

JETBLUE AIRWAYS CORP
Form 424B5
November 08, 2005
Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-119549

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus Dated November 4, 2004)

7,500,000 Shares

COMMON STOCK

JetBlue Airways Corporation is offering 7,500,000 shares of common stock by this prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq National Market under the trading symbol "JBLU." On November 4, 2005, the reported last sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$18.32 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-3.

PRICE \$18.00 A SHARE

| | Price to Public | Underwriting Discounts | Proceeds to JetBlue |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Per Share | \$18.00 | \$0.25 | \$17.75 |
| Total | \$ 135,000,000 | \$ 1,875,000 | \$ 133,125,000 |

We have granted the underwriters the right to purchase up to an additional 1,125,000 shares at the price to public less underwriting discounts, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to cover over-allotments.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and state securities regulators have not approved or disapproved of these securities, or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters are offering our common stock as set forth under "Underwriting." Delivery of the shares is expected to be made on November 10, 2005.

MORGAN STANLEY

RAYMOND JAMES

November 7, 2005

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Summary | S-1 |
| Risk Factors | S-3 |
| Use of Proceeds | S-11 |
| Underwriting | S-12 |
| Legal Matters | S-14 |
| Experts | S-14 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | S-14 |

PROSPECTUS

| | |
|---|----|
| Important Notice to Readers | ii |
| Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements | ii |
| Prospectus Summary | 1 |
| Risk Factors | 3 |
| Use of Proceeds | 10 |
| Dividend Policy | 10 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 10 |
| Description of Common and Preferred Stock | 10 |
| Description of Debt Securities | 16 |
| Plan of Distribution | 29 |
| Legal Matters | 31 |
| Experts | 31 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | 31 |

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This document may be used only where it is legal to sell these securities. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus supplement. Also, you should not assume that there has been no change in the affairs of JetBlue since the date of this prospectus supplement.

i

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

These offering materials consist of two documents: (1) this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering, and (2) the accompanying prospectus, which provides general information about our securities, some

of which may not apply to the common stock that we are currently offering. The information in this prospectus supplement replaces any inconsistent information included in the accompanying prospectus.

At varying places in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, we refer you to other sections of the documents for additional information by indicating the caption heading of the other sections. The page on which each principal caption included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus can be found is listed in the Table of Contents on the preceding page. All cross references in this prospectus supplement are to captions contained in this prospectus supplement and not in the prospectus, unless otherwise stated.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which represent our management's beliefs and assumptions concerning future events. When used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding financial forecasts or projections, and our expectations and beliefs, intentions or future strategies that are signified by the words "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "intends" and "believes" or similar language. All forward-looking statements are based upon information available to us on the date such statements are made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement after the date of this prospectus supplement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Forward-looking statements are subject to a number of factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations. Additional information concerning these and other factors is contained in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Risk Factors."

ii

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about our company and this offering. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the "Risk Factors" section, and the other documents that we refer to and incorporate by reference herein for a more complete understanding of us and this offering. In particular, we incorporate by reference important business and financial information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Unless otherwise noted, information in this prospectus supplement assumes that the underwriters will not exercise their over-allotment option and does not give effect to the three-for-two split of our common stock that will be distributed on December 23, 2005 to stockholders of record at the close of business on December 12, 2005.

JETBLUE AIRWAYS

JetBlue Airways Corporation, or JetBlue, is a major low-cost passenger airline that provides high-quality customer service at low fares primarily on point-to-point routes. As of November 4, 2005, we operated a total of 316 daily flights. We focus on serving markets that previously were underserved and large metropolitan areas that have had high average fares. We currently serve 33 destinations in 14 states, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and The Bahamas. We intend to maintain a disciplined growth strategy by increasing frequency on our existing routes, connecting new city pairs and entering new markets. For the year ended December 31, 2004, JetBlue was the 10th largest passenger carrier in the United States based on revenue passenger miles.

We are scheduled to add 101 new Airbus A320 aircraft and 101 new EMBRAER 190 aircraft to our current operating fleet of 82 Airbus A320 aircraft by the end of 2011. We have an experienced management team and a strong company culture with a productive and incentivized workforce that strives to offer high quality customer service, while at the same time operating efficiently and keeping costs low. Our high daily aircraft utilization and low distribution costs contribute to our low operating costs. Our widely available low fares are designed to stimulate demand, which we have demonstrated through our ability to increase passenger traffic in the markets we serve. In addition to our low fares, we offer our customers a differentiated product, including new aircraft, leather seats, reliable operating performance, 36 channels of free LiveTV (a satellite TV service with programming provided by DIRECTV®) and movie selections from Fox InFlight at every seat.

Recent Developments

Stock Split. On October 19, 2005, our Board of Directors declared a three-for-two split of our common stock. Shares will be distributed on December 23, 2005 to stockholders of record at the close of business on December 12, 2005.

EMBRAER 190 Launch. We have taken delivery of our first three EMBRAER 190 aircraft and have received the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, to add the EMBRAER 190 to our operating certificate. We plan to commence revenue service with this new aircraft between New York and Boston on November 8, 2005. These aircraft are equipped with 36 channels of free DirectTV®, movie selections from Fox InFlight and larger 6.8 inch television screens, and are the first of our fleet to have 100 channels of free XM Satellite Radio.

October Traffic. On November 4, 2005, we released our monthly traffic results for October 2005. We reported that our traffic in October 2005 increased 14.4% from October 2004, on a capacity increase of 21.2%. Load factor for October 2005 was 78.4%, a decrease of 4.7 points from October 2004. Our completion factor was 96.8% and our on-time performance was 75.1%. Load factor and operating performance for the month were adversely impacted by Hurricane Wilma, which resulted in our cancellation of 285 flights.

JetBlue was incorporated in Delaware in August 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 118-29 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, New York 11375 and our telephone number is (718) 286-7900.

S-1

Our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, are accessible free of charge at our website investor.jetblue.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. As used in this prospectus supplement, the terms "JetBlue", "we", "us", "our" and similar terms refer to JetBlue Airways Corporation and its subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.

THE OFFERING

| | |
|--|--|
| Common stock offered | 7,500,000 shares |
| Common stock estimated to be outstanding immediately after this offering | 113,001,782 shares |
| Over-allotment option | 1,125,000 shares |
| Use of proceeds | We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and capital |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Dividends | expenditures, including capital expenditures related to the purchase of aircraft. See "Use of Proceeds." We have not declared or paid any dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the further expansion and continued growth of our business. |
| Risk factors | See "Risk Factors" and other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock. |
| NASDAQ National Market symbol | JBLU |

Except as otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

The figures above are based on 105,501,782 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2005 and assume no exercise of outstanding options since that date. The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering excludes:

- 22,562,821 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our stock option plan, of which 19,992,816 shares were subject to outstanding options at a weighted average exercise price of \$16.96 per share as of September 30, 2005; and
- 9,675,298 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our crewmember stock purchase plan as of September 30, 2005.

S-2

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before making an investment decision. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. In addition, please read "Presentation of Information" in this prospectus supplement and "Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements" in the accompanying prospectus where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Please note that additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.

The U.S. domestic airline environment continues to be extremely challenging primarily due to record high aircraft fuel prices and sustained price competition, which have had an adverse impact on our business and results of operations. In addition, several major U.S. airlines have recently either filed for bankruptcy or emerged from bankruptcy, providing these companies with the ability to restructure their debt and lower their labor and other operating costs, which could enable them to compete more aggressively. These and other factors affecting the airline industry and us are discussed below as well as under "Outlook" and "Results of Operations" of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial

Condition and Results of Operations in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2005.

Risks Related to JetBlue

We operate in an extremely competitive industry.

We currently compete with other airlines on all of our routes. Many of these airlines are larger and have greater financial resources and name recognition than we do. Several of these competitors have chosen to add service in some of our markets following our entry. As we expand our fleet, the extremely competitive nature of the airline industry could prevent us from attaining the level of passenger traffic required to maintain profitable operations in new markets and impede our growth strategy, which would harm our business.

The airline industry also encounters extensive price competition and is characterized by low profit margins and high fixed costs. Our ability to meet this price competition depends on, among other things, our ability to operate at costs equal to or lower than our competitors. Price competition occurs through price discounting, fare matching, targeted sale promotions or frequent flyer travel initiatives, all of which are usually matched by other airlines in order to maintain their level of passenger traffic. Fare sales have been significant and widespread and have affected yields for all airlines, including us. A relatively small change in pricing or in passenger traffic due to other airlines' competitive actions could have a disproportionate effect on an airline's operating and financial results. Unanticipated shortfalls in expected revenues as a result of price competition would negatively impact our financial results and harm our business.

If we fail to successfully implement our growth strategy, our business could be harmed.

Our growth strategy involves increasing the frequency of flights to markets we currently serve, expanding the number of markets served and increasing flight connection opportunities. Achieving our growth strategy is critical in order for our business to achieve economies of scale and to sustain or increase our profitability. Increasing the number of markets we serve depends on our ability to access suitable airports located in our targeted geographic markets in a manner that is consistent with our cost strategy. We will also need to obtain additional gates at some of our existing destinations. Any condition that would deny, limit or delay our access to airports we seek to serve in the future will constrain our ability to grow. Opening new markets requires us to commit a substantial amount of resources, even before the new services commence. Expansion is also dependent upon our ability to maintain a safe and secure operation and will require additional personnel, equipment and facilities.

S-3

An inability to hire and retain personnel, timely secure the required equipment and facilities in a cost-effective manner, efficiently operate our expanded facilities, or obtain the necessary regulatory approvals may adversely affect our ability to achieve our growth strategy. In addition, our competitors have often chosen to add service, reduce their fares and/or offer special promotions following our entry into a new market. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully expand our existing markets or establish new markets in this increased competitive environment, and if we fail to do so our business could be harmed.

Expansion of our markets and services may also strain our existing management resources and operational, financial and management information systems and controls to the point that they may no longer be adequate, requiring us to make significant expenditures in these areas. We expect that we will need to develop further financial, operational and

management reporting systems, controls and procedures to accommodate our future growth. While we believe our current systems, controls and procedures are adequate, we cannot assure you that we will be able to develop such additional systems, controls or procedures to accommodate our expansion on a timely basis, and the failure to do so could harm our business.

We have a significant amount of fixed obligations and we will incur significantly more fixed obligations, which could harm our ability to meet our growth strategy and impair our ability to service our fixed obligations.

As of September 30, 2005, our debt of \$2.19 billion accounted for 73.6% of our total capitalization. Most of our long-term and short-term debt has floating interest rates. In addition to long-term debt, we have a significant amount of other fixed obligations under operating leases related to our aircraft, airport terminal space, other airport facilities and office space. As of September 30, 2005, future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year were approximately \$535 million for 2005 through 2009 and an aggregate of \$727 million for the years thereafter.

As of September 30, 2005, we had commitments of approximately \$6.84 billion to purchase 200 additional aircraft and other flight equipment over the next seven years, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalations. We also plan to commence construction of a new terminal at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, or JFK, later in 2005. We will incur additional debt and other fixed obligations as we take delivery of new aircraft and other equipment and continue to expand into new markets. We typically finance our aircraft through either secured debt or lease financing. Although we believe that debt and/or lease financing should be available for our aircraft deliveries, we cannot assure you that we will be able to secure such financing on terms acceptable to us or at all.

Our high level of debt and other fixed obligations could:

- impact our ability to obtain additional financing to support capital expansion plans and for working capital and other purposes on acceptable terms or at all;
- divert substantial cash flow from our operations and expansion plans in order to service our fixed obligations;
- require us to incur significantly more interest or rent expense than we currently do, since most of our debt has floating interest rates and five of our aircraft leases have variable-rate rent; and
- place us at a possible competitive disadvantage compared to less leveraged competitors and competitors that have better access to capital resources.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on our debt and other fixed obligations will depend on our future operating performance and cash flow, which in turn will depend on prevailing economic and political conditions and financial, competitive, regulatory, business and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that we will be able to generate sufficient cash flow from our operations to pay our debt and other fixed obligations as they become due, and if we fail to do so our business could be harmed. If we are unable to make payments on our debt and other fixed obligations, we could be forced to renegotiate those obligations or obtain additional equity or debt financing. To the

S-4

extent we finance our activities with additional debt, we may become subject to financial and other covenants that may restrict our ability to pursue our growth strategy. We cannot assure you that our renegotiation efforts would be successful or timely or that we could refinance our obligations on acceptable terms, if at all.

