

PROSPECT CAPITAL CORP

Form 497

March 16, 2011

Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 497(c)
Registration No. 333-170724**

\$750,000,000

PROSPECT CAPITAL CORPORATION

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, together or separately, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, collectively, the Securities, to provide us with additional capital. Securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be disclosed in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in our Securities.

We may offer shares of common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire shares of common stock, at a discount to net asset value per share in certain circumstances. Sales of common stock at prices below net asset value per share dilute the interests of existing stockholders, have the effect of reducing our net asset value per share and may reduce our market price per share.

Our Securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities, and will disclose any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of the prospectus and a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such Securities. Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol PSEC. As of March 11, 2011, the last reported sales price for our common stock was \$11.81.

Prospect Capital Corporation, or the Company, is a company that lends to and invests in middle market privately-held companies. Prospect Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation, has been organized as a closed-end investment company since April 13, 2004 and has filed an election to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act, and is a non-diversified investment company within the meaning of the 1940 Act.

Prospect Capital Management LLC, our investment adviser, manages our investments and Prospect Administration LLC, our administrator, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Investing in our Securities involves a heightened risk of total loss of investment and is subject to risks. Before buying any Securities, you should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in our Securities in Risk Factors beginning on page 9 of this prospectus.

This prospectus contains important information about us that you should know before investing in our Securities. Please read it before making an investment decision and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the

SEC. You may make inquiries or obtain this information free of charge by writing to Prospect Capital Corporation at 10 East 40th Street, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or by calling 212-448-0702. Our Internet address is <http://www.prospectstreet.com>. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our website to be a part of this prospectus. You may also obtain information about us from our website and the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>).

The SEC has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this Prospectus is March 16, 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	2
<u>Selected Condensed Financial Data</u>	8
<u>Risk Factors</u>	9
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	31
<u>Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting</u>	60
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	60
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	60
<u>Distributions</u>	62
<u>Senior Securities</u>	64
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>	65
<u>Business</u>	67
<u>Certain Relationships and Transactions</u>	89
<u>Control Persons and Principal Stockholders</u>	89
<u>Portfolio Companies</u>	91
<u>Determination of Net Asset Value</u>	96
<u>Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value</u>	97
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	101
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	102
<u>Description of Our Capital Stock</u>	109
<u>Description of Our Preferred Stock</u>	115
<u>Description of Our Debt Securities</u>	115
<u>Description of Our Warrants</u>	116
<u>Regulation</u>	117
<u>Custodian, Transfer and Dividend Paying Agent and Registrar</u>	122
<u>Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices</u>	123
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	123
<u>Legal Matters</u>	124
<u>Independent Registered accounting Firm</u>	125
<u>Available Information</u>	125
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC, using the shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time on a delayed basis, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The Securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer Securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the heading **Available Information** and the section under the heading **Risk Factors** before you make an investment decision.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary contains basic information about this offering. It does not contain all the information that may be important to an investor. For a more complete understanding of this offering, we encourage you to read this entire document and the documents to which we have referred.

Information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are statements about the future that may be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as may, will, expect, intend, plans, anticipate, estimate or continue or the negative thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements do not meet the safe harbor for forward-looking statements pursuant to Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. The matters described in Risk Factors and certain other factors noted throughout this prospectus and in any exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, constitute cautionary statements identifying important factors with respect to any such forward-looking statements, including certain risks and uncertainties, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. The Company reminds all investors that no forward-looking statement can be relied upon as an accurate or even mostly accurate forecast because humans cannot forecast the future.

The terms we, us, our, Prospect, and Company refer to Prospect Capital Corporation; Prospect Capital Management or the Investment Adviser refers to Prospect Capital Management LLC, our investment adviser; and Prospect Administration or the Administrator refers to Prospect Administration LLC, our administrator.

The Company

We are a financial services company that lends to and invests in middle market privately-held companies.

We were originally organized under the name Prospect Street Energy Corporation and we changed our name to Prospect Energy Corporation in June 2004. We changed our name again to Prospect Capital Corporation in May 2007 and at the same time terminated our policy of investing at least 80% of our net assets in energy companies. From our inception to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, we invested primarily in industries related to the industrial/energy economy. Since then, we have widened our strategy to focus on other sectors of the economy and continue to broaden our portfolio holdings.

We have been organized as a closed-end investment company since April 13, 2004 and have filed an election to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. We are a non-diversified company within the meaning of the 1940 Act. Our headquarters are located at 10 East 40th Street, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10016, and our telephone number is (212) 448-0702.

The Investment Adviser

Prospect Capital Management, an affiliate of the Company, manages our investment activities. Prospect Capital Management is an investment adviser that has been registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the Advisers Act, since March 31, 2004. Under an investment advisory and management agreement between us and Prospect Capital Management, or the Investment Advisory Agreement, we have agreed to pay Prospect Capital Management investment advisory fees, which will consist of an annual base management fee based on our gross

assets, which we define as total assets without deduction for any liabilities, as well as a two-part incentive fee based on our performance.

The Offering

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, together or separately, up to \$750,000,000 of our Securities, which we expect to use initially to maintain balance sheet liquidity, involving repayment of debt under our credit facility, investment in high quality short-term debt instruments or a combination thereof, and thereafter to make long-term investments in accordance with our investment objectives.

Table of Contents

Our Securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering will disclose the terms of that offering, including the name or names of any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities by us, the purchase price, and any fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters, or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our Securities.

We may sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of our common stock upon approval of our directors, including a majority of our independent directors, in certain circumstances. At our 2010 annual meeting, held on December 10, 2010, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue an unlimited number of shares of our common stock at any level of discount from net asset value per share for a period of twelve months, expiring on December 10, 2011. Similarly, our stockholders approved our ability to issue warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock at our 2008 annual meeting of stockholders for an unlimited time period and in accordance with the 1940 Act which provides that the conversion or exercise price of such warrants, options or rights may be less than net asset value per share at the date such securities are issued or at the date such securities are converted into or exercised for shares of our common stock. See Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement, if applicable. Sales of common stock at prices below net asset value per share dilute the interests of existing stockholders, have the effect of reducing our net asset value per share and may reduce our market price per share. We have no current intention of engaging in a rights offering, although we reserve the right to do so in the future.

