.S. real property interests only if you actually or constructively hold more than five percent of such regularly traded common stock at any time during the applicable period that is specified in the Code.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Generally, we must report annually to the IRS the amount of dividends paid to you, your name and address, and the amount of tax withheld, if any. A similar report will be sent to you. Pursuant to applicable income tax treaties or other agreements, the IRS may make these reports available to tax authorities in your country of residence.

Payments of dividends or of proceeds on the disposition of stock made to you may be subject to additional information reporting and backup withholding at a current rate of 28% unless you establish an exemption, for example by properly certifying your non-U.S. status on a Form W-8BEN or successor form or another appropriate version of IRS Form W-8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, backup withholding and information reporting may apply if either we or our paying agent has actual knowledge, or reason to know, that you are a U.S. person.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax; rather, the U.S. income tax liability of persons subject to backup withholding will be reduced by the amount of tax withheld. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund or credit may generally be obtained from the IRS, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)

Taxation of Foreign Accounts. Provisions commonly referred to as FATCA may impose withholding tax on certain types of payments made to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities. The legislation imposes a 30% withholding tax on dividends on, or gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock paid to a foreign financial institution or to certain non-financial foreign entities, unless (i) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting obligations or (ii) the non-financial foreign entity either certifies it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial U.S. owner and such entity meets certain other specified requirements. If the payee is a foreign financial institution, it must enter into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain U.S. persons or U.S.-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to account holders whose actions prevent it from complying with these reporting and other requirements. If the country in which a payee is resident has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the United States regarding FATCA, that agreement may permit the payee to report to that country rather than to the U.S. Treasury. Under final regulations and published guidance, any obligation to withhold from payments made to a foreign financial institution or a foreign non-financial entity under the new legislation with respect to dividends on our common stock will not begin until July 1, 2014 and with respect to the gross proceeds of a sale or other disposition of our common stock will not begin until January 1, 2017. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding FATCA.

The preceding discussion of U.S. federal tax considerations is for general information only. It is not tax advice. Each prospective investor should consult its own tax advisor regarding the particular U.S. federal, state and local and non-U.S. tax consequences of purchasing, holding and disposing of our common stock, including the

consequences of any proposed change in applicable laws.

S-34

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the securities offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by Goodwin Procter LLP, Boston, Massachusetts. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Plug Power Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2013 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the Registration Statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-35

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

PLUG POWER INC.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Units

Debt Securities

By this prospectus, we may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, debt securities or any combination thereof as described in this prospectus. The warrants may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock, the preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock and the debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock. You should carefully read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated in any of the foregoing by reference, before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell our securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus may also add to, update, supplement or clarify information contained in this prospectus.

*Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **PLUG**.*

We may offer and sell our securities to or through one or more agents, underwriters, dealers or other third parties or directly to one or more purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. If we use any agents, underwriters or dealers to sell our securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of our securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from the sale of such securities will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. YOU SHOULD REVIEW CAREFULLY THE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES REFERENCED UNDER THE HEADING RISK FACTORS ON PAGE 4 OF THIS PROSPECTUS AS WELL AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THE APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND ANY RELATED FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS, AND IN THE OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT ARE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS OR THE

APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

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

The date of this prospectus is April 22 , 2014.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	Page
	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	2
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
	Page
<u>ABOUT THE COMPANY</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITIES</u>	6
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	8
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	9
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	10
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	12
<u>EXPERTS</u>	12

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement, and in any related free writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this documentation are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this document speaks only as of the date of this document, unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospectus may have changed since those dates.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under this shelf registration, we may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, debt securities or any combination thereof, from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the specific terms of the offering. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. This prospectus may not be used to sell our securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. Each such prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We urge you to carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the headings *Where You Can Find Additional Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference* before you invest in our securities.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information in addition to or different from that contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading *Where You Can Find Additional Information*.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, throughout this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, the words *Plug Power*, *we*, *us*, *our*, *the company* similar references refer to Plug Power Inc. and its subsidiaries; and the term *securities* refers collectively to our common stock, preferred stock, warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, debt securities, or any combination of the foregoing securities.

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference includes trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC. Certain information in the registration statement has been omitted from this prospectus in accordance with the rules of the SEC. We are a public company and file proxy statements, annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the SEC. The registration statement, such reports and other information can be inspected and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Copies of such materials, including copies of all or any portion of the registration statement, can be obtained from the Public Reference Room of the SEC at prescribed rates. You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Such materials may also be accessed electronically by means of the SEC's home page on the Internet (www.sec.gov).

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed on March 31, 2014 and as amended by our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed on April 22, 2014;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 10, 2014, January 15, 2014 (excluding Item 7.01), March 6, 2014 and April 3, 2014;

the section entitled "Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered" contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") on June 24, 2009, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on May 6, 2011, Amendment No. 2 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on March 19, 2012, Amendment No. 3 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on March 26, 2012, Amendment No. 4 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on February 13, 2013 and Amendment No. 5 to Form 8-A filed by the Company with the SEC on May 20, 2013.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus all documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering, except any further report or other document or portion thereof that is not deemed filed under such provisions.