Our maintenance costs will increase as our fleet ages.

Because the average age of our aircraft is 2.6 years, our aircraft require less maintenance now than they will in the future. We have incurred lower maintenance expenses because most of the parts on our aircraft are under multi-year warranties. Our maintenance costs will increase significantly, both on an absolute basis and as a percentage of our operating expenses, as our fleet ages and these warranties expire.

If we are unable to attract and retain qualified personnel at reasonable costs or fail to maintain our company culture, our business could be harmed.

Our business is labor intensive, with labor costs representing approximately one-third of our operating expenses. We expect salaries, wages and benefits to increase on a gross basis and these costs could increase as a percentage of our overall costs. Since we compete against the other major U.S. airlines for pilots, mechanics and other skilled labor and many of them offer wage and benefit packages that exceed ours, we may be required to increase wages and/or benefits in order to attract and retain qualified personnel or risk considerable employee turnover. If we are unable to hire, train and retain qualified employees at a reasonable cost, our business could be harmed and we may be unable to complete our expansion plans.

In addition, as we hire more people and grow, we believe it may be increasingly challenging to continue to hire people who will maintain our company culture. One of our principal competitive strengths is our service-oriented company culture that emphasizes friendly, helpful, team-oriented and customer-focused employees. Our company culture is important to providing high quality customer service and having a productive workforce that helps keep our costs low. As we grow, we may be unable to identify, hire or retain enough people who meet the above criteria, including those in management or other key positions. Our company culture could otherwise be adversely affected by our growing operations and geographic diversity. If we fail to maintain the strength of our company culture, our competitive ability and our business may be harmed.

If we fail to successfully take delivery of, place into service and integrate into our operations the new EMBRAER 190 aircraft we agreed to purchase, our business could be harmed.

In June 2003, we placed an order for 100 new EMBRAER 190 jet aircraft, with options for an additional 100 new aircraft (which was amended in July 2005 to firmly order one additional aircraft). Acquisition of an all-new type of aircraft, such as the EMBRAER 190, involves a variety of risks relating to its ability to be successfully placed into service, including:

- delays in meeting the agreed upon aircraft delivery schedule;
- difficulties in obtaining financing on acceptable terms to complete our purchase of all of the firmly ordered aircraft;
- inability of the aircraft and all of its components to comply with agreed upon specifications and performance standards; and
- difficulties in outfitting the aircraft with LiveTV.

In addition, we also face risks in integrating a second type of aircraft into our existing infrastructure and operations, including, among other things, the additional costs, resources and time needed to hire and train new pilots, technicians and other skilled support personnel. If we fail to successfully take delivery of, place into service and integrate into our operations the new EMBRAER 190 aircraft, our business could be harmed.

We rely on maintaining a high daily aircraft utilization rate to keep our costs low, which makes us especially vulnerable to delays.

One of our key competitive strengths is to maintain a high daily aircraft utilization rate, which is the amount of time

that our aircraft spend in the air carrying passengers. High daily aircraft utilization allows

S-5

us to generate more revenue from our aircraft and is achieved in part by reducing turnaround times at airports so we can fly more hours on average in a day. The expansion of our business to include a new fleet type, new destinations, more frequent flights on current routes and expanded facilities could increase the risk of delays. Aircraft utilization is reduced by delays and cancellations from various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including adverse weather conditions, security requirements, air traffic congestion and unscheduled maintenance. Reduced aircraft utilization may limit our ability to achieve and maintain profitability as well as lead to customer dissatisfaction.

Our business is highly dependent on the New York metropolitan market and increases in competition or a reduction in demand for air travel in this market would harm our business.

We maintain a large presence in the New York metropolitan market, with approximately 75% of our daily flights having JFK, New York's LaGuardia Airport, or LaGuardia, or Newark Liberty International Airport, or Newark, as either their destination or origin. Our business would be harmed by any circumstances causing a reduction in demand for air transportation in the New York metropolitan area, such as adverse changes in local economic conditions, negative public perception of the city, additional terrorist attacks or significant price increases linked to increases in airport access costs and fees imposed on passengers. Our business could also be harmed by an increase in the amount of direct competition we face at JFK, LaGuardia or Newark, or by an increase in congestion or delays at these airports. As a result, we remain highly dependent on the New York metropolitan market.

We may be subject to unionization, work stoppages, slowdowns or increased labor costs.

Unlike most airlines, we have a non-union workforce. If our employees unionize, it could result in demands that may increase our operating expenses and adversely affect our profitability. Each of our different employee groups could unionize at any time and require separate collective bargaining agreements. If any group of our employees were to unionize and we were unable to reach agreement on the terms of their collective bargaining agreement or we were to experience widespread employee dissatisfaction, we could be subject to work slowdowns or stoppages. In addition, we may be subject to disruptions by organized labor groups protesting our non-union status. Any of these events would be disruptive to our operations and could harm our business.

Our results of operations will fluctuate.

We expect our quarterly operating results to fluctuate due to price changes in aircraft fuel as well as the timing and amount of maintenance and advertising expenditures. Seasonality also impacts our revenues and operations, with high vacation and leisure demand occurring on the Florida routes between October and April and on our transcontinental routes during the summer. Actions of our competitors may also contribute to fluctuations in our results. We are more susceptible to adverse weather conditions, including hurricanes and snow storms, as a result of our operations being concentrated on the East Coast, than are some of our competitors. As we enter new markets, we could be subject to additional seasonal variations along with any competitive responses to our entry by other airlines. As a result of these factors, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be a good indicator of our future performance. In addition, it is possible that in any future quarter our operating results could be below the expectations of investors and any published reports or analyses regarding JetBlue. In that event, the price of our common stock could decline, perhaps substantially.

We rely heavily on automated systems and technology to operate our business and any failure of these systems could harm our business.

We are increasingly dependent on automated systems and technology to operate our business, enhance customer service and achieve low operating costs, including our computerized airline reservation system, telecommunication systems, website, check-in kiosks and in-flight entertainment systems. Since we issue only electronic tickets, our website and reservation system must be able to accommodate a high volume of traffic and deliver important flight information. Substantial or repeated website, reservations system, telecommunication systems, kiosk or in-flight entertainment systems failures, could reduce the attractiveness of our services and could result in our customers purchasing tickets from another airline. Any disruption in these systems could result in the loss of important data, increase our expenses and generally harm our business.

S-6

Our lack of an established line of credit or borrowing facility makes us highly dependent upon our operating cash flows.

We have no lines of credit, other than a short-term borrowing facility for certain aircraft predelivery deposits, and rely primarily on operating cash flows to provide working capital. Unless we secure a line of credit, borrowing facility or equity financing, we will be dependent upon our operating cash flows to fund our operations and to make scheduled payments on our debt and other fixed obligations. If we fail to generate sufficient funds from operations to meet these cash requirements or are unable to secure a line of credit, other borrowing facility or equity financing, we could default on our debt and other fixed obligations.

We are subject to the risks of having a limited number of suppliers for our aircraft, engines and a key component of our in-flight entertainment system.

Our current dependence on a single type of aircraft and engine for all of our flights makes us particularly vulnerable to any problems associated with the Airbus A320 or the IAE International Aero Engines V2527-A5 engine, including design defects, mechanical problems, contractual performance by the manufacturers, or adverse perception by the public that would result in customer avoidance or in actions by the FAA resulting in an inability to operate our aircraft. Carriers that operate a more diversified fleet are better positioned than we are to manage such events. While our decision to acquire a new fleet of EMBRAER 190 aircraft may lessen our exposure to this risk, we are subject to a similar set of risks with the aircraft manufacturer, EMBRAER, and the manufacturer of the related engines, General Electric, now that we have begun to take delivery of these aircraft.

One of the unique features of our fleet is that every seat in each of our aircraft is equipped with free LiveTV. An integral component of the system is the antenna, which is supplied to us by EMS Technologies, Inc. If EMS were to stop supplying us with its antennas for any reason, we would have to incur significant costs to procure an alternate supplier.

Our business could be harmed if we lose the services of our key personnel.

Our business depends upon the efforts of our Chief Executive Officer, David Neeleman, and our President and Chief Operating Officer, David Barger. The loss of the services of either of these individuals could harm our business.

We could be subject to liability arising from claims or other actions relating to our handling of customer data.

Through our computerized reservation system, we are provided with and maintain data regarding our customers and their travel itineraries. Various federal and state laws and regulations impose limitations on the dissemination of that information by us.

Beginning in September 2003, multiple lawsuits were commenced against us alleging various causes of action, including fraudulent misrepresentation, breach of contract, violation of privacy rights, as well as violations of consumer protection statutes and federal electronic communications laws. These claims arose out of our providing access to limited customer data to a government contractor in connection with a test project for military base security. The lawsuits filed to date against us have been dismissed, although one of these actions is currently on appeal.

Our reputation and financial results could be harmed in the event of an accident or incident involving our aircraft.

An accident or incident involving one of our aircraft, or an aircraft containing LiveTV equipment, could involve significant potential claims of injured passengers or others in addition to repair or replacement of a damaged aircraft and its consequential temporary or permanent loss from service. We are required by the Department of Transportation, or DOT, to carry liability insurance. Although we believe we currently maintain liability insurance in amounts and of the type generally consistent with

S-7

industry practice, the amount of such coverage may not be adequate and we may be forced to bear substantial losses from an accident. Substantial claims resulting from an accident in excess of our related insurance coverage would harm our business and financial results. Moreover, any aircraft accident or incident, even if fully insured, could cause a public perception that we are less safe or reliable than other airlines, which would harm our business.

Risks Associated with the Airline Industry

The airline industry has incurred significant losses resulting in airline restructurings and bankruptcies, which could result in changes in our industry.

Since 2001, domestic airlines have experienced a decline in demand resulting in extensive industry-wide financial losses. While domestic passenger traffic has returned to previous levels, the airline industry has continued to add or restore capacity, resulting in strong price competition. Financial losses have continued into 2005 resulting in airlines renegotiating or attempting to renegotiate labor contracts, reconfiguring flight schedules, furloughing or terminating employees, as well as other efficiency and cost-cutting measures. Despite these actions, several airlines have sought or threatened reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code permitting them to reduce labor rates, restructure debt, terminate pension plans and generally reduce their cost structure. Such factors may have a greater impact during time periods when the industry encounters continued financial losses, as airlines under financial pressures may institute pricing structures to achieve near-term survival rather than long-term viability. It is foreseeable that further airline reorganizations, bankruptcies or consolidations may occur, the effects of which we are unable to predict. We cannot assure you that the occurrence of these events, or potential changes resulting from these events, will not harm our business or the industry.

Continued high fuel costs or a fuel supply shortage would harm our business.

Fuel costs, which have been at unprecedented high levels, constitute a substantial portion of our total operating expenses and have become our single largest operating expense. There have been significant increases in fuel costs in

2005, which have adversely affected our operating results. Continued high fuel costs or further increases would harm our financial condition and results of operations. Historically, fuel costs have been subject to wide price fluctuations based on geopolitical issues and supply and demand. Fuel availability is also affected by demand for home heating oil, gasoline and other petroleum products. Additionally, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita caused significant disruption to oil production, refinery operations and pipeline capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast. Because of the effect of these events on the price and availability of fuel, the cost and future availability of fuel cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty. In the event of a fuel supply shortage or further increases in fuel prices, a curtailment of scheduled service could result. Some of our competitors may have more leverage than we do in obtaining fuel. In addition, although we utilize a fuel hedging program, under which we enter into crude oil option contracts and swap agreements to partially protect against significant increases in fuel prices, our fuel hedging program does not completely protect us against price increases and is limited in fuel volume and duration.

A future act of terrorism, the threat of such acts or escalation of U.S. military involvement overseas could adversely affect our industry.

Even if not directed at the airline industry, a future act of terrorism, the threat of such acts or escalation of U.S. military involvement overseas could have an adverse effect on the airline industry. In the event of a terrorist attack, the industry would likely experience significantly reduced demand. We cannot assure you that these actions, or consequences resulting from these actions, will not harm our business or the industry.

Changes in government regulations imposing additional requirements and restrictions on our operations or the U.S. government ceasing to provide adequate war risk insurance could increase our operating costs and result in service delays and disruptions.