Set forth below is additional information regarding the offering of our Securities:

Use of proceeds

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from selling Securities pursuant to this prospectus initially to maintain balance sheet liquidity, involving repayment of debt under our credit facility, investments in high quality short-term debt instruments or a combination thereof, and thereafter to make long-term investments in accordance with our investment objective. See Use of Proceeds.

Distributions

In June 2010, our Board of Directors approved a change in dividend policy from quarterly distributions to monthly distributions. Since that time, we have paid monthly distributions to the holders of our common stock and generally intend to continue to do so. The amount of the monthly distributions is determined by our Board of Directors and is based on our estimate of our investment company taxable income and net short-term capital gains. Certain amounts of the monthly distributions may from time to time be paid out of our capital rather than from earnings for the month as a result of our deliberate planning or accounting reclassifications. Distributions in excess of our current or accumulated earnings or profits constitute a return of capital and will reduce the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such stockholder's common stock. After the adjusted basis is reduced to zero, these distributions will constitute capital gains to such stockholders. Certain additional amounts may be deemed as distributed to stockholders for income tax purposes. Other types of Securities will likely pay distributions in accordance with their terms. See Price Range of Common Stock, Distributions and Material U.S.

Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Taxation

We have qualified and elected to be treated for U.S. Federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code. As a RIC, we generally do not have to pay corporate-level U.S. Federal income

Table of Contents

taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. To maintain our qualification as a RIC and obtain RIC tax treatment, we must maintain specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. See [Distributions](#) and [Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations](#).

Dividend reinvestment plan

We have a dividend reinvestment plan for our stockholders. This is an [opt out](#) dividend reinvestment plan. As a result, when we declare a dividend, the dividends are automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder specifically [opts out](#) of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends. Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of stock are subject to the same U.S. Federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#).

The NASDAQ Global Select Market Symbol

PSEC

Anti-takeover provisions

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutory and regulatory requirements, contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for us. These anti-takeover provisions may inhibit a change in control in circumstances that could give the holders of our common stock the opportunity to realize a premium over the market price of our common stock. See [Description Of Our Capital Stock](#).

Management arrangements

Prospect Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Prospect Administration serves as our administrator. For a description of Prospect Capital Management, Prospect Administration and our contractual arrangements with these companies, see [Business Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement](#), and [Business Management Services Administration Agreement](#).

Risk factors

Investment in our Securities involves certain risks relating to our structure and investment objective that should be considered by prospective purchasers of our Securities. In addition, while we continue to broaden our portfolio, investment in our Securities involves certain risks relating to investing in the energy sector, including, but not limited to, risks associated with commodity pricing, regulation, production, demand, depletion and expiration, weather, and valuation. We are also subject to numerous investment and other risks not associated with the energy sector. We have a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our business. In addition, as a business development company, our portfolio primarily includes securities issued by privately-held companies. These investments generally involve a high degree of business and financial risk, and are less liquid than public securities. We are required to mark the carrying value of our investments to fair value on a quarterly

basis, and economic events, market conditions and events affecting individual portfolio companies can result in quarter-to-quarter mark-downs and mark-ups of the value of individual investments that collectively can materially affect our net asset value, or NAV. Also, our determinations

Table of Contents

of fair value of privately-held securities may differ materially from the values that would exist if there was a ready market for these investments. A large number of entities compete for the same kind of investment opportunities as we do. Moreover, our business requires a substantial amount of capital to operate and to grow and we seek additional capital from external sources. In addition, the failure to qualify as a RIC eligible for pass-through tax treatment under the Code on income distributed to stockholders could have a materially adverse effect on the total return, if any, obtainable from an investment in our Securities. See Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our Securities.

Plan of distribution

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. Securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The supplement to this prospectus relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee and commission or discount arrangement or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. We may not sell Securities pursuant to this prospectus without delivering a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such Securities. For more information, see Plan of Distribution.

Fees and Expenses

The following tables are intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in this offering will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. In these tables, we assume that we have borrowed \$285 million under our credit facility, which is the maximum amount available under the credit facility. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you or us or that we will pay fees or expenses, the Company will pay such fees and expenses out of our net assets and, consequently, you will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as an investor in the Company. However, you will not be required to deliver any money or otherwise bear personal liability or responsibility for such fees or expenses.

Stockholder transaction expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)(1)	5.00%
Offering expenses borne by us (as a percentage of offering price)(2)	0.50%
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses(3)	None
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price)(4)	5.50%
Annual expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock)(4):	
Management Fees(5)	3.35%
	2.22%

Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement (20% of realized capital gains and 20% of pre-incentive fee net investment income)(6)	
Interest payments on the credit facility	1.34%
Interest payments on the 2010 Notes	1.04%(7)
Interest payments on the 2011 Notes	0.91%(8)
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.01%(9)
Other expenses	1.51%(10)
Total annual expenses	10.38%(6)(10)

Table of Contents**Example**

The following table demonstrates the projected dollar amount of cumulative expenses we would pay out of net assets and that you would indirectly bear over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed we would have borrowed all \$285 million available under our line of credit, that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above and that we would pay the costs shown in the table above.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 123.51	\$ 255.94	\$ 382.47	\$ 674.73

While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The income incentive fee under our Investment Advisory Agreement with Prospect Capital Management is unlikely to be material assuming a 5% annual return and is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our distributions to our common stockholders and our expenses would likely be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and other distributions at NAV, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan will receive a number of shares of our common stock determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the distribution. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#) for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses. Actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

- (1) In the event that the Securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated applicable sales load.
- (2) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated amount of offering expenses, the offering price and the estimated offering expenses borne by us as a percentage of the offering price.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in [other expenses](#).
- (4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.
- (5) Our base management fee is 2% of our gross assets (which include any amount borrowed, i.e., total assets without deduction for any liabilities). Although no plans are in place to borrow the full amount under our line of credit, assuming that we borrowed \$285 million, the 2% management fee of gross assets equals approximately 3.35% of net assets. See [Business Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement](#) and footnote 6 below.
- (6) Based on an annualized level of incentive fee paid during our second fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2010, all of which consisted of an income incentive fee. For a more detailed discussion of the calculation of the two-part incentive fee, see [Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement](#) in this prospectus.