You may access our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to any of these reports, free of charge on the SEC's website. You may also access the documents incorporated by reference on our website at www.plugpower.com. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus.

Edgar Filing: PLUG POWER INC - Form 424B5

In addition, we will furnish without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (not including exhibits to such documents, unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus or into such documents). Such requests may be directed to Corporate Secretary, Plug Power Inc., 968 Albany-Shaker Road, Latham, New York, 12110, or call (518) 782-7700.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains statements that are not historical facts and are considered forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial position or state other forward-looking information. In some cases you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as anticipate, believe, could, continue, estimate, expect, intend, may, should, will, would, plan, of such words or other similar words or phrases. We believe that it is important to communicate our future expectations to our investors. However, there may be events in the future that we are not able to accurately predict or control and that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to unduly rely on forward-looking statements because they involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to: the risk that we continue to incur losses and might never achieve or maintain profitability; the risk that we will need to raise additional capital to fund our operations and such capital may not be available to us; our lack of extensive experience in manufacturing and marketing products may impact our ability to manufacture and market products on a profitable and large-scale commercial basis; the risk that unit orders will not ship, be installed and/or converted to revenue, in whole or in part; the risk that pending orders may not convert to purchase orders, in whole or in part; the risk that a loss of one or more of our major customers could result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition; the risk that a sale of a significant number of shares of stock could depress the market price of our common stock; the risk that negative publicity related to our business or stock could result in a negative impact on our stock value and profitability; the risk of potential losses related to any product liability claims and contract disputes; the risk of loss related to an inability to maintain an effective system of internal controls or key personnel; risks related to the use of flammable fuels in our products; the cost and timing of developing, marketing and selling our products and our ability to raise the necessary capital to fund such costs; the ability to achieve the forecasted gross margin on the sale of our products; the risk that our actual net cash used for operating expenses may exceed the projected net cash for operating expenses; the cost and availability of fuel and fueling infrastructures for our products; market acceptance of our products, including GenDrive systems; the volatility of our stock price; our ability to establish and maintain relationships with third parties with respect to product development, manufacturing, distribution and servicing and the supply of key product components; the cost and availability of components and parts for our products; our ability to develop commercially viable products; our ability to reduce product and manufacturing costs; our ability to successfully expand our product lines; our ability to successfully expand internationally; our ability to improve system reliability for our GenDrive systems; competitive factors, such as price competition and competition from other traditional and alternative energy companies; our ability to protect our intellectual property; the cost of complying with current and future federal, state and international governmental regulations; risks associated with potential future acquisitions; and other risks and uncertainties referenced under Risk Factors below and in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. Readers should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which the statements were made and are not guarantees of future performance. Except as may be required by applicable law, we do not undertake or intend to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus or the respective dates of documents incorporated by reference herein or therein that include forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before purchasing our securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as any updates thereto contained in subsequent filings with the SEC or any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations would likely suffer. In that event, the value of our securities could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. The risks and uncertainties we describe are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Plug Power a leading provider of alternative energy technology focused on the design, development, commercialization and manufacture of fuel cell systems for the industrial off-road (forklift or material handling) market.

We are focused on proton exchange membrane, or PEM, fuel cell and fuel processing technologies and fuel cell/battery hybrid technologies, from which multiple products are available. A fuel cell is an electrochemical device that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity and heat without combustion. Hydrogen is derived from hydrocarbon fuels such as liquid petroleum gas, or LPG, natural gas, propane, methanol, ethanol, gasoline or biofuels. Hydrogen can also be obtained from the electrolysis of water. Hydrogen can be purchased directly from industrial gas providers or can be produced on-site at consumer locations.

We sell and continue to develop fuel cell product solutions to replace lead-acid batteries in material handling vehicles and industrial trucks for some of North America's largest distribution and manufacturing businesses. We are focusing our efforts on material handling applications (forklifts) at multi-shift high volume manufacturing and high throughput distribution sites where our products and services provide a unique combination of productivity, flexibility and environmental benefits. Our current product line includes: GenDrive, a hydrogen fueled PEM fuel cell system providing power to material handling vehicles; GenKey, our turn-key solution offering complete simplicity to customers transitioning their material handling vehicles to fuel cell power; GenFuel, our hydrogen fueling delivery system; and GenCare, our ongoing maintenance program for both GenDrive fuel cells and GenFuel products.

We sell our products worldwide, with a primary focus on North America, through our direct product sales force, leveraging relationships with original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, and their dealer networks. We are party to a joint venture based in France with Axane, S.A. under the name Hypulsion, to develop and sell hydrogen fuel cell systems for the European material handling market. We sell to businesses, government agencies and commercial consumers.

We were organized in the State of Delaware on June 27, 1997.