Airlines are subject to extensive regulatory and legal requirements, both domestically and internationally, that involve significant compliance costs. In the last several years, Congress has passed laws, and

S-8

the DOT, FAA and the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, have issued regulations relating to the operation of airlines that have required significant expenditures. We expect to continue to incur expenses in connection with complying with government regulations. Additional laws, regulations, taxes and airport rates and charges have been proposed from time to time that could significantly increase the cost of airline operations or reduce the demand for air travel. If adopted, these measures could have the effect of raising ticket prices, reducing revenue and increasing costs. We cannot assure you that these and other laws or regulations enacted in the future will not harm our business.

The U.S. government currently provides insurance coverage for certain claims resulting from acts of terrorism, war or similar events. Should this coverage no longer be offered, the coverage that would be available to us through commercial aviation insurers may have substantially less desirable terms, result in higher costs and not be adequate to protect our risk, any of which could harm our business.

Risks Related to this Offering

The market price of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of your investment in JetBlue to decline.

Any of the following factors could affect the market price of our common stock:

- general market, political and economic conditions;
- changes in earnings estimates and recommendations by financial analysts;
- our failure to meet financial analysts' performance expectations;
- changes in fuel prices; and
- changes in market valuations of other airlines.

In addition, many of the risks described elsewhere in this "Risk Factors" section could materially and adversely affect our stock price. The stock markets have experienced price and volume volatility that has affected many companies' stock prices. Stock prices for many companies have experienced wide fluctuations that have often been unrelated to the operating performance of those companies. Fluctuations such as these may affect the market price of our common stock.

Other companies may have difficulty acquiring us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders, due to provisions under our corporate charter, bylaws, option plans, stockholder rights agreement and some of our employment agreements, as well as Delaware law.

Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated bylaws, our stockholder rights agreement and under Delaware law could make it more difficult for other companies to acquire us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain the following provisions, among others, which may inhibit an acquisition of our company by a third party.

- a staggered board of directors, where stockholders elect only a minority of the board each year;
- advance notification procedures for matters to be brought before stockholder meetings;
- a limitation on who may call stockholder meetings;
- a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent; and
- the ability of our board of directors to issue up to 25,000,000 shares of preferred stock without a stockholder vote.

The issuance of stock under our stockholder rights agreement could delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider in their best interests. We are also subject to provisions of Delaware law that prohibit us from engaging in any business combination with any "interested stockholder," meaning generally that a stockholder who beneficially owns more than 15% of our stock cannot acquire us for a period of three years from the date this person became an interested stockholder,

S-9

unless various conditions are met, such as approval of the transaction by our board of directors. In addition, under current United States laws and the regulations of the DOT, United States citizens must effectively control us. As a result, our president and at least two thirds of our board of directors must be United States citizens and not more than 25% of our voting stock may be owned by non U S citizens (although subject to DOT approval, the percent of foreign economic ownership may be as high as 49%). Any of these restrictions could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control.

Furthermore, our employment agreements with our pilots, technicians and dispatchers contain change of control provisions, which could discourage or prevent a change of control. In the event we are sold to or consolidate with

another company, we must request that the successor company place these employees on a preferential hiring list. If such employees are not hired by the successor company, they will be entitled to a severance payment of up to one year's salary.

In addition, all of our currently outstanding options under our 2002 Stock Incentive Plan have a special acceleration feature pursuant to which those options will vest in full in the event we are acquired, to the extent such options have not already vested as result of our prior acceleration of all unvested stock options, as previously reported, effective December 9, 2005. The accelerated vesting of our employee stock options may prove to be a deterrent to a potential acquisition of us because the acquiring company may have to implement additional retention programs to assure the continued service of our employees, and the additional dilution which will result from the accelerated vesting of our outstanding employee stock options will likely reduce the amount which would otherwise be payable to our shareholders in an acquisition.

Our corporate charter and bylaws include provisions limiting voting by non-U.S. citizens.

To comply with restrictions imposed by federal law on foreign ownership of U.S. airlines, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated, bylaws restrict voting of shares of our capital stock by non-U.S. citizens. The restrictions imposed by federal law currently require that no more than 25% of our stock be voted, directly or indirectly, by persons who are not U.S. citizens, and that our president and at least two-thirds of the members of our board of directors be U.S. citizens. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that no shares of our capital stock may be voted by or at the direction of non-U.S. citizens unless such shares are registered on a separate stock record, which we refer to as the foreign stock record. Our amended and restated bylaws further provide that no shares of our capital stock will be registered on the foreign stock record if the amount so registered would exceed the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law. Registration on the foreign stock record is made in chronological order based on the date we receive a written request for registration. We are currently in compliance with these ownership restrictions.

S-10

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$132.9 million after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses (\$152.9 million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full).

We intend to use these net proceeds to fund working capital and capital expenditures, including capital expenditures related to the purchase of aircraft. However, we currently do not have a specific plan relating to the expenditure of the proceeds of this offering. Pending the use of such net proceeds, we intend to invest these funds in investment-grade, short-term interest bearing securities.

S-11

UNDERWRITING

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, dated the date of this prospectus supplement, we have agreed to sell to Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and Raymond James & Associates, Inc., as the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has severally agreed to purchase from us, the number of shares of our common stock listed next to its name in the following table:

| Name | Number of Shares |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated | 6,750,000 |
| Raymond James & Associates, Inc. | 750,000 |
| Total | 7,500,000 |

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus 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 and the accompanying prospectus if any shares are taken. However, the underwriters are not required to take or pay for any shares of common stock covered by the option of the underwriters to purchase additional shares of common stock as described below.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the shares of our common stock directly to the public at the public offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. If all the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the public offering price and the other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the underwriters.

We have granted to the underwriters an option (exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement) to purchase, in the event the underwriters sell more than 7,500,000 shares of common stock, up to an additional 1,125,000 shares of common stock at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, less underwriting discounts and commissions.

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 option of the underwriters to purchase up to 1,125,000 additional shares of common stock.

| | Per Share | Total | |
|--|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| | | No Exercise | Full Exercise |
| Public offering price | \$ 18.00 | \$ 135,000,000 | \$ 155,250,000 |
| Underwriting discounts and commissions | \$ 0.25 | \$ 1,875,000 | \$ 2,156,250 |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to JetBlue | \$ 17.75 | \$ 133,125,000 | \$ 153,093,750 |

We estimate that the expenses of the offering to be paid by us, not including underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$225,000.

We, our directors and executive officers have agreed, without the prior written consent of Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, not to, during the period ending 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement:

- 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 our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our 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 our common stock;
- whether any transaction described above is to be settled by delivery of our common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise; or

S-12

-
- file or cause to become effective a registration statement (other than the filing by us of a shelf registration statement relating only to the sale by us of our securities, provided that no such securities are offered or sold during such 90-day period), or make and demand for or exercise any registration rights, relating to the offer and sale of any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common stock.

The restrictions described in the preceding paragraph do not apply to:

- the issuance and sale of any shares of common stock to the underwriters pursuant to the underwriting agreement;
- the issuance by us of shares of our common stock upon the exercise of options, warrants, rights or the conversion of securities convertible into our common stock outstanding as of the date of this prospectus of which Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated has been advised in writing;
- the issuance by us of shares of common stock, options or other rights under our existing stock option plan, stock purchase plan, other employee plan or stockholder rights plan;
- transactions by any person other than us relating to shares of common stock or other securities acquired in open market transactions after the completion of the offering of the common stock;
- transfers to immediate family members or to a trust of which the transferor or the transferee family member is a beneficiary, transfers as a bona fide gift, or distributions or transfers to partners, members or controlled affiliates of the transferor; provided that the transferee, donee or distributee agrees to be bound by such restrictions;
- the sale of any shares of common stock pursuant to any securities trading program designed to comply with Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act, as such program is in effect on the date of this prospectus; and
- transfers effected by the holder or the holder's personal representatives in the event that the holder dies or becomes permanently disabled.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq National Market, under the symbol "JBLU".

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 over-allotment option. The underwriters can close out a covered short sale by exercising 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 over-allotment option. The underwriters may also sell shares in excess of the over-allotment 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 shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. As an additional means of facilitating the 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.

In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilizing or reducing a syndicate short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might otherwise be in the absence of such purchases.

Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common stock. In addition, neither we nor the underwriters make any representation that the underwriters will engage in such transactions or that such transactions will not be discontinued without notice, once they are commenced.

S-13

In connection with this offering, either of the underwriters and any selling group members who are a qualified market maker on the Nasdaq National Market, may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the Nasdaq National Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Securities Exchange of 1934, as amended, during the business day before the pricing of this offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for the security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however the bid must then be lowered when purchase limits are exceeded.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. If we are unable to provide this indemnification, we will contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters and their affiliates have provided and may provide financial advisory and investment banking services to certain former and existing stockholders and us, for which they receive customary fees.

In compliance with NASD guidelines, the maximum compensation to the underwriters in connection with the sale of the shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will not exceed 8% of the total public offering price to the public of the shares of common stock as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. It is anticipated that such maximum compensation will be significantly less than 8%.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters relating to the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Nixon Peabody LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of JetBlue Airways Corporation as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004 appearing in JetBlue Airways Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 12, 2005, and the consolidated financial statement schedule and JetBlue Airways Corporation management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of

December 31, 2004, appearing in JetBlue Airways Corporation's Annual Report (Form 10-K/A) for the year ended December 31, 2004, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in its reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and schedule and management's assessment have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annually, quarterly and current reports, proxy statement and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy any documents we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings also are available from the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus supplement the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any statement contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference herein, modifies or superseded such earlier statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not

S-14

be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, filed on February 14, 2005, as amended by a Form 10-K/A filed on March 8, 2005.
- Portions of our Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 18, 2005 that are incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004.
- Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for March 31, 2005, filed on April 25, 2005, as amended by a Form 10-Q/A filed on October 12, 2005.
- Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for June 30, 2005, filed on July 27, 2005, as amended by a Form 10-Q/A filed on October 12, 2005.
- Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for September 30, 2005, filed on October 25, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on January 18, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on March 9, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on March 16, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 11, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on August 18, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on October 12, 2005.
- Our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on October 20, 2005.

All documents we file pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and before all of the common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement are sold are

incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from the date of filing of the documents, except for information furnished under Item 2.02 and item 7.01 of Form 8-K, which is not deemed filed and not incorporated by reference herein. Information that we filed with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus supplement and information previously filed with the SEC.

You may obtain any of these incorporated documents from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to these documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in such document, by requesting them from us in writing or by telephone at the following address:

JetBlue Airways Corporation
118-29 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, New York 11375
Attention: Legal Department
(718) 709-3026

Documents may also be available on our website at <http://investor.jetblue.com>. Information contained on our website is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement.

S-15

PROSPECTUS

\$1,000,000,000

We may offer, from time to time, together or separately, up to \$1,000,000,000 aggregate amount, or the equivalent in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, of:

- Common Stock
- Preferred Stock
- Debt Securities

We may offer the securities in one or more series, in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. We will provide the specific terms of any securities we actually offer for sale in supplements to this prospectus.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you purchase any of our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell the securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters or dealers we select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sales will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "JBLU." On November 1, 2004, the reported last sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$22.31 per share. Neither the preferred stock nor the debt securities are currently publicly traded.

Investing in our securities involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 3.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and state securities regulators have not approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

November 4, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Important Notice To Readers | ii |
| Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements | ii |
| Prospectus Summary | 1 |
| Risk Factors | 3 |
| Use of Proceeds | 10 |
| Dividend Policy | 10 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 10 |
| Description of Common and Preferred Stock | 10 |
| Description of Debt Securities | 16 |
| Plan of Distribution | 29 |
| Legal Matters | 31 |
| Experts | 31 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | 31 |

i

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO READERS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, using this prospectus, together with a prospectus supplement, we may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in a dollar amount that does not exceed \$1,000,000,000 in the aggregate. This prospectus

provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we 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. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus before making an investment in our securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for more information.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This document may be used only in jurisdictions where offers and sales of these securities are permitted. You should not assume that information contained in this prospectus, in any supplement to this prospectus, or in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of the document that contains the information, regardless of when this prospectus is delivered or when any sale of our securities occurs.

In this prospectus, we use the terms "JetBlue," "we," "us" and "our" to refer to JetBlue Airways Corporation.