- (7) On December 21, 2010, the Company issued \$150 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.25% Convertible Senior Notes due 2015, which we refer to as the 2010 Notes. See Business General and Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business for more detail on the 2010 Notes.
- (8) On February 18, 2011, the Company issued \$150 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.5% Convertible Senior Notes due 2016, which we refer to as the 2011 Notes. See Business General and Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business for more detail on the 2011 Notes. The 2011 Notes and the 2010 Notes are referred to collectively as the Notes.
- (9) The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying investment companies in which the Company invests. This amount includes the fees and expenses of investment companies in which the Company is invested in as of December 31, 2010. When applicable, fees and expenses are based on historic fees and expenses for the investment companies and for those investment companies with little or no operating history,

Table of Contents

fees and expenses are based on expected fees and expenses stated in the investment companies prospectus or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for certain investment companies may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the investment companies, which may fluctuate over time. The amount of the Company's average net assets used in calculating this percentage was based on net assets of approximately \$903 million as of December 31, 2010.

- (10) Other expenses are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year. The amount shown above represents annualized expenses during our three months ended December 31, 2010 representing all of our estimated recurring operating expenses (except fees and expenses reported in other items of this table) that are deducted from our operating income and reflected as expenses in our Statement of Operations. The estimate of our overhead expenses, including payments under an administration agreement with Prospect Administration, or the Administration Agreement, based on our projected allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Prospect Administration in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement. Other expenses does not include non-recurring expenses. See Business Management Services Administration Agreement.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONDENSED FINANCIAL DATA**

You should read the condensed consolidated financial information below with the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in this offering memorandum. Financial information below for the years ended June 30, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 has been derived from the financial statements that were audited by our independent registered public accounting firm. The selected consolidated financial data at and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 have been derived from unaudited financial data, but in the opinion of our management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results for such interim periods. Interim results at and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending June 30, 2011. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior period financial information to conform to the current period presentation. See

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations starting on page 31 for more information.

For the Three Months Ended December 31,		For the Six Months Ended December 31,		For the Year Ended June 30,			
2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2008	2007
(In thousands except data relating to shares, per share and number of portfolio companies)							
27,362	\$ 18,539	\$ 56,283	\$ 33,374	\$ 86,518	\$ 62,926	\$ 59,033	\$
3,371	4,170	5,565	10,388	15,366	22,793	12,033	
2,567	9,092	6,664	9,556	12,675	14,762	8,336	
33,300	31,801	68,512	53,318	114,559	100,481	79,402	
2,261	1,995	4,522	3,369	(8,382)	(6,161)	(6,318)	
9,672	7,992	19,197	14,281	(30,727)	(26,705)	(20,199)	
2,287	2,556	4,718	4,092	(8,260)	(8,452)	(7,772)	
14,220	12,543	28,437	21,742	(47,369)	(41,318)	(34,289)	
19,080	19,258	40,075	31,576	67,190	59,163	45,113	
12,860	(33,778)	17,445	(52,474)	(47,565)	(24,059)	(17,522)	
31,940	\$ (14,520)	\$ 57,520	\$ (20,898)	\$ 19,625	\$ 35,104	\$ 27,591	\$

0.38	\$	(0.25)	\$	0.73	\$	(0.39)	\$	0.33	\$	1.11	\$	1.17	\$
0.30	\$	0.41	\$	0.60	\$	0.82	\$	(1.33)	\$	(1.62)	\$	(1.59)	\$
,091,152		57,613,489		79,134,173		53,709,197		59,429,222		31,559,905		23,626,642	15,7
918,221	\$	648,135	\$	918,221	\$	648,135	\$	748,483	\$	547,168	\$	497,530	\$
157,874		40,945		157,874		40,945		84,212		119,857		44,248	3
,076,095		689,080		1,076,095		689,080		832,695		667,025		541,778	3
		10,000		10,000		100,300		124,800		91,167			
150,000				150,000									
10,104		7,997		10,104		7,997		9,300		6,713		6,641	
12,801		31,273		12,801		31,273		11,671		2,916		14,347	
172,905		49,270		172,905		49,270		121,271		134,429		112,155	
903,190		639,810	\$	903,190	\$	639,810	\$	711,424	\$	532,596	\$	429,623	\$
58		55		58		55		58		30		29(2)	
140,933	\$	210,438(4)	\$	281,884	\$	216,504(4)	\$	364,788(4)	\$	98,305	\$	311,947	\$
62,915	\$	45,494	\$	131,063	\$	69,735	\$	136,221	\$	27,007	\$	127,212	\$
14.1%		15.6%		14.1%		15.6%		14.2%		13.7%		15.5%	

(1) Per share data is based on average weighted shares for the period.

(2) Includes a net profits interest in Charlevoix Energy Trading LLC, or Charlevoix, remaining after loan was paid.

(3) Includes dividends from certain equity investments.

(4) Includes \$207.1 million of acquired portfolio investments from Patriot Acquisition.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our Securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, before you decide whether to make an investment in our Securities. The risks set forth below are not the only risks we face. If any of the adverse events or conditions described below occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, our NAV, and the trading price of our common stock could decline, or the value of our preferred stock, debt securities, and warrants, if any are outstanding, may decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Relating To Our Business

We may suffer credit losses.

Investment in small and middle-market companies is highly speculative and involves a high degree of risk of credit loss. These risks are likely to increase during volatile economic periods, such as the US and many other economies have recently been experiencing. See Risks Related to Our Investments.

Our financial condition and results of operations will depend on our ability to manage our future growth effectively.