Our principal executive offices are located at 968 Albany-Shaker Road, Latham, New York, 12110, and our telephone number is (518) 782-7700. Our corporate website address is www.plugpower.com. The information on our website is not deemed to be part of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. Our common stock trades on NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol PLUG.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

We may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt, or any combination thereof from time to time in one or more offerings under this prospectus at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of any offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities.

Common Stock. We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters to be voted on by stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Subject to the preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock, the holders of our outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities, subject to the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Preferred Stock. We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Our board of directors will determine the rights, preferences and privileges of the shares of each wholly unissued series, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, including dividend rights, conversion rights, preemptive rights, terms of redemption or repurchase, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of any series. Convertible preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or exchangeable for other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus, we will fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock of such series, as well as any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

Warrants. We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock and/or preferred stock in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock and/or preferred stock, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the particular series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. Forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue. Warrants may be issued under an applicable warrant agreement that we enter into with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of warrants being offered.

Table of Contents

Units. We may issue, in one or more series, units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock and/or preferred stock in any combination. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of units being offered, as well as the complete unit agreement that contains the terms of the units. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units.

We will evidence each series of units by unit certificates that we will issue. Units may be issued under a unit agreement that we enter into with a unit agent. We will indicate the name and address of the unit agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of units being offered.

Debt Securities. We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the particular series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indenture that contains the terms of the debt securities. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, the form of indenture and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of debt securities we are offering before the issuance of the related series of debt securities.

We may evidence each series of debt securities we will issue by an indenture that we enter into with a trustee. We will indicate the name and address of the trustee, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of debt securities being offered.

Table of Contents

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five most recently completed fiscal years and any required interim periods will be specified in a prospectus supplement or in a document that we file with the SEC and incorporate by reference in the future.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you, the net proceeds received by us from our sale of the securities described in this prospectus will be added to our general funds and will be used for our general corporate purposes. From time to time, we may engage in additional public or private financings of a character and amount which we may deem appropriate.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell our securities from time to time in one or more transactions. We may sell our securities to or through agents, underwriters, dealers, remarketing firms or other third parties or directly to one or more purchasers or through a combination of any of these methods. In some cases, we or dealers acting with us or on behalf of us may also purchase our securities and reoffer them to the public. We may also offer and sell, or agree to deliver, our securities pursuant to, or in connection with, any option agreement or other contractual arrangement.

Agents whom we designate may solicit offers to purchase our securities.

We will name any agent involved in offering or selling our securities, and disclose any commissions that we will pay to the agent, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, agents will act on a best efforts basis for the period of their appointment.

Agents may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act, of any of our securities that they offer or sell

We may use an underwriter or underwriters in the offer or sale of our securities.

If we use an underwriter or underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter or underwriters at the time that we reach an agreement for the sale of our securities.

We will include the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as the names of any other underwriters, and the terms of the transactions, including the compensation the underwriters and dealers will receive, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The underwriters will use the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the prospectus, to sell our securities.

We may use a dealer to sell our securities.

If we use a dealer, we will sell our securities to the dealer, as principal.

The dealer will then sell our securities to the public at varying prices that the dealer will determine at the time it sells our securities.

We will include the name of the dealer and the terms of the transactions with the dealer in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may solicit directly offers to purchase our securities, and we may directly sell our securities to institutional or other investors. We will describe the terms of direct sales in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may engage in at the market offerings into an existing trading market in accordance with Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act.

We will indemnify agents, underwriters and dealers against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters and dealers, or their affiliates, may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or our respective affiliates, in the ordinary course of business.

We may authorize agents and underwriters to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase our securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts.

If we use delayed delivery contracts, we will disclose that we are using them in the prospectus supplement and will tell you when we will demand payment and when delivery of our securities will be made under the delayed delivery contracts.

Table of Contents

These delayed delivery contracts will be subject only to the conditions that we describe in the prospectus supplement.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the commission that underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of our securities under delayed delivery contracts will be entitled to receive.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with a particular underwritten offering of our securities, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase offered securities unless specified conditions are satisfied, and if the underwriters do purchase any offered securities, they will purchase all offered securities.

In connection with underwritten offerings of the offered securities and in accordance with applicable law and industry practice, the underwriters in certain circumstances are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize the price of our securities. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of our securities. If the underwriters create a short position in our securities in connection with the offering (*i.e.*, if they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement), the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing our securities in the open market or as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if the securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might also have an effect on the price of our securities to the extent that it were to discourage resales of our securities. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may effect sales of securities in connection with forward sale, option or other types of agreements with third parties. Any distribution of securities pursuant to any forward sale agreement may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions that may take place through a stock exchange, including block trades or ordinary broker's transactions, or through broker-dealers acting either as principal or agent, or through privately-negotiated transactions, or through an underwritten public offering, or through a combination of any such methods of sale, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, prices relating to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated or fixed prices.

The specific terms of the lock-up provisions, if any, in respect of any given offering will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Goodwin Procter LLP, Boston, Massachusetts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Plug Power Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2013 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the Registration Statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

15,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

MORGAN STANLEY

BARCLAYS

Cowen and Company

FBR

April , 2014