JETBLUE and JETBLUE AIRWAYS are registered service marks of JetBlue Airways Corporation in the United States and other countries. This prospectus also contains trademarks and tradenames of other companies.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this prospectus and in documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain various forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which represent our management's beliefs and assumptions concerning future events. When used in this prospectus and in documents incorporated by reference, forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding financial forecasts or projections, and our expectations, beliefs, intentions or future strategies that are signified by the words "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "believes", "plans" or similar language. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause our actual results and the timing of certain events to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. It is routine for our internal projections and expectations to change as the year or each quarter in the year progresses, and therefore it should be clearly understood that the internal projections, beliefs and assumptions upon which we base our expectations may change prior to the end of each quarter or year. Although these expectations may change, we may not inform you if they do. Our policy is generally to provide our expectations only once per quarter, and not to update that information until the next quarter.

You should understand that many important factors, in addition to those discussed or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. Potential factors that could affect our results include those described in this prospectus under "Risk Factors." In light of these risks and uncertainties, the forward-looking events discussed or incorporated by reference in this prospectus might not occur.

ii

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about our company and a general description of the securities we may offer. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of us and the terms of the particular securities we will offer, you should read carefully this entire prospectus, including the "Risk Factors" section, the applicable prospectus supplement for such securities and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference. In particular, we incorporate important business and financial information in this prospectus by reference.

JetBlue Airways

JetBlue Airways Corporation is a low-fare, low-cost passenger airline that provides high-quality customer service primarily on point-to-point routes. We focus on serving markets that previously were underserved and/or large metropolitan areas that have high average fares. We have a geographically diversified flight schedule that includes both short-haul and long-haul routes. We intend to maintain a disciplined growth strategy by increasing frequency on our existing routes and entering new markets.

We commenced service in February 2000 and established our primary base of operations at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, or JFK. In August 2001, we began service at our West Coast base of operations, Long Beach Municipal Airport, which serves the Los Angeles area. JetBlue is the 11th largest passenger carrier in the United States based on revenue passenger miles for the year ended December 31, 2003.

We have an experienced management team and a strong company culture with a productive and incentivized workforce that strives to offer high-quality customer service, while at the same time operating efficiently and keeping costs low. We have low operating costs, in part because of our high daily aircraft utilization and low distribution costs. Our widely available low fares are designed to stimulate demand and we have demonstrated our ability to increase passenger traffic in the markets we serve. In addition, we offer our customers a differentiated product, including new aircraft, low fares, leather seats, free LiveTV (a satellite TV service with programming provided by DIRECTV®) at every seat, pre-assigned seating and reliable operating performance. We continue to improve our customers' flying experience by increasing the total number of LiveTV channels from 24 to 36 and by adding movie channel offerings from News Corporation's Fox Entertainment Group to all of our aircraft. In 2005, we plan to add XM Satellite Radio to our in-flight entertainment offerings.

JetBlue was incorporated in Delaware in August 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 118-29 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, New York 11375 and our telephone number is (718) 286-7900. Our website address is <http://investor.jetblue.com>. Information contained on our website is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

The Securities We May Offer

We may use this prospectus to offer up to \$1,000,000,000 of common stock, preferred stock and debt securities, in one or more offerings and in any combination. If we issue debt securities at a discount from their original stated principal amount, then, for purposes of calculating the total dollar amount of all securities issued under this prospectus, we will treat the initial offering price of the debt securities as the total original principal amount of the debt securities. A prospectus supplement, which we will provide each time we offer securities, will describe the specific types, amounts, prices and detailed terms of any of these offered securities and may describe risks associated with an investment in the securities. We will also include in the prospectus supplement, where applicable, information about material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities. Terms used in this prospectus will have the meanings described in this prospectus unless otherwise specified.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers. We, as well as any agents acting on our behalf, reserve the sole right to accept and to reject in whole or in part any proposed purchase of securities. Each prospectus supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the

sale of securities described in that prospectus supplement and any applicable fee, commission or discount arrangements with them.

1

Common Stock

We may offer shares of our common stock either alone or underlying other registered securities convertible into our common stock. Holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time out of legally available funds, subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any shares of our preferred stock we may issue in the future. Currently, we do not pay any dividends. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights.

Preferred Stock

We may issue shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. Our board of directors or a committee designated by the board will determine the dividend, voting and conversion rights and other provisions at the time of sale. The particular terms of each class or series of preferred stock, including redemption privileges, liquidation preferences, voting rights, dividend rights and/or conversion rights, will be more fully described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the preferred stock offered thereby.

Debt Securities

We may issue debt securities under an indenture to be entered between us and, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Wilmington Trust Company, as trustee. A form of the indenture is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The indenture does not limit the amount of securities that may be issued under it and provides that debt securities may be issued in one or more series. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be unsecured obligations of ours and will rank equally and ratably with our other unsecured obligations. This prospectus contains only general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the particular terms of the debt securities being offered thereby.

2

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision. Additional risks, including those that relate to any particular securities that we will offer, will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The market or trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. In addition, please read "Special Note About

Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus, where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Please note that additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.

Risks Related to JetBlue

If we fail to successfully implement our growth strategy, our business could be harmed.

Our growth strategy involves increasing the frequency of flights to markets we currently serve, expanding the number of markets served and increasing flight connection opportunities. Achieving our growth strategy is critical in order for our business to achieve economies of scale and to sustain or increase our profitability. Increasing the number of markets we serve depends on our ability to access suitable airports located in our targeted geographic markets in a manner that is consistent with our cost strategy. We will also need to obtain additional gates at some of our existing destinations. Any condition that would deny, limit or delay our access to airports we seek to serve in the future will constrain our ability to grow. Opening new markets requires us to commit a substantial amount of resources, even before the new services commence. Expansion is also dependent upon our ability to maintain a safe and secure operation and will require additional personnel, equipment and facilities as well as obtaining approval from the Department of Transportation, or DOT, and the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, to operate more than the 70 aircraft which we are currently allowed to operate.

An inability to hire and retain personnel, timely secure the required equipment and facilities in a cost-effective manner, efficiently operate our expanded facilities, or obtain the necessary regulatory approvals may adversely affect our ability to achieve our growth strategy. In addition, our competitors have often chosen to add service, reduce their fares and/or offer special promotions following our entry into a new market. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully expand our existing markets or establish new markets in this increased competitive environment, and if we fail to do so our business could be harmed.

Expansion of our markets and services may also strain our existing management resources and operational, financial and management information systems to the point that they may no longer be adequate to support our operations, requiring us to make significant expenditures in these areas. We expect that we will need to develop further financial, operational and management reporting systems and procedures to accommodate future growth. While we believe our current systems and procedures are adequate, we cannot assure you that we will be able to develop such additional systems or procedures to accommodate our future expansion on a timely basis, and the failure to do so could harm our business.

We operate in an extremely competitive industry.

We currently compete with other airlines on all of our routes. Many of these airlines are larger and have greater financial resources and name recognition or lower operating costs than we do. Several of these competitors have chosen to add service in some of our markets following our entry. As we expand our fleet, the extremely competitive nature of the airline industry could prevent us from attaining the level of passenger traffic required to maintain profitable operations in new markets and impede our growth strategy, which would harm our business.

The airline industry also encounters extensive price competition and is characterized by low profit margins and high fixed costs. Our ability to meet this price competition depends on, among other things, our ability to operate at costs equal to or lower than our competitors. Price competition occurs through price discounting, fare matching, targeted sale promotions or frequent flyer travel initiatives, all of which are usually matched by other airlines in order to maintain their level of passenger traffic. A relatively small change in pricing or in passenger traffic due to other airlines' competitive actions could have a disproportionate effect on an airline's operating and financial results. Unanticipated shortfalls in expected revenues as a result of price competition would negatively impact our financial results and harm our business.

We have a significant amount of fixed obligations and we will incur significantly more fixed obligations, which could harm our ability to meet our growth strategy and impair our ability to service our fixed obligations, including any debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus.

As of September 30, 2004, our debt of \$1.40 billion accounted for 65.0% of our total capitalization. Most of our long-term and short-term debt has floating interest rates. In addition to long-term debt, we have a significant amount of other fixed obligations under operating leases related to our aircraft, airport terminal space, other airport facilities and office space. As of September 30, 2004, future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year were approximately \$436 million for 2004 through 2008 and an aggregate of \$618 million for the years thereafter.

As of September 30, 2004, we had commitments of approximately \$7.42 billion to purchase 219 additional aircraft and other flight equipment over the next eight years, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalations. We have commenced construction of a hangar at JFK and a training facility and hangar in Orlando, Florida and plan to construct a new terminal at JFK. We will incur additional debt and other fixed obligations as we take delivery of new aircraft and other equipment and continue to expand into new markets. We typically finance our aircraft through either secured debt or lease financing. Although we believe that debt and/or lease financing should be available for our aircraft deliveries, we cannot assure you that we will be able to secure such financing on terms acceptable to us or at all.

Our high level of debt and other fixed obligations could:

- impact our ability to obtain additional financing to support capital expansion plans and for working capital and other purposes on acceptable terms or at all;
- divert substantial cash flow from our operations and expansion plans in order to service our fixed obligations;
- require us to incur significantly more interest or rent expense than we currently do, since most of our debt has floating interest rates and five of our aircraft leases have variable-rate rent; and
- place us at a possible competitive disadvantage compared to less leveraged competitors and competitors that have better access to capital resources.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on our debt and other fixed obligations, including any debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus, will depend on our future operating performance and cash flow, which in turn will depend on prevailing economic and political conditions and financial, competitive, regulatory, business and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that we will be able to generate sufficient cash flow from our operations to pay our debt and other fixed obligations as they become due, and if we fail to do so our business could be harmed. If we are unable to make payments on our debt and other fixed obligations, including any debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus, we could be forced to renegotiate those obligations or obtain additional equity or debt financing. To the extent we finance our activities with additional debt, we may become subject to financial and other covenants that may restrict our ability to pursue our growth strategy. We cannot assure you that our renegotiation efforts would be successful or timely or that we could refinance our obligations on acceptable terms, if at all.

Our maintenance costs will increase as our fleet ages.

Because the average age of our aircraft is approximately 2.2 years, our aircraft require less maintenance now than they will in the future. We have incurred lower maintenance expenses because most of the parts on our aircraft are under multi-year warranties. Our maintenance costs will increase significantly, both on an absolute basis and as a percentage of our operating expenses, as our fleet ages and these warranties expire.

If we are unable to attract and retain qualified personnel at reasonable costs or fail to maintain our company culture, our business could be harmed.

Our business is labor intensive, with labor costs representing approximately one-third of our operating expenses. We expect salaries, wages and benefits to increase on a gross basis and these costs could increase as a percentage of our overall costs. Since we compete against the major U.S. airlines for pilots, mechanics and other skilled labor and many of them offer wage and benefit packages that exceed ours, we may be required to increase wages and/or benefits in order to attract and retain qualified personnel or risk considerable employee turnover. If we are unable to hire, train and retain qualified employees at a reasonable cost, our business could be harmed and we may be unable to complete our expansion plans.

In addition, as we hire more people and grow, we believe it may be increasingly challenging to continue to hire people who will maintain our company culture. One of our principal competitive strengths is our service-oriented company culture that emphasizes friendly, helpful, team-oriented and customer-focused employees. Our company culture is important to providing high quality customer service and having a productive workforce that helps keep our costs low. As we grow, we may be unable to identify, hire or retain enough people who meet the above criteria, and our company culture could otherwise be adversely affected by our growing operations and geographic diversity. If we fail to maintain the strength of our company culture, our competitive ability and our business may be harmed.

If we fail to successfully take delivery of, place into service and integrate into our operations the new Embraer E190 aircraft we agreed to purchase, our business could be harmed.

In June 2003, we placed an order for 100 new Embraer E190 jet aircraft, with options for an additional 100 new aircraft. Acquisition of an all-new type of aircraft, such as the Embraer E190, involves a variety of risks relating to its ability to be successfully placed into service, including:

- difficulties or delays in obtaining the necessary certification from the Brazilian aviation regulatory authority and validation from the FAA as to the aircraft's airworthiness;
- delays in meeting the agreed upon aircraft delivery schedule;
- difficulties in obtaining financing on acceptable terms to complete our purchase of all of the firmly ordered aircraft;
- inability of the aircraft and all of its components to comply with agreed upon specifications and performance standards; and
- difficulties in outfitting the aircraft with LiveTV.