Prospect Capital Management has been registered as an investment adviser since March 31, 2004, and we have been organized as a closed-end investment company since April 13, 2004. Our ability to achieve our investment objective depends on our ability to grow, which depends, in turn, on our Investment Adviser's ability to continue to identify, analyze, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria. Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of our Investment Adviser's structuring of investments, its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us and our access to financing on acceptable terms. As we continue to grow, Prospect Capital Management will need to continue to hire, train, supervise and manage new employees. Failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are dependent upon Prospect Capital Management's key management personnel for our future success.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of the senior management of our Investment Adviser. We also depend, to a significant extent, on our Investment Adviser's access to the investment professionals and the information and deal flow generated by these investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. The senior management team of the Investment Adviser evaluates, negotiates, structures, closes, monitors and services our investments. Our success depends to a significant extent on the continued service of the senior management team, particularly John F. Barry III and M. Grier Eliasek. The departure of any of the senior management team could have a materially adverse effect on our ability to achieve our investment objective. In addition, we can offer no assurance that Prospect Capital Management will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to its investment professionals or its information and deal flow.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A large number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we make in target companies. We compete with other business development companies, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks and

commercial financing companies. Additionally, because competition for investment opportunities generally has increased among alternative investment vehicles, such as hedge funds, those entities have begun to invest in areas they have not traditionally invested in, including investments in middle-market companies. As a result of these new entrants, competition for investment opportunities at middle-market companies has intensified, a trend we expect to continue.

Table of Contents

Many of our existing and potential competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more or fuller relationships with borrowers and sponsors than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a business development company. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of existing and increasing competition and our competitors ability to provide a total package solution, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we can offer no assurance that we will be able to identify and make investments that are consistent with our investment objective.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates that we offer, and we believe that some of our competitors make loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors pricing, terms and structure. If we match our competitors pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit loss.

Most of our portfolio investments are recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors and, as a result, there is uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.

A large percentage of our portfolio investments consist of securities of privately held companies. Hence, market quotations are generally not readily available for determining the fair values of such investments. The determination of fair value, and thus the amount of unrealized losses we may incur in any year, is to a degree subjective, and the Investment Adviser has a conflict of interest in making the determination. We value these securities quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors based on input from our Investment Adviser, a third party independent valuation firm and our audit committee. Our Board of Directors utilizes the services of an independent valuation firm to aid it in determining the fair value of any securities. The types of factors that may be considered in determining the fair values of our investments include the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company s ability to make payments and its earnings, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded companies, discounted cash flow, current market interest rates and other relevant factors. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private securities and private companies, are inherently uncertain, the valuations may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time due to changes in current market conditions. The determinations of fair value by our Board of Directors may differ materially from the values that would have been used if an active market and market quotations existed for these investments. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if the determinations regarding the fair value of our investments were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon the disposal of such securities.

In addition, decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments are recorded as unrealized depreciation. Unprecedented declines in prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets experienced during the recent financial crises resulted in significant net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio in the past. The effect of all of these factors on our portfolio reduced our NAV by increasing net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial realized losses and may continue to suffer additional unrealized losses in future periods, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Senior securities, including debt, expose us to additional risks, including the typical risks associated with leverage and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We currently use our revolving credit facility to leverage our portfolio and we expect in the future to borrow from and issue senior debt securities to banks and other lenders and may securitize certain of our portfolio investments. We also

have the Notes outstanding, which are a form of leverage and are senior in payment to our common stock.

Table of Contents

With certain limited exceptions, as a business development company, or BDC, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our Investment Advisers and our Board of Directors' assessment of market conditions and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. There is no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful. Leverage involves risks and special considerations for stockholders, including the following, any of which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and result of operations:

A likelihood of greater volatility in the net asset value and market price of our common stock;

Diminished operating flexibility as a result of asset coverage or investment portfolio composition requirements required by lenders or investors that are more stringent than those imposed by the 1940 Act;

The possibility that investments will have to be liquidated at less than full value or at inopportune times to comply with debt covenants or to pay interest or dividends on the leverage;

Increased operating expenses due to the cost of leverage, including issuance and servicing costs;

Convertible or exchangeable securities issued in the future may have rights, preferences and privileges more favorable than those of our common stock;

Subordination to lenders' superior claims on our assets as a result of which lenders will be able to receive proceeds available in the case of our liquidation before any proceeds will be distributed to our stockholders;

Making it more difficult for us to meet our payment and other obligations under the Notes and our other outstanding debt;

The occurrence of an event of default if we fail to comply with the financial and/or other restrictive covenants contained in our debt agreements, including the credit agreement and each indenture governing the Notes, which event of default could result in all or some of our debt becoming immediately due and payable;

Reduced availability of our cash flow to fund investments, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes, and limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for these purposes;

The risk of increased sensitivity to interest rate increases on our indebtedness with variable interest rates, including borrowings under our amended senior credit facility; and

Reduced flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, and increasing our vulnerability to, changes in our business, the industry in which we operate and the general economy.

For example, the amount we may borrow under our revolving credit facility is determined, in part, by the fair value of our investments. If the fair value of our investments declines, we may be forced to sell investments at a loss to maintain compliance with our borrowing limits. Other debt facilities we may enter into in the future may contain similar provisions. Any such forced sales would reduce our NAV and also make it difficult for the net asset value to recover. Our Investment Adviser and our Board of Directors in their best judgment nevertheless may determine to use leverage if they expect that the benefits to our stockholders of maintaining the leveraged position will outweigh the risks.

In addition, our ability to meet our payment and other obligations of the Notes and our credit facility depends on our ability to generate significant cash flow in the future. This, to some extent, is subject to general economic, financial,

competitive, legislative and regulatory factors as well as other factors that are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that our business will generate cash flow from operations, or that future borrowings will be available to us under our existing credit facility or otherwise, in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt and to fund other liquidity needs. If we are not able to generate sufficient cash flow to service our debt obligations, we may need to refinance or restructure our debt, including the Notes, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments, or seek to raise additional capital. If we are unable to implement one or more of these alternatives, we may not be able to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt.

Illustration. The following table illustrates the effect of leverage on returns from an investment in our common stock assuming various annual returns, net of interest expense. The calculations in the table below are

Table of Contents

hypothetical and actual returns may be higher or lower than those appearing below. The calculation assumes (i) \$1.2 billion in total assets, (ii) an average cost of funds of 5.88%, (iii) \$300 million in debt outstanding and (iv) \$900 million of shareholders' equity.