In addition, we also face risks in integrating a second type of aircraft into our existing infrastructure and operations, including, among other things, the additional costs, resources and time needed to hire and train new pilots, technicians and other skilled support personnel. If we fail to successfully take delivery of, place into service and integrate into our

operations the new Embraer E190 aircraft, our business could be harmed.

We rely on maintaining a high daily aircraft utilization rate to keep our costs low, which makes us especially vulnerable to delays.

One of our key competitive strengths is to maintain a high daily aircraft utilization rate, which is the amount of time that our aircraft spend in the air carrying passengers. High daily aircraft utilization

5

allows us to generate more revenue from our aircraft and is achieved in part by reducing turnaround times at airports so we can fly more hours on average in a day. The expansion of our business to include new destinations, more frequent flights on current routes and expanded facilities could increase the risk of delays. Aircraft utilization is reduced by delays and cancellations from various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including adverse weather conditions, security requirements, air traffic congestion and unscheduled maintenance. Reduced aircraft utilization may limit our ability to achieve and maintain profitability as well as lead to customer dissatisfaction.

Our business is highly dependent on the New York market and increases in competition or a reduction in demand for air travel in this market would harm our business.

Our growth has focused on adding flights to and from our primary base of operations at JFK in New York City. JFK is an airport that has traditionally attracted considerably less attention from our competitors for domestic flight activity than either LaGuardia Airport or Newark International Airport because of an industry perception that JFK is primarily an international airport and that the commuting distance from Manhattan to JFK is too far to attract domestic travelers. We disagreed with this perception of JFK and believe that the operational efficiencies associated with conducting our principal base of operations from JFK has contributed to our profitability. As of September 30, 2004, approximately 75% of our daily flights had JFK as either their destination or origin. As a result, we remain highly dependent upon the New York market.

In response to our positive experience at JFK, other airlines have increased their presence at the airport with a greater emphasis on low-fare domestic travel. As gates become available, other airlines which do not currently have a presence at JFK could petition the DOT for slot exemptions at JFK as we did or purchase or lease slots from other airlines. An increase in the amount of direct competition we face at JFK, LaGuardia or Newark, or an increase in congestion and delays at JFK could harm our business.

Our business would also be harmed by any circumstances causing a reduction in demand for air transportation in the New York metropolitan area, such as adverse changes in local economic conditions, negative public perception of the city, additional terrorist attacks or significant price increases linked to increases in airport access costs and fees imposed on passengers.

We may be subject to unionization, work stoppages, slowdowns or increased labor costs.

Unlike most airlines, we have a non-union workforce. If our employees unionize, it could result in demands that may increase our operating expenses and adversely affect our profitability. Each of our different employee groups could unionize at any time and require separate collective bargaining agreements. If any group of our employees were to unionize and we were unable to reach agreement on the terms of their collective bargaining agreement or we were to experience widespread employee dissatisfaction, we could be subject to work slowdowns or stoppages. In addition,

we may be subject to disruptions by organized labor groups protesting our non-union status. Any of these events would be disruptive to our operations and could harm our business.

Our results of operations will fluctuate.

We expect our quarterly operating results to fluctuate due to changes in aircraft fuel and security costs as well as to the timing and amount of maintenance and advertising expenditures. Seasonality also impacts our operations, with high vacation and leisure demand occurring on the Florida routes between October and April and on our western routes during the summer. Actions of our competitors may also contribute to fluctuations in our results. We are more susceptible to adverse weather conditions, including snow storms and hurricanes, as a result of our operations being concentrated on the East Coast, than are some of our competitors. As we enter new markets, we could be subject to additional seasonal variations along with any potential competitive responses to our entry by other airlines. As a result of these factors, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be a good indicator of our future performance. In addition, it is possible that in any future quarter our operating results could be below the expectations of investors and any published reports or analyses regarding JetBlue. In that event, the price of our common stock could decline, perhaps substantially.

6

We are subject to the risks of having a limited number of suppliers for our aircraft, our engines and a key component of our in-flight entertainment system.

To date, one of the elements of our business strategy has been to operate only one type of aircraft equipped with one type of engine. Our current dependence on a single type of aircraft and engine for all of our flights makes us particularly vulnerable to any problems associated with the Airbus A320 or the IAE International Aero Engines V2527-A5 engine, including design defects, mechanical problems, contractual performance by the manufacturers, or adverse perception by the public that would result in customer avoidance or in actions by the FAA resulting in an inability to operate our aircraft. Carriers that operate a more diversified fleet are better positioned than we are to manage such events. While our recent decision to acquire a new fleet of Embraer E190 aircraft may lessen our exposure to this risk, we will likely also become subject to similar sets of risks after we begin to take delivery of these aircraft in 2005.

One of the unique features of our fleet is that every seat in each of our aircraft is equipped with free LiveTV. An integral component of the system is the antenna, which is supplied to us by EMS Technologies, Inc. If EMS were to stop supplying us with its antennas for any reason, we would have to incur significant costs to procure an alternate supplier.

We rely heavily on automated systems to operate our business and any failure of these systems could harm our business.

We depend on automated systems to operate our business, including our computerized airline reservation system, our telecommunication systems and our website. Unlike many other airlines, which issue traditional paper tickets to some of their passengers, we issue only electronic tickets. Our website and reservation system must be able to accommodate a high volume of traffic and deliver important flight information. Substantial or repeated website, reservations system or telecommunication systems failures could reduce the attractiveness of our services and could cause our customers to purchase tickets from another airline. Any disruption in these systems could result in the loss of important data, increase our expenses and generally harm our business.

Our business could be harmed if we lose the services of our key personnel.

Our business depends upon the efforts of our Chief Executive Officer, David Neeleman, our President and Chief Operating Officer, David Barger, and a small number of management and operating personnel. We maintain key-man life insurance on Messrs. Neeleman and Barger, which may not be sufficient to cover the costs of recruiting and hiring a replacement chief executive officer or president, much less the loss of their services. We may have difficulty replacing management or other key personnel who leave and, therefore, the loss of the services of any of these individuals could harm our business.

Our lack of an established line of credit or borrowing facility makes us highly dependent upon our operating cash flows.

We have no lines of credit, other than a short-term borrowing facility for certain aircraft predelivery deposits, and rely primarily on operating cash flows to provide working capital. Unless we secure a line of credit, borrowing facility or equity financing, we will be dependent upon our operating cash flows to fund our operations and to make scheduled payments on our debt and other fixed obligations. If we fail to generate sufficient funds from operations to meet these cash requirements or are unable to secure a line of credit, other borrowing facility or equity financing, we could default on our debt and other fixed obligations.

We could be subject to liability arising from claims or other actions relating to our handling of customer data.

Through our computerized reservation system, we are provided with and maintain data regarding our customers and their travel itineraries. Various federal and state laws and regulations impose

7

limitations on the dissemination of that information by us. In addition, we have adopted a privacy policy concerning our customer information gathering and dissemination practices, including the protection of financial and personal information collected on our website.

Beginning in September 2003, several lawsuits were commenced against us alleging various causes of action, including fraudulent misrepresentation, breach of contract, violation of privacy rights, as well as violations of consumer protection statutes and federal electronic communications laws. These claims arose out of our providing access to limited customer data to a government contractor in connection with a test project for military base security. Since the lawsuits are in the preliminary stages, we are unable to determine the impact they may have upon us.

Our reputation and financial results could be harmed in the event of an accident or incident involving our aircraft.

An accident or incident involving one of our aircraft, or an aircraft containing LiveTV equipment, could involve significant potential claims of injured passengers or others in addition to repair or replacement of a damaged aircraft and its consequential temporary or permanent loss from service. We are required by the DOT to carry liability insurance. Although we believe we currently maintain liability insurance in amounts and of the type generally consistent with industry practice, the amount of such coverage may not be adequate and we may be forced to bear substantial losses from an accident. Substantial claims resulting from an accident in excess of our related insurance coverage would harm our business and financial results. Moreover, any aircraft accident or incident, even if fully insured, could cause a public perception that we are less safe or reliable than other airlines, which would harm our business.

Our employment agreements with our FAA-licensed personnel provide that we can terminate these employees only for cause and, as a result, it may be difficult to reduce our labor costs during an economic downturn, which could harm our business.

Our employment agreements with our FAA-licensed personnel, including pilots, technicians and dispatchers, provide that these employees can be terminated only for cause. Each employment agreement is for a term of five years and automatically renews for an additional five-year term unless either the employee or we elect not to renew it by giving notice at least 90 days before the end of the relevant term. In the event of a downturn in our business, we are obligated to pay these employees a significant portion of their income and to continue their benefits if they do not obtain other aviation employment. As a result, it may be difficult for us to reduce our labor costs during an economic downturn, and our inability to do so could harm our business.

Risks Associated with the Airline Industry

The airline industry has incurred significant losses resulting in airline restructurings and bankruptcies, which could result in changes in our industry.

As a result of slower general economic conditions, the lingering impact of the 2001 terrorist attacks and military action in Iraq, the airline industry has experienced a decline in demand which has resulted in record financial losses. In response to the adverse financial results the industry has experienced, most airlines have taken actions in an effort to reduce losses, such as reducing capacity and rationalizing fleet types, furloughing or terminating employees, limiting service offerings, renegotiating or attempting to renegotiate labor contracts and reconfiguring flight schedules, as well as other efficiency and cost-cutting measures. Some airlines have reexamined their traditional business models and have created or plan to launch their own low-fare operations. Despite these actions, financial losses have continued into 2004 and it is foreseeable that further airline reorganizations, bankruptcies or consolidations may occur, the effects of which we are unable to predict. Even with these conditions, the airline industry has continued to add or restore capacity. We cannot assure you that the occurrence of these events, or potential changes resulting from these events, will not harm our business or the industry.

8

A future act of terrorism, the threat of such acts or escalation of U.S. military involvement overseas could adversely affect our industry.

Even if not directed at the airline industry, a future act of terrorism, the threat of such acts or escalation of U.S. military involvement overseas could have an adverse effect on the airline industry. In the event of a terrorist attack, the industry would likely experience significantly reduced demand. We cannot assure you that these actions, or consequences resulting from these actions, will not harm our business or the industry.

Continued high fuel costs would harm our business.

Fuel costs constitute a substantial portion of our total operating expenses. There have been significant increases in fuel costs and continued high fuel costs or further increases would harm our financial condition and results of operations. Historically, fuel costs have been subject to wide price fluctuations based on geopolitical issues and supply and demand. Fuel availability is also subject to periods of market surplus and shortage and is affected by demand for both home heating oil and gasoline. Because of the effect of these events on the price and availability of fuel, the cost and future availability of fuel cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty. In the event of a fuel supply shortage,

further increased fuel prices or the curtailment of scheduled service could result. Some of our competitors may have more leverage than we do in obtaining fuel. In addition, although we utilize a fuel hedging program, under which we enter into crude oil option contracts and swap agreements to partially protect against significant increases in fuel prices, our fuel hedging program does not completely protect us against ordinary course price increases and is limited in fuel volume and duration.

Changes in government regulations imposing additional requirements and restrictions on our operations could increase our operating costs and result in service delays and disruptions.

Airlines are subject to extensive regulatory and legal requirements, both domestically and internationally, that involve significant compliance costs. In the last several years, Congress has passed laws, and the DOT, FAA and the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, have issued regulations relating to the operation of airlines that have required significant expenditures. We expect to continue to incur expenses in connection with complying with government regulations. Additional laws, regulations, taxes and airport rates and charges have been proposed from time to time that could significantly increase the cost of airline operations or reduce the demand for air travel. If adopted, these measures could have the effect of raising ticket prices, reducing revenue and increasing costs. We cannot assure you that these and other laws or regulations enacted in the future will not harm our business.

Our insurance costs have increased substantially and further increases could harm our business.

The U.S. government provides coverage to domestic airlines for liabilities from claims resulting from acts of terrorism, war or similar events via authority granted to it under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 required the government to extend these policies through August 2004 and such coverage has been further extended through December 31, 2004. JetBlue has elected this coverage, with our current policies in effect until December 31, 2004. It is expected that should the government stop providing war risk coverage to the airline industry, the premiums charged by commercial aviation insurers for this coverage will be substantially higher than the premiums currently charged by the government. Significant increases in insurance premiums could harm our financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, the coverage that would be provided by these commercial aviation insurers could have substantially less desirable terms and might not be adequate to protect our risk of loss from future acts of terrorism.