Assumed Return on Our Portfolio (net of expenses)	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%
Corresponding Return to Stockholder	(11.38)%	(4.71)%	1.96%	8.63%	15.29%

The assumed portfolio return is required by regulation of the SEC and is not a prediction of, and does not represent, our projected or actual performance. Actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table.

The Notes present other risks to holders of our common stock, including the possibility that the Notes could discourage an acquisition of the Company by a third party and accounting uncertainty.

Certain provisions of the Notes could make it more difficult or more expensive for a third party to acquire us. Upon the occurrence of certain transactions constituting a fundamental change, holders of the Notes will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase all of their Notes or any portion of the principal amount of such Notes in integral multiples of \$1,000. We may also be required to increase the conversion rate or provide for conversion into the acquirer's capital stock in the event of certain fundamental changes. These provisions could discourage an acquisition of us by a third party.

The accounting for convertible debt securities is subject to frequent scrutiny by the accounting regulatory bodies and is subject to change. We cannot predict if or when any such change could be made and any such change could have an adverse impact on our reported or future financial results. Any such impacts could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We fund a portion of our investments with borrowed money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing in us.

Borrowings and other types of financing, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. Our lenders have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are superior to the claims of our common stockholders or any preferred stockholders. If the value of our assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value to increase more sharply than it would have had we not leveraged. Conversely, if the value of our assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any increase in our income in excess of consolidated interest payable on the borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would without the leverage, while any decrease in our income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not borrowed. Such a decline could negatively affect our ability to make common stock dividend payments. Leverage is generally considered a speculative investment technique.

We may in the future determine to fund a portion of our investments with preferred stock, which would magnify the potential for gain or loss and the risks of investing in us in the same way as our borrowings.

Preferred stock, which is another form of leverage, has the same risks to our common stockholders as borrowings because the dividends on any preferred stock we issue must be cumulative. Payment of such dividends and repayment of the liquidation preference of such preferred stock must take preference over any dividends or other payments to our common stockholders, and preferred stockholders are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference.

In addition to regulatory restrictions that restrict our ability to raise capital, our credit facility contains various covenants which, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the facility, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations.

The agreement governing our credit facility requires us to comply with certain financial and operational covenants. These covenants include:

restrictions on the level of indebtedness that we are permitted to incur in relation to the value of our assets;

Table of Contents

restrictions on our ability to incur liens; and

maintenance of a minimum level of stockholders' equity.

As of December 31, 2010, we were in compliance with these covenants. However, our continued compliance with these covenants depends on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. Accordingly, there are no assurances that we will continue to comply with the covenants in our credit facility. Failure to comply with these covenants would result in a default under this facility which, if we were unable to obtain a waiver from the lenders thereunder, could result in an acceleration of repayments under the facility and thereby have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Failure to extend our existing credit facility, the revolving period of which is currently scheduled to expire on June 13, 2012, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position and our ability to pay expenses and make distributions.

The revolving period for our credit facility with a syndicate of lenders is currently scheduled to terminate on June 13, 2012. If the credit facility is not renewed or extended by the participant banks by June 13, 2012, we will not be able to make further borrowings under the facility after such date and the outstanding principal balance on that date will be due and payable on June 13, 2013. At March 11, 2011 we had no outstanding borrowings under our credit facility. Interest on borrowings under the credit facility is one-month LIBOR plus 325 basis points, subject to a minimum LIBOR floor of 100 basis points. Additionally, the lenders charge a fee on the unused portion of the credit facility equal to either 75 basis points if at least half of the credit facility is used or 100 basis points otherwise. If we are unable to extend our facility or find a new source of borrowing on acceptable terms, we will be required to pay down the amounts outstanding under the facility during the one-year term-out period through one or more of the following: (1) principal collections on our securities pledged under the facility, (2) at our option, interest collections on our securities pledged under the facility and cash collections on our securities not pledged under the facility, or (3) possible liquidation of some or all of our loans and other assets, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position and may force us to decrease or stop paying certain expenses and making distributions until the facility is repaid. In addition, our stock price could decline significantly, we would be restricted in our ability to acquire new investments and, in connection with our year-end audit, our independent registered accounting firm could raise an issue as to our ability to continue as a going concern.

Changes in interest rates may affect our cost of capital and net investment income.

A significant portion of the debt investments we make bears interest at fixed rates and the value of these investments could be negatively affected by increases in market interest rates. In addition, as the interest rate on our revolving credit facility is at a variable rate based on an index, an increase in interest rates would make it more expensive to use debt to finance our investments. As a result, a significant increase in market interest rates could both reduce the value of our portfolio investments and increase our cost of capital, which would reduce our net investment income.

We need to raise additional capital to grow because we must distribute most of our income.

We need additional capital to fund growth in our investments. A reduction in the availability of new capital could limit our ability to grow. We must distribute at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, to our shareholders to maintain our RIC status. As a result, such earnings are not available to fund investment originations. We have sought additional capital by borrowing from financial institutions and may issue debt securities or additional equity securities. If we fail to obtain funds from such sources or from other sources to fund our investments, we could be limited in our ability to grow,

which may have an adverse effect on the value of our common stock. In addition, as a business development company, we are generally required to maintain a ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities of at least 200%, which may restrict our ability to borrow in certain circumstances.

Table of Contents

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

We generally make investments in private companies. Substantially all of these securities are subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or are otherwise less liquid than publicly traded securities. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if the need arises. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have previously recorded our investments. In addition, we may face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate an investment in a portfolio company to the extent that we or our Investment Adviser has material non-public information regarding such portfolio company.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to a number of factors, including the interest or dividend rates payable on the debt or equity securities we hold, the default rate on debt securities, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets, the seasonality of the energy industry, weather patterns, changes in energy prices and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

Our most recent NAV was calculated as of December 31, 2010 and our NAV when calculated as of March 31, 2011 may be higher or lower.