9

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereunder to fund working capital and capital expenditures, including capital expenditures related to the purchase of aircraft and construction of facilities on or near airports. Pending the use of such net proceeds, we intend to invest these funds in investment-grade, short-term interest bearing securities.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have not declared or paid any dividends on our common stock since our inception and do not intend to pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the further expansion and continued growth of our business.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated. For purposes of calculating this ratio, earnings consist of income (loss) before income taxes, plus fixed charges, less capitalized interest. Fixed charges include interest expense and the portion of rent expense representative of the interest factor.

| | | Year Ended December 31, | | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, |
|---------|---------|-------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1999(1) | 2000(1) | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | |
| — | — | 1.9x | 2.7x | 3.2x | 1.9x | |

(1)Earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$14.2 million and \$26.0 million for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 2000, respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

The following description of our common stock and preferred stock, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the common stock and the preferred stock that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future common stock or preferred stock that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any class or series of these securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. For the complete terms of our common stock and preferred stock, please refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, amended and restated registration rights agreement and stockholder rights agreement that are incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. The terms of these securities may also be affected by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement is qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, amended and restated registration rights agreement and stockholder rights agreement.

Authorized Capitalization

As of the date of this prospectus, our capital structure consists of 500,000,000 authorized shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 25,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of September 30, 2004, an aggregate of 103,602,879 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

10

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time from legally available funds subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any shares of our preferred stock that we may issue in the future. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on any matter to be voted upon by stockholders, subject to the restrictions described below under the caption "Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws—Limited Voting by Foreign Owners."

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in connection with the election of directors. Accordingly, directors will be elected by a plurality of the shares voting once a quorum is present. No holder of our common stock has any preemptive right to subscribe for any shares of capital stock issued in the future.

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share, on a pro rata basis, all assets remaining after payment to creditors and subject to prior distribution rights of the holders of any shares of preferred stock that we may issue in the future. All of the outstanding shares of common stock are, and the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus as well as the shares issuable upon the conversion of our outstanding 3½% convertible notes due 2033 and upon the conversion of any preferred stock or debt securities offered pursuant to this prospectus, when issued and paid for, will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

No shares of our preferred stock are currently outstanding. Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors, without further action by our stockholders, is authorized to issue up to 25,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. The board may fix or alter the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock, along with any limitations or restrictions, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption privileges and liquidation preferences of each class or series of preferred stock. The preferred stock could have voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of holders of our common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could also have the effect, under certain circumstances, of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of our company.

Registration Rights

We have entered into an amended and restated registration rights agreement with some of the holders of our common stock, including holders of common stock issued upon the conversion of preferred stock immediately following our initial public offering in April 2002, entitling these holders to registration rights with respect to their shares. Any group of holders of at least 60% of the securities with registration rights can require us to register all or part of their shares at any time after October 11, 2002, so long as the thresholds in the amended and restated registration rights agreement are met with respect to the amount of securities to be sold. After we have completed two such registrations we are no longer subject to these demand registration rights. In addition, holders of the securities with registration rights may also require us to include their shares in future registration statements that we file, subject to cutback at the option of the underwriters of such an offering. Subject to our eligibility to do so, holders of at least 60% of registrable securities may also require us, twice in any 12 month period and a total of three times, to register their shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form S-3. Upon any of these registrations, these shares will be freely tradable in the public market without restriction.

As of July 10, 2003 (which was one year and 90 days after the registration statement for our initial public offering was declared effective), those stockholders party to the amended and restated registration rights agreement who, together with their affiliates, held less than two percent of our issued and outstanding shares of common stock, ceased to have any registration rights under the agreement with respect to their shares. They may continue, however, to sell their shares pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Any of the terms and provisions of the amended and restated registration rights agreement may be modified, amended or waived pursuant to a written agreement signed by us, the stockholders party to the agreement holding at least 66 2/3% of the common stock held by all such stockholders and our management stockholders party to the agreement holding at least a majority of the common stock held by all such management stockholders, provided that such amendment, modification or waiver does not disproportionately affect any stockholder that is a party to the agreement. Accordingly, on October 4, 2004, we entered into a waiver and amendment to the amended and restated registration rights agreement pursuant to which the requisite stockholders party to the agreement waived their demand registration rights in connection with any offering pursuant to this prospectus and agreed that no registration rights otherwise available to holders under the agreement were exercisable with respect to any such offering.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws

Effect of Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

- prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon consummation of the transaction that 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 of voting stock outstanding (but not the voting stock owned by the interested stockholder) those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by excluding 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 that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation 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 that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines "business combination" to include the following:

- any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;
- any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;
- subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;
- any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or
-

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 who beneficially owns 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at anytime within a three year period immediately prior to the date of determining whether such person is an interested stockholder, and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by any of these entities or persons.

12

Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws Provisions. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders. These provisions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Classified Board of Directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide for our board to be divided into three classes of directors serving staggered, three year terms. The classification of the board has the effect of requiring at least two annual stockholder meetings, instead of one, to replace a majority of the members of the board of directors.

Supermajority Voting. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires the approval of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of our combined voting power to effect certain amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. Our amended and restated bylaws may be amended by either a majority of the board of directors, or the holders of 66 2/3% of our voting stock.

Authorized but Unissued or Undesignated Capital Stock. Our authorized capital stock consists of 500,000,000 shares of common stock and 25,000,000 shares of preferred stock. The authorized but unissued (and in the case of preferred stock, undesignated) stock may be issued by the board of directors in one or more transactions. In this regard, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation grants the board of directors broad power to establish the rights and preferences of authorized and unissued preferred stock. The issuance of shares of preferred stock pursuant to the board of director's authority described above could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of common stock and adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders and may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control. The board of directors does not currently intend to seek stockholder approval prior to any issuance of preferred stock, unless otherwise required by law.

Special Meetings of Stockholders. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by our board of directors, by our Chairman of the board of directors or by our Chief Executive Officer.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide that an action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of our stockholders may be taken only at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders. This provision prevents stockholders from initiating or effecting any action by written consent, and thereby taking actions opposed by the board.

Notice Procedures. Our amended and restated bylaws establish advance notice procedures with regard to all stockholder proposals to be brought before meetings of our stockholders, including proposals relating to the nomination of candidates for election as directors, the removal of directors and amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws. These procedures provide that notice of such stockholder proposals must be timely given in writing to our Secretary prior to the meeting. Generally, to be timely, notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 150 days prior to the meeting. The notice must contain certain information specified in the amended and restated bylaws.

Other Anti-Takeover Provisions. Our 2002 Stock Incentive Plan, or 2002 Plan, contains provisions which may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or unsolicited acquisition proposals. In the event that we are acquired by a merger, a sale by our stockholders of more than 50% of our outstanding voting stock or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, each outstanding option under the discretionary option grant program under our 2002 Plan that (i) will not be assumed by the successor corporation or otherwise continued in effect, (ii) will not be replaced with a cash incentive program of a successor corporation of the type described in the 2002 Plan, or (iii) will not otherwise be precluded based on other limitations imposed at the time such option was granted, will automatically accelerate in full, and all unvested shares under the

13

discretionary option grant and stock issuance programs will immediately vest, except to the extent (a) our repurchase rights with respect to those shares are to be assigned to the successor corporation or otherwise continue in effect, or (b) accelerated vesting otherwise is precluded by other limitations imposed at the time of grant. However, our compensation committee will have complete discretion to structure any or all of the options under the discretionary option grant program so those options will immediately vest in the event we are acquired, whether or not those options are assumed by the successor corporation or otherwise continued in effect. Alternatively, our compensation committee may condition such accelerated vesting upon the subsequent termination of the optionee's service with us or the acquiring entity. The vesting of outstanding shares or share rights under the stock issuance program may also be accelerated upon similar terms and conditions.

Our compensation committee may grant options and structure repurchase rights so that the shares subject to those options or repurchase rights will vest in connection with a hostile takeover, whether accomplished through a tender offer for more than 50% of our outstanding voting stock or a change in the majority of our board through one or more contested elections for board membership. Such accelerated vesting may occur either at the time of such hostile takeover or upon the subsequent termination of the individual's service. The vesting of outstanding shares or share rights under the stock issuance program may also be accelerated upon similar terms and conditions.

All of the options and unvested shares under our predecessor 1999 Stock Option/Stock Issuance Plan, which were transferred to our 2002 Plan immediately following our initial public offering in April 2002, will immediately vest in the event we are acquired by a merger or a sale of substantially all our assets or more than 50% of our outstanding voting stock.

In addition, should we be acquired by merger or sale of substantially all of our assets or more than 50% of our outstanding voting securities, then all outstanding purchase rights under our crewmember stock purchase plan will be automatically exercised immediately prior to the effective date of the acquisition. The purchase price in effect for each participant will be equal to 85% of the market value per share on the start date of the offering period in which the participant is enrolled at the time the acquisition occurs or, if lower, 85% of the fair market value per share immediately prior to the acquisition.

Limitation of Director Liability. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws limit the liability of our directors (in their capacity as directors but not in their capacity as officers) to us or our stockholders to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Specifically, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that our directors will not be personally liable for monetary damages for breach of a director's fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

- for any breach of the directors duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which relates to unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or
- for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Indemnification Arrangements. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that our directors and officers shall be indemnified and provide for the advancement to them of expenses in connection with actual or threatened proceedings and claims arising out of their status as such to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers that provide them with rights to indemnification and expense advancement to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Limited Voting by Foreign Owners. To comply with restrictions imposed by federal law on foreign ownership of U.S. airlines, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws restrict voting of shares of our capital stock by non-U.S. citizens. The restrictions

14

imposed by federal law currently require that no more than 25% of our voting stock be owned by persons who are not U.S. citizens. If non-U.S. citizens at any time own more than 25% of our voting stock, the voting rights of the stock in excess of the 25% shall be automatically suspended. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that no shares of our capital stock may be voted by or at the direction of non-U.S. citizens unless such shares are registered on a separate stock record, which we refer to as the foreign stock record. Our amended and restated bylaws further provide that no shares of our capital stock will be registered on the foreign stock record if the amount so registered would exceed the foreign ownership restrictions imposed by federal law. We are currently in compliance with these ownership restrictions.

Stockholder Rights Agreement

On February 11, 2002, our board of directors authorized us to enter into a stockholder rights agreement. The following is a summary of the material terms of this agreement. The statements below are only a summary, and we refer you to the stockholder rights agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 4.3 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed on February 18, 2003. Each statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

Under the stockholder rights agreement, one stockholder right is attached to each share of common stock. The stockholder rights are transferable only with the common stock until they become exercisable, are redeemed or expire.

Each right entitles the holder to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of our Series A participating preferred stock at an exercise price of \$53.33, which gives effect to adjustments for both our December 2002 and November 2003

three-for-two common stock splits, subject to further adjustment. The rights will separate from the common stock upon the earlier of:

- the tenth business day after a person or group has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock, such person or group referred to as an "acquiring person," or such later date as determined by our board of directors; and
- the tenth business day after a person or group commences or announces its intent to commence a tender or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in such person or group becoming an acquiring person.

The term "acquiring person" expressly excludes Chase New Air Investors (GC), LLC, Quantum Industrial Partner LDC, and the Weston Presidio funds (although the Western Presidio funds are no longer stockholders of our company) and their respective affiliates, unless Chase New Air Investors and the Weston Presidio funds and their respective affiliates beneficially own in the aggregate more than 25% of our outstanding common stock, and in the case of Quantum Industrial Partners LDC, unless Quantum and its affiliates beneficially own in the aggregate more than 30% of our common stock.

If any person or group becomes an acquiring person, instead of thousandths of shares of preferred stock, each stockholder right, other than any stockholder rights held by the acquiring person or group, will then represent the right to receive upon exercise an amount of common stock having a market value equal to twice the exercise price, subject to certain exceptions.

If after a person or group becomes an acquiring person, we are acquired in a merger or other business combination or 50% or more of our consolidated assets or earnings power are sold or transferred, each stockholder right will then represent the right to receive upon exercise an amount of common stock of the other party to the merger or other business combination having a value equal to twice the exercise price.

In addition, at any time after any person or group becomes an acquiring person, but before that person or group becomes the beneficial owner of 50% or more of the outstanding common stock, our board of directors may at its option exchange the stockholder rights, in whole or in part, for common stock at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock per right, subject to adjustment as described in the agreement.

15

The exercise price payable, the number of thousandths of shares of preferred stock and the amount of common stock, cash or securities or assets issuable upon exercise of, or exchange for, stockholder rights and the number of outstanding rights are subject to adjustment to prevent dilution if certain events occur.

Our board of directors may redeem the stockholder rights in whole, but not in part, for one cent (\$.01) per right, as adjusted to reflect any preferred stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction, at any time before the earlier of April 1, 2012 and the tenth business day after the first date of public announcement that a person or group has become an acquiring person. Unless earlier redeemed by us, exercised or exchanged, the stockholder rights will expire on April 1, 2012.

Our transfer agent, EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., is the rights agent under the stockholder rights agreement.

The stockholder rights will not prevent a takeover of us. However, the rights may render an unsolicited takeover of us more difficult or less likely to occur, even though such takeover may offer stockholders opportunity to sell their shares at a price above the prevailing market and/or may be favored by a majority of the stockholders.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is EquiServe Trust Company, N.A.

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the transfer agent and registrar for any shares of preferred stock we may offer pursuant to this prospectus.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus that are common to all series. The specific terms relating to any series of our debt securities that we offer will be described in a prospectus supplement. You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. Because the terms of specific series of debt securities offered may differ from the general information that we have provided below, you should rely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement that contradicts any information below.

As required by federal law for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities will be governed by a document called an "indenture." An indenture is a contract between a financial institution, acting on your behalf as trustee of the debt securities offered, and us. The debt securities will be issued pursuant to an indenture that we will enter into with a trustee, which, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, will be Wilmington Trust Company. When we refer to the "indenture" in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which your debt securities are issued, as may be supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to your debt securities. The trustee has two main roles. First, subject to some limitations on the extent to which the trustee can act on your behalf, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default on our obligations under the indenture. Second, the trustee performs certain administrative duties for us with respect to the debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the following section is a summary of the principal terms and provisions that will be included in the indenture. This summary is not complete. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the indenture. If we refer to particular provisions in the indenture, such provisions, including the definition of terms, are incorporated by reference in this prospectus as part of this summary. We urge you to read the indenture and any supplement thereto that are applicable to you because the indenture, and not this section, defines your rights as a holder of debt securities. The form of indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

General Terms of Debt Securities

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities offered hereby will be unsecured obligations of JetBlue and will be either our senior unsecured obligations

issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the "senior debt securities," or our subordinated unsecured obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the "subordinated debt securities." The senior debt securities will rank equal in right of payment to all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the senior debt securities and all of our other senior indebtedness, as described below under "—Subordination Provisions."

The indenture contains covenants with respect to the following matters:

- payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest;
- maintenance of an office or agency in each place of payment;
- arrangements regarding the handling of money held in trust;
- maintenance of corporate existence;
- maintenance of insurance; and
- statement by officers as to default.

We may agree to additional covenants for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities, and, if so, these will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that we can issue under it, nor does it limit us from incurring or issuing other unsecured or secured debt. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture pursuant to which the debt securities are issued will not contain any financial covenants or other provisions that protect you in the event we issue a large amount of debt, or in the event that we are acquired by another entity (including in a highly leveraged transaction).

Specific Terms of Debt Securities

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. The terms of the debt securities described in such prospectus supplement may include the following, as applicable to the series of debt securities offered thereby:

- the title of the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities of JetBlue;
- the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and whether there is any limit on such aggregate principal amount;
- whether we may reopen the series of debt securities for issuances of additional debt securities of such series;
- the date or dates, or how the date or dates will be determined, when the principal amount of the debt securities will be payable;
- the amount payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities or how this amount will be determined;
- the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, that the debt securities will bear, if any, or how such interest rate or rates will be determined;
- the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;
- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or how such date or dates will be determined;
- the interest payment dates and the record dates for these interest payments;
- whether the debt securities are redeemable at our option;

- whether there are any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to purchase or otherwise redeem the debt securities;
- the form in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than in registered book-entry only form represented by global securities; whether we will have the option of issuing debt securities in "certificated" form; whether we will have the option of issuing certificated debt securities in bearer form if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons; any restrictions on the offer, sale or delivery of bearer securities and the terms, if any, upon which bearer securities of the series may be exchanged for registered securities of the series and vice versa (if permitted by applicable laws and regulations);
- the currency or currencies of the debt securities;
- whether the amount of payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which could be based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices) and how these amounts will be determined;
- the place or places, if any, other than or in addition to Wilmington, Delaware, for payment, transfer, conversion and/or exchange of the debt securities;
- the denominations in which the offered debt securities will be issued;
- the applicability of the provisions of the indenture described under "defeasance" and any provisions in modification of, in addition to or in lieu of any of these provisions;
- material federal income tax considerations that are specific to the series of debt securities offered;
- any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;
- whether the indenture contains any changes or additions to the events of default or covenants described in this prospectus;
- whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities and the applicable terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange;
- if the debt securities are to be secured, the provisions applicable to such security; and
- any other terms specific to the series of debt securities offered.

Redemption

If the debt securities are redeemable, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such redemption, including:

- the redemption prices (or method of calculating the same);
- the redemption period (or method of determining the same);
- whether such debt securities are redeemable in whole or in part at our option; and
- any other provisions affecting the redemption of such debt securities.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of the debt securities offered are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or other securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange, including:

- the conversion price or exchange ratio (or method of calculating the same);
- the conversion or exchange period (or method of determining the same);

-
- whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, or at our option or at the option of the holder;
 - the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or the exchange ratio; and
 - any other provisions affecting conversion or exchange of such debt securities.

Form and Denomination of Debt Securities

Denomination of Debt Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be denominated in U.S. dollars, in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and multiples thereof.

Registered Form

We may issue the debt securities in registered form, in which case we may issue them either in book-entry form only or in "certificated" form. We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities issued in book-entry form will be represented by global securities.

Bearer Form

We also will have the option of issuing debt securities in non-registered form, as bearer securities, if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons. In that case, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the mechanics for holding the bearer securities, including the procedures for receiving payments, for exchanging the bearer securities for registered securities of the same series and for receiving notices. The applicable prospectus supplement will also describe the requirements with respect to our maintenance of offices or agencies outside the United States and the applicable U.S. federal tax law requirements.

Holders of Registered Debt Securities

Book-Entry Holders

We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities held in book-entry form will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee. The depositary or its nominee will hold such global securities on behalf of financial institutions that participate in such depositary's book-entry system. These participating financial institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the global securities either on their own behalf or on behalf of their customers.

Under the indenture, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that debt security. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the debt securities, and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depositary or its nominee. The depositary will then pass along the payments that it receives to its participants, which in turn will pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners of the debt securities. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers or by law; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities or the terms of the indenture.

As a result, investors will not own debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system, or that holds an interest through a participant in the depository's book-entry system. As long as the debt securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Street Name Holders

In the event that we issue debt securities in certificated form, or in the event that a global security is terminated, investors may choose to hold their debt securities either in their own names or

19

in "street name." Debt securities held in street name are registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution chosen by the investor, and the investor would hold a beneficial interest in those debt securities through the account that he or she maintains at such bank, broker or other financial institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions will pass along the payments that they receive from us to their customers who are the beneficial owners pursuant to agreements that they have entered into with such customers or by law; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities or the terms of the indenture. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Registered Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by the trustee or us, run only to the registered holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means and who are, therefore, not the registered holders of the debt securities. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a debt security, or has no choice in the matter because we are issuing the debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the registered holder of the debt securities, we have no further responsibility with respect to such payment or notice even if that registered holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend an indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture), we would seek the approval only from the registered holders, and not the indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the registered holders contact the indirect holders is up to the registered holders.

Notwithstanding the above, when we refer to "you" or "your" in this prospectus, we are referring to investors who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the registered holders or only indirect holders of the debt securities offered. When we refer to "your debt securities" in this prospectus, we mean the series of debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, we urge you to check with that institution to find out:

- how it handles securities payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle a request for its consent, as a registered holder of the debt securities, if ever required;
- if permitted for a particular series of debt securities, whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a registered holder of such debt securities;
- how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and
- if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. Each debt security

20

issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depositary. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depositary for all debt securities that we issue in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depositary or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under "—Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." As a result of these arrangements, the depositary, or its nominee, will be the sole registered holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account either with the depositary or with another institution that has an account with the depositary. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a registered holder of the debt security, but an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depositary, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. The depositary that holds the global security will be considered the registered holder of the debt securities represented by such global security.

If debt securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- An investor cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special

situations we describe below under "—Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated."

- An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under "—Holders of Registered Debt Securities" above.
- An investor may not be able to sell his or her interest in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form.
- An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in the debt securities in circumstances where certificates representing the debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective.
- The depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investors interest in the debt securities. Neither the trustee nor we have any responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for the depositary's records of ownership interests in a global security. Additionally, neither the trustee nor we supervise the depositary in any way.
- DTC requires that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security that is deposited in its book-entry system use immediately available funds. Your broker or bank may also require you to use immediately available funds when purchasing or selling interests in a global security.
- Financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the debt security. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of such intermediaries.

21

Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in the global security will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form, referred to as "certificated" debt securities. After such an exchange, it will be up to the investor as to whether to hold the certificated debt securities directly or in street name. We have described the rights of direct holders and street name holders under "—Holders of Registered Debt Securities" above. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in a global security exchanged on termination of a global security for certificated debt securities to be held directly in their own names.

The special situations for termination of a global security are as follows:

- if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security, and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 60 days of such notification;
- if we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or
- if an event of default has occurred with regard to the debt securities represented by that global security and such event of default has not been cured or waived.

The applicable prospectus supplement may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by such prospectus supplement. If a global security were terminated, only the depositary, and not we or the trustee, would be responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose

names the debt securities represented by the global security would be registered and, therefore, who would be the registered holders of those debt securities.

Form, Exchange and Transfer of Registered Securities

If we cease to issue registered debt securities in global form, we will issue them:

- only in fully registered certificated form; and
- unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and amounts that are multiples of \$1,000.

Holders may exchange their certificated securities for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their certificated securities at the trustee's office. We have appointed the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders transferring debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their certificated securities, but they may be required to pay any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holders proof of legal ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the location of the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If any certificated securities of a particular series are redeemable and we redeem less than all the debt securities of that series, we may block the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of any certificated securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security that will be partially redeemed.

22

If a registered debt security is issued in global form, only the depositary will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security as described in this subsection because it will be the sole holder of the debt security.

Payment and Paying Agents

On each due date for interest payments on the debt securities, we will pay interest to each person shown on the trustee's records as owner of the debt securities at the close of business on a designated day that is in advance of the due date for interest. We will pay interest to each such person even if such person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. The designated day on which we will determine the owner of the debt security, as shown on the trustee's records, is also known as the "record date." The record date will usually be about two weeks in advance of the interest due date.

Because we will pay interest on the debt securities to the holders of the debt securities based on ownership as of the applicable record date with respect to any given interest period, and not to the holders of the debt securities on the interest due date (that is, the day that the interest is to be paid), it is up to the holders who are buying and selling the debt securities to work out between themselves the appropriate purchase price for the debt securities. It is common for purchase prices of debt securities to be adjusted so as to prorate the interest on the debt securities fairly between the buyer and the seller based on their respective ownership periods within the applicable interest period.

Payments on Global Securities

We will make payments on a global security by wire transfer of immediately available funds directly to the depository, or its nominee, and not to any indirect holders who own beneficial interests in the global security. An indirect holder's right to those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described under "—Global Securities" above.

Payments on Certificated Securities

We will make interest payments on debt securities held in certificated form by mailing a check on each due date for interest payments to the holder of the certificated securities, as shown on the trustee's records, as of the close of business on the record date. We will make all payments of principal and premium, if any, on the certificated securities by check at the office of the trustee in New York City, New York, and/or at other offices that may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a notice to holders, against surrender of the certificated security. All payments by check will be made in next-day funds (that is, funds that become available on the day after the check is cashed).