Our most recently estimated NAV per share is \$10.05 on an as adjusted basis solely to give effect to our distributions with record dates of January 31, 2011 and February 28, 2011 and our issuance of common stock on January 31, 2011 and February 28, 2011 in connection with our dividend reinvestment plan versus \$10.25 determined by us as of December 31, 2010. NAV per share as of March 31, 2011, may be higher or lower than \$10.05 based on potential changes in valuations and earnings for the quarter then ended. Our Board of Directors has not yet determined the fair value of portfolio investments at any date subsequent to December 31, 2010. Our Board of Directors determines the fair value of our portfolio investments on a quarterly basis in connection with the preparation of quarterly financial statements and based on input from an independent valuation firm, our Investment Adviser and the audit committee of our Board of Directors.

Potential conflicts of interest could impact our investment returns.

Our executive officers and directors, and the executive officers of our Investment Adviser, Prospect Capital Management, may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or related lines of business as we do or of investment funds managed by our affiliates. Accordingly, they may have obligations to investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which might not be in our best interests or those of our stockholders. Nevertheless, it is possible that new investment opportunities that meet our investment objective may come to the attention of one of these entities in connection with another investment advisory client or program, and, if so, such opportunity might not be offered, or otherwise made available, to us. However, as an investment adviser, Prospect Capital Management has a fiduciary obligation to act in the best interests of its clients, including us. To that end, if Prospect Capital Management or its affiliates manage any additional investment vehicles or client accounts in the future, Prospect Capital Management will endeavor to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner over time so as not to discriminate unfairly against any client. If Prospect Capital Management chooses to establish another investment fund in the future, when the investment professionals of Prospect Capital Management identify an investment, they will have to choose which investment fund should make the investment.

In the course of our investing activities, under the Investment Advisory Agreement we pay base management and incentive fees to Prospect Capital Management, and reimburse Prospect Capital Management for certain expenses it incurs. As a result of the Investment Advisory Agreement, there may be times when the senior management team of Prospect Capital Management has interests that differ from those of our stockholders, giving rise to a conflict.

Table of Contents

Prospect Capital Management receives a quarterly income incentive fee based, in part, on our pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, for the immediately preceding calendar quarter. This income incentive fee is subject to a fixed quarterly hurdle rate before providing an income incentive fee return to the Investment Adviser. This fixed hurdle rate was determined when then current interest rates were relatively low on a historical basis. Thus, if interest rates rise, it would become easier for our investment income to exceed the hurdle rate and, as a result, more likely that our Investment Adviser will receive an income incentive fee than if interest rates on our investments remained constant or decreased. Subject to the receipt of any requisite stockholder approval under the 1940 Act, our Board of Directors may adjust the hurdle rate by amending the Investment Advisory Agreement.

The income incentive fee payable by us is computed and paid on income that may include interest that has been accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that has a deferred interest feature, it is possible that interest accrued under such loan that has previously been included in the calculation of the income incentive fee will become uncollectible. If this happens, our Investment Adviser is not required to reimburse us for any such income incentive fee payments. If we do not have sufficient liquid assets to pay this incentive fee or distributions to stockholders on such accrued income, we may be required to liquidate assets in order to do so. This fee structure could give rise to a conflict of interest for our Investment Adviser to the extent that it may encourage the Investment Adviser to favor debt financings that provide for deferred interest, rather than current cash payments of interest.

We have entered into a royalty-free license agreement with Prospect Capital Management. Under this agreement, Prospect Capital Management agrees to grant us a non-exclusive license to use the name Prospect Capital. Under the license agreement, we have the right to use the Prospect Capital name for so long as Prospect Capital Management or one of its affiliates remains our Investment Adviser. In addition, we rent office space from Prospect Administration, an affiliate of Prospect Capital Management, and pay Prospect Administration our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Prospect Administration in performing its obligations as Administrator under the Administration Agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the costs of our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and their respective staffs. This may create conflicts of interest that our Board of Directors monitors.

Our incentive fee could induce Prospect Capital Management to make speculative investments.

The incentive fee payable by us to Prospect Capital Management may create an incentive for our Investment Adviser to make investments on our behalf that are more speculative or involve more risk than would be the case in the absence of such compensation arrangement. The way in which the incentive fee payable is determined (calculated as a percentage of the return on invested capital) may encourage the Investment Adviser to use leverage to increase the return on our investments. Increased use of leverage and this increased risk of replacement of that leverage at maturity, would increase the likelihood of default, which would disfavor holders of our common stock. Similarly, because the Investment Adviser will receive an incentive fee based, in part, upon net capital gains realized on our investments, the Investment Adviser may invest more than would otherwise be appropriate in companies whose securities are likely to yield capital gains, as compared to income producing securities. Such a practice could result in our investing in more speculative securities than would otherwise be the case, which could result in higher investment losses, particularly during economic downturns.

The incentive fee payable by us to Prospect Capital Management could create an incentive for our Investment Adviser to invest on our behalf in instruments, such as zero coupon bonds, that have a deferred interest feature. Under these investments, we would accrue interest income over the life of the investment but would not receive payments in cash on the investment until the end of the term. Our net investment income used to calculate the income incentive fee, however, includes accrued interest. For example, accrued interest, if any, on our investments in zero coupon bonds will be included in the calculation of our incentive fee, even though we will not receive any cash interest payments in

respect of payment on the bond until its maturity date. Thus, a portion of this incentive fee would be based on income that we may not have yet received in cash in the event of default may never receive.

Table of Contents

We may be obligated to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

Our investment adviser is entitled to incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter based, in part, on our pre-incentive fee net investment income if any, for the immediately preceding calendar quarter above a performance threshold for that quarter. Accordingly, since the performance threshold is based on a percentage of our net asset value, decreases in our net asset value make it easier to achieve the performance threshold. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income for incentive compensation purposes excludes realized and unrealized capital losses or depreciation that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses or depreciation result in a net loss on our statement of operations for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay Prospect Capital Management incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business.

We and our portfolio companies are subject to regulation by laws at the local, state and U.S. Federal levels. These laws and regulations, as well as their interpretation, may be changed from time to time. Accordingly, changes in these laws or regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business. For additional information regarding the regulations we are subject to, see Regulation.

Capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption and instability. These market conditions have materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States and abroad, which have had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

The U.S. and foreign capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption as evidenced by a lack of liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of certain major financial institutions. Despite actions of the United States federal government and foreign governments, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. While these conditions appear to be improving, they could continue for a prolonged period of time or worsen in the future. In addition, while these conditions persist, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital in order to grow. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because subject to some limited exceptions, as a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our annual meeting of stockholders held on December 10, 2010, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our Board of Directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock at a price below its then current net asset value per share for a twelve month period expiring on the anniversary of the date of stockholder approval. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness or issue other senior securities (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness or issue other senior securities. The debt capital that will be available, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions in the future. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Moreover, recent market conditions have made, and may in the future make, it difficult to extend the maturity of or refinance our existing indebtedness and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if required. As a result, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments.

Given the recent extreme volatility and dislocation in the capital markets, many BDCs have faced, and may in the future face, a challenging environment in which to raise capital. Recent significant changes in the capital markets affecting our ability to raise capital have affected the pace of our investment activity. In addition, significant changes in the capital markets, including the recent extreme volatility and disruption, has had, and may in the future have, a negative effect on the valuations of our investments and on the potential for liquidity events involving our

Table of Contents

investments. An inability to raise capital, and any required sale of our investments for liquidity purposes, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Risks Relating To Our Operation As A Business Development Company

A failure on our part to maintain our status as a business development company would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.

If we do not continue to qualify as a business development company, we might be regulated as a registered closed-end investment company under the 1940 Act; our failure to qualify as a BDC would make us subject to additional regulatory requirements, which may significantly decrease our operating flexibility by limiting our ability to employ leverage and issue common stock.

If we fail to qualify as a RIC, we will have to pay corporate-level taxes on our income, and our income available for distribution would be reduced.

To maintain our qualification for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, and obtain RIC tax treatment, we must meet certain source of income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements.

The source of income requirement is satisfied if we derive at least 90% of our annual gross income from interest, dividends, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or options thereon or foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to our business of investing in such securities or currencies, and net income from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships, as defined in the Code.

The annual distribution requirement for a RIC is satisfied if we distribute at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, to our stockholders on an annual basis. Because we use debt financing, we are subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the 1940 Act and financial covenants that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making distributions necessary to qualify for RIC tax treatment. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify for RIC tax treatment and, thus, may be subject to corporate-level income tax.

To maintain our qualification as a RIC, we must also meet certain asset diversification requirements at the end of each calendar quarter. Failure to meet these tests may result in our having to dispose of certain investments quickly in order to prevent the loss of RIC status. Because most of our investments are in private companies, any such dispositions could be made at disadvantageous prices and may result in substantial losses.

If we fail to qualify as a RIC for any reason or become subject to corporate income tax, the resulting corporate taxes would substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution, and the actual amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a materially adverse effect on us and our stockholders. For additional information regarding asset coverage ratio and RIC requirements, see Regulation Senior Securities and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations .

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as original issue discount or payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to the loan balance and due at the end of the loan term. Such original issue discount, which could be significant relative to our

overall investment activities, or increases in loan balances as a result of payment-in-kind arrangements, are included in our taxable income before we receive any corresponding cash payments. We also may be required to include in taxable income certain other amounts that we do not receive in cash. While we focus primarily on investments that will generate a current cash return, our investment portfolio currently includes, and we may continue to invest in, securities that do not pay some or all of their return in periodic current cash distributions.

Table of Contents

The income incentive fee payable by us is computed and paid on income that may include interest that has been accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the income incentive fee will become uncollectible.

Since in some cases we may recognize taxable income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty distributing at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, as required to maintain RIC tax treatment. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our investments at times we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. If we are not able to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify for RIC treatment and thus become subject to corporate-level income tax. See Regulation Senior Securities and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations .

Regulations governing our operation as a business development company affect our ability to raise, and the way in which we raise, additional capital.

We have incurred indebtedness under our revolving credit facility and through the issuance of the Notes and, in the future, may issue preferred stock and/or borrow additional money from banks or other financial institutions, which we refer to collectively as senior securities, up to the maximum amount permitted by the 1940 Act. Under the provisions of the 1940 Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which would prohibit us from paying dividends and could prohibit us from qualifying as a RIC. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments or sell additional shares of common stock at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous in order to repay a portion of our indebtedness. In addition, issuance of additional common stock could dilute the percentage ownership of our current stockholders in us.

As a BDC regulated under provisions of the 1940 Act, we are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below the current net asset value per share. If our common stock trades at a discount to net asset value, this restriction could adversely affect our ability to raise capital. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of our common stock in certain circumstances, including if (i)(1) the holders of a majority of our shares (or, if less, at least 67% of a quorum consisting of a majority of our shares) and a similar majority of the holders of our shares who are not affiliated persons of us approve the sale of our common stock at a price that is less than the current net asset value, and (2) a majority of our Directors who have no financial interest in the transaction and a majority of our independent Directors (a) determine that such sale is in our and our stockholders' best interests and (b) in consultation with any underwriter or underwriters of the offering, make a good faith determination as of a time either immediately prior to the first solicitation by us or on our behalf of firm commitments to purchase such shares, or immediately prior to the issuance of such shares, that the price at which such shares are to be sold is not less than a price which closely approximates the market value of such shares, less any distributing commission or discount or if (ii) a majority of the number of the beneficial holders of our common stock entitled to vote at our annual meeting, without regard to whether a majority of such shares are voted in favor of the proposal, approve the sale of our common stock at a price that is less than the current net asset value per share. At our 2010 annual meeting of stockholders held on December 10, 2010, we obtained the first method of approval from our shareholders to sell an unlimited number of shares of common stock at any discount to net asset value per share for a period of twelve months, expiring on December 10, 2011. We will not sell shares of common stock under a prospectus supplement to the registration statement (the current registration statement) if the cumulative dilution to our NAV per share from offerings under the current registration statement exceeds 15%. See If we sell common stock at a discount to our net asset value per share, stockholders who do not participate in such sale will experience immediate dilution in an amount that may be material discussed below.