Alternatively, if a certificated security has a face amount of at least \$10,000,000, and the holder of such certificated security so requests, we will pay any amount that becomes due on such certificated security by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account specified by the holder at a bank in New York City, New York, on the applicable due date for payment. To request payment by wire transfer, the holder must give appropriate transfer instructions to the trustee or other paying agent at least 15 business days before the requested wire payment is due. In the case of any interest payments, the instructions must be given by the person who is shown on the trustee's records as the holder of the certificated security on the applicable record date. Wire instructions, once properly given, will remain in effect unless and until new instructions are given in the manner described above.

Payment When Offices Are Closed

If payment on a debt security is due on a day that is not a business day, we will make such payment on the next succeeding business day. The indenture will provide that such payments will be treated as if they were made on the original due date for payment. A postponement of this kind will not result in a default under any debt security or indenture, and no interest will accrue on the amount of any payment that is postponed in this manner.

23

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Events of Default

You will have special rights if an Event of Default occurs with respect to your debt securities and such Event of Default is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

What Is an Event of Default?

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the term "Event of Default" with respect to the debt securities offered means any of the following:

- We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, the debt security on its due date.
- We do not pay interest on the debt security within 30 days of its due date.
- We do not deposit any sinking fund payment, if applicable, with respect to the debt securities on its due date.
- We remain in breach of a covenant with respect to the debt securities for 60 days after we receive a written notice of default stating that we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.
- We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.
- Any other Event of Default that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, and set forth in the indenture, occurs.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the same indenture or any other indenture.

Remedies if an Event of Default Occurs

If an Event of Default has occurred and has not been cured within the applicable time period, the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. A declaration of acceleration of maturity may be rescinded by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.

The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except in the payment of principal or interest, if it considers the withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders. Additionally, subject to the provisions of the indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any of the holders of the debt securities unless such holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability (called an "indemnity"). If reasonable indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conduct of any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. The trustee may refuse to follow those directions in certain circumstances. No delay or omission in exercising any right or remedy will be treated as a waiver of that right, remedy or Event of Default.

Before you are allowed to bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to your debt securities, the following must occur:

- You must give the trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured.

- The holders of 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default that has occurred and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action.
- The trustee must not have taken any action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice, request and offer of indemnity.
- The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the relevant series must not have given the trustee a direction inconsistent with the above notice or request.

Notwithstanding the above, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt securities on or after the due date for payment.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may waive any past defaults other than:

- the payment of principal, or any premium or interest, on the affected series of debt securities; or
- a default in respect of a covenant that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of the affected series of debt securities.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee, and how to declare or rescind an acceleration of maturity on their debt securities.

With respect to each series of debt securities, we will furnish to each trustee, each year, a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that, to their knowledge, we are in compliance with the provisions of the indenture applicable to such series of debt securities, or specifying an Event of Default.

Merger or Consolidation

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the indenture will generally permit us to consolidate or merge with another entity. We will also be permitted to sell all or substantially all of our assets to another entity. However, we may not take any of these actions unless, among other things, the following conditions are met:

- in the event that we merge out of existence or sell all or substantially all of our assets, the resulting entity must agree to be legally responsible for the debt securities;
- the merger or sale of all or substantially all of our assets must not cause a default on the debt securities, and we must not already be in default (unless the merger or sale would cure the default) with respect to the debt securities; and
- we must satisfy any other requirements specified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities.

Modification or Waiver

There are three types of changes we can make to any indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder.

Changes Requiring Your Approval

First, there are changes that we cannot make to the terms or provisions of your debt securities without your specific approval. Subject to the provisions of the indenture, without your specific approval, we may not:

-

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or interest or any additional amounts on, your debt securities;

25

-
- reduce the principal amount of, or premium, if any, or interest on, or any other amounts due on your debt securities;
 - reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of maturity of your debt securities;
 - make any change that adversely affects your right to receive payment on, to convert, to exchange or to require us to purchase, as applicable, your debt security in accordance with the terms of the indenture;
 - change the place or currency of payment on your debt securities;
 - impair your right to sue for payment on your debt securities;
 - if your debt securities are subordinated debt securities, modify the subordination provisions in the indenture in a manner that is adverse to you;
 - reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;
 - reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to waive certain defaults of the indenture;
 - modify any other aspect of the provisions of the indenture dealing with modification and waiver of past defaults, changes to the quorum or voting requirements or the waiver of certain covenants relating to your debt securities; or
 - modify any other provisions of the indenture as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Changes Not Requiring Your Approval

There are certain changes that we may make to your debt securities without your specific approval and without any vote of the holders of the debt securities of the same series. Such changes are limited to clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect the holders of the outstanding debt securities of such series in any material respect.

Changes Requiring Majority Approval

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, any other change to, or waiver of, any provision of the indenture and the debt securities issued pursuant thereto would require the following approval:

- If the change affects only one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series.
- If the change affects more than one series of debt securities issued under the same indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the change, with all affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.
- Waiver of our compliance with certain provisions of an indenture must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under such indenture, voting together as one class for this purpose, in accordance with the terms of such indenture.

In each case, the required approval must be given in writing.

Further Details Concerning Voting

When taking a vote, we will decide the principal amount attributable to the debt securities in the following manner:

- For original issue discount debt securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of such debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.

26

-
- For debt securities for which principal amount is not known (for example, because it is based on an index), we will use the formula described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities.
 - For debt securities denominated in one or more foreign currencies, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore will not be eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust money for their payment in full or their redemption. Debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations with respect to such debt securities, as described below under "—Defeasance—Full Defeasance."

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture. If we set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of one or more series of debt securities, such vote or action may be taken only by persons shown on the trustee's records as holders of the debt securities of the relevant series on such record date.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how their approval or waiver may be granted or denied if we seek their approval to change or waive the provisions of an indenture or of their debt securities.

Defeasance

If specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and subject to the provisions of the indenture, we may elect either:

- to be released from some of the covenants in the indenture under which your debt securities were issued (referred to as "covenant defeasance"); or
- to be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to your debt securities, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of your debt securities, to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain paying offices or agencies and to hold moneys for payment in trust (referred to as "full defeasance").

Covenant Defeasance

In the event of covenant defeasance, you would lose the protection of some of our covenants in the indenture, but would gain the protection of having money and government securities set aside in trust to repay your debt securities.

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, to accomplish covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities offered:

- We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of the same series as your debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that would generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on such series of debt securities on the various dates when such payments would be due.
- No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time would become an Event of Default, including by reason of the above deposit of money, notes or bonds, with respect to your debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit.
- We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you will not recognize income, gain or loss as a result of such covenant defeasance and that such covenant defeasance will not cause you to be taxed on your debt securities any differently than if such covenant defeasance had not occurred and we had just repaid your debt securities ourselves at maturity.

27

-
- We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that the deposit of funds or bonds would not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or that all necessary registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, had been effected.
 - We must comply with any additional terms of, conditions to or limitations to covenant defeasance, as set forth in the indenture.
 - We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities an officer's certificate and a legal opinion of our counsel stating that all conditions precedent to covenant defeasance, as set forth in the indenture, had been complied with.

If we were to accomplish covenant defeasance, you could still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit or the trustee were prevented from making payment. In fact, if an Event of Default that remained after we accomplish covenant defeasance occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and your debt securities became immediately due and payable, there might be a shortfall in our trust deposit. Depending on the event causing the default, you might not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Full Defeasance

If we were to accomplish full defeasance, you would have to rely solely on the funds or notes or bonds that we deposit in trust for repayment of your debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the unlikely event of any shortfall in our trust deposit. Conversely, the trust deposit would most likely be protected from claims of our lenders and other creditors if we were to become bankrupt or insolvent.

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, in order to accomplish full defeasance with respect to the debt securities offered:

- We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of the same series as your debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that would generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on such series of debt securities on the various dates when such payments would be due.
- No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time would become an Event of Default, including by reason of the above deposit of money, notes or bonds, with respect to your

debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit.

- We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel stating either that we have received, or there has been published, a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service or that there had been a change in the applicable U.S. federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you will not recognize income, gain or loss as a result of such full defeasance and that such full defeasance will not cause you to be taxed on your debt securities any differently than if such full defeasance had not occurred and we had just repaid your debt securities ourselves at maturity.
- We must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that the deposit of funds or bonds would not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or that all necessary registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, had been effected.
- We must comply with any additional terms of, conditions to or limitations to full defeasance, as set forth in the indenture.
- We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities an officer's certificate and a legal opinion of our counsel stating that all conditions precedent to full defeasance, as set forth in the indenture, had been complied with.

Subordination Provisions

Upon any distribution of our assets upon our dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the

28

subordinated debt securities will be subordinated, to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture, as supplemented, in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness. Our obligation to make payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities will not otherwise be affected. In addition, no payment on account of principal and premium, if any, sinking fund or interest, if any, may be made on the subordinated debt securities at any time unless full payment of all amounts due in respect of the principal and premium, if any, sinking fund and interest, if any, on our senior indebtedness has been made or duly provided for in money or money's worth.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless all of our senior indebtedness has been paid in full, in the event that any payment or distribution made by us is received by the trustee or the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities, such payment or distribution must be paid over to the holders of our senior indebtedness or a person acting on their behalf, to be applied toward the payment of all our senior indebtedness remaining unpaid until all the senior indebtedness has been paid in full. Subject to the payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, the rights of the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior indebtedness.

By reason of this subordination, in the event of a distribution of our assets upon our insolvency, certain of our general creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of the subordinated debt securities. The subordinated indenture provides that these subordination provisions will not apply to money and securities held in trust under the defeasance provisions of the subordinated indenture.

When we refer to "senior indebtedness" in this prospectus, we are referring to the principal of (and premium, if any) and unpaid interest on:

- our indebtedness (including indebtedness of others guaranteed by us), other than subordinated debt securities, whenever created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed, or money borrowed, unless the instrument creating or evidencing such indebtedness or under which such indebtedness is outstanding provides that such indebtedness is not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities; and
- renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any of such indebtedness.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date.

Information Concerning the Trustee

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Wilmington Trust Company will be the trustee under the indenture. We may conduct banking and other transactions with the trustee in the ordinary course of business.

Governing Law

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

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- through agents to the public or to investors;
- to underwriters for resale to the public or to investors;
- directly to investors; or
- through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

29

We will set forth in a prospectus supplement the terms of that particular offering of securities, including:

- the name or names of any agents or underwriters;
- the purchase price of the securities being offered and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;
- any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;
- any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;
- any initial public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchanges or markets on which such securities may be listed.

Agents

We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases of our securities for the period of their appointment or to sell our securities on a continuing basis.

Underwriters

If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if they purchase any of the securities of that series. We may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions the underwriters allow or reallow or pay to dealers. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in any prospectus supplement naming any such underwriter.

Direct Sales

We may also sell securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profit on their resale of the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify in the applicable prospectus supplement any underwriters, dealers or agents and will describe their compensation. We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against specified civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Trading Markets and Listing Of Securities

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each class or series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq National Market. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchange or market, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a class or series of securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

30

Stabilization Activities

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of these activities at any time.

Passive Market Marking

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on The Nasdaq National Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on The Nasdaq National Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security. If all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities to be offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Nixon Peabody LLP, New York, New York and for any agents, underwriters or dealers by Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of JetBlue Airways Corporation appearing in JetBlue Airways Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings also are available from the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any statement contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such earlier statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

31

-
- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, filed on February 11, 2004.
 - our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on March 31, 2004.
 - our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2004, filed on

April 26, 2004.

- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, filed on July 27, 2004.
- our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on October 8, 2004.
- our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, filed on October 8, 2004.
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004, filed on November 1, 2004.

All documents we file pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before all of the common stock offered by this prospectus is sold are incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the date of filing of the documents, except for information furnished under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 of Form 8-K, which is not deemed filed and not incorporated by reference herein. Information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

You may obtain any of these incorporated documents from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to these documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in such document, by requesting them from us in writing or by telephone at the following address:

JetBlue Airways Corporation
118-29 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, New York 11375
Attention: Legal Department
(718) 709-3026

Documents may also be available on our website at <http://investor.jetblue.com>. Information contained on our website is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.