To generate cash for funding new investments, we pledged a substantial portion of our portfolio investments under our revolving credit facility. These assets are not available to secure other sources of funding or for

Table of Contents

securitization. Our ability to obtain additional secured or unsecured financing on attractive terms in the future is uncertain.

Alternatively, we may securitize our future loans to generate cash for funding new investments. See [Securitization of our assets](#) subjects us to various risks.

Securitization of our assets subjects us to various risks.

We may securitize assets to generate cash for funding new investments. We refer to the term securitize to describe a form of leverage under which a company (sometimes referred to as an originator or sponsor) transfers income producing assets to a single-purpose, bankruptcy-remote subsidiary (also referred to as a special purpose entity or SPE), which is established solely for the purpose of holding such assets and entering into a structured finance transaction. The SPE then issues notes secured by such assets. The special purpose entity may issue the notes in the capital markets either publicly or privately to a variety of investors, including banks, non-bank financial institutions and other investors. There may be a single class of notes or multiple classes of notes, the most senior of which carries less credit risk and the most junior of which may carry substantially the same credit risk as the equity of the SPE.

An important aspect of most debt securitization transactions is that the sale and/or contribution of assets into the SPE be considered a true sale and/or contribution for accounting purposes and that a reviewing court would not consolidate the SPE with the operations of the originator in the event of the originator's bankruptcy based on equitable principles. Viewed as a whole, a debt securitization seeks to lower risk to the note purchasers by isolating the assets collateralizing the securitization in an SPE that is not subject to the credit and bankruptcy risks of the originator. As a result of this perceived reduction of risk, debt securitization transactions frequently achieve lower overall leverage costs for originators as compared to traditional secured lending transactions.

In accordance with the above description, to securitize loans, we may create a wholly owned subsidiary and contribute a pool of our assets to such subsidiary. The SPE may be funded with, among other things, whole loans or interests from other pools and such loans may or may not be rated. The SPE would then sell its notes to purchasers who we would expect to be willing to accept a lower interest rate and the absence of any recourse against us to invest in a pool of income producing assets to which none of our creditors would have access. We would retain all or a portion of the equity in the SPE. An inability to successfully securitize portions of our portfolio or otherwise leverage our portfolio through secured and unsecured borrowings could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy, and could decrease our earnings, if any. However, the successful securitization of portions of our portfolio exposes us to a risk of loss for the equity we retain in the SPE and might expose us to greater risk on our remaining portfolio because the assets we retain may tend to be those that are riskier and more likely to generate losses. A successful securitization may also impose financial and operating covenants that restrict our business activities and may include limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. The 1940 Act may also impose restrictions on the structure of any securitizations.

Interests we hold in the SPE, if any, will be subordinated to the other interests issued by the SPE. As such, we will only receive cash distributions on such interests if the SPE has made all cash interest and other required payments on all other interests it has issued. In addition, our subordinated interests will likely be unsecured and rank behind all of the secured creditors, known or unknown, of the SPE, including the holders of the senior interests it has issued. Consequently, to the extent that the value of the SPE's portfolio of assets has been reduced as a result of conditions in the credit markets, or as a result of defaults, the value of the subordinated interests we retain would be reduced. Securitization imposes on us the same risks as borrowing except that our risk in a securitization is limited to the amount of subordinated interests we retain, whereas in a borrowing or debt issuance by us directly we would be at risk for the entire amount of the borrowing or debt issuance.

Generally, we would expect the SPE not to be consolidated with us and in that event our only interest will be the value of our retained subordinated interest and the income allocated to us, which may be more or less than the cash we receive from the SPE, and none of the SPE's liabilities will be reflected as our liabilities. If the assets of the SPE are not consolidated with our assets and liabilities, then our interest in the SPE may be deemed not to be a qualifying asset for purposes of determining whether 70% of our assets are qualifying assets and the leverage incurred by such

Table of Contents

SPE may or may not be treated as borrowings by us for purposes of the requirement that we not issue senior securities in an amount in excess of our net assets.

We may also engage in transactions utilizing SPEs and securitization techniques where the assets sold or contributed to the SPE remain on our balance sheet for accounting purposes. If, for example, we sell the assets to the SPE with recourse or provide a guarantee or other credit support to the SPE, its assets will remain on our balance sheet. Consolidation would also generally result if we, in consultation with the SEC, determine that consolidation would result in a more accurate reflection of our assets, liabilities and results of operations. In these structures, the risks will be essentially the same as in other securitization transactions but the assets will remain our assets for purposes of the limitations described above on investing in assets that are not qualifying assets and the leverage incurred by the SPE will be treated as borrowings incurred by us for purposes of our limitation on the issuance of senior securities.

Our Investment Adviser may have conflicts of interest with respect to potential securitizations in as much as securitizations that are not consolidated may reduce our assets for purposes of determining its investment advisory fee although in some circumstances our investment adviser may be paid certain fees for managing the assets of the SPE so as to reduce or eliminate any potential bias against securitizations.

Our ability to invest in public companies may be limited in certain circumstances.

As a BDC, we must not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets specified in the 1940 Act unless, at the time the acquisition is made, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets (with certain limited exceptions) Subject to certain exceptions for follow-on investments and distressed companies, an investment in an issuer that has outstanding securities listed on a national securities exchange may be treated as qualifying assets only if such issuer has a market capitalization that is less than \$250 million at the time of such investment.

Price declines and illiquidity in the corporate debt markets have adversely affected, and may in the future adversely affect, the fair value of our portfolio investments, reducing our net asset value through increased net unrealized depreciation.

As a BDC, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our Board of Directors. As part of the valuation process, the types of factors that we may take into account in determining the fair value of our investments include, as relevant and among other factors: available current market data, including relevant and applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and multiples, security covenants, call protection provisions, information rights, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments, its earnings and discounted cash flows, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public, merger and acquisition comparables, our principal market (as the reporting entity) and enterprise values. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments are recorded as unrealized depreciation. Unprecedented declines in prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets resulted in significant net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio in the past. The effect of all of these factors on our portfolio has reduced our net asset value by increasing net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial realized losses and may suffer additional unrealized losses in future periods, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of oper