

DUPONT E I DE NEMOURS & CO
Form 424B2
February 13, 2013

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(2)
Debt Securities	\$2,000,000,000	(1)	\$1,998,670,000	\$272,618.59

(1) The 2.80% Notes have a maximum offering price of 99.965%. The 4.15% Notes have a maximum offering price of 99.881%.

(2) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Prospectus Supplement (To prospectus dated March 31, 2011)

\$2,000,000,000
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company
\$1,250,000,000 2.80% Notes due 2023
\$750,000,000 4.15% Notes due 2043

We will pay interest on the notes referenced above (the "Notes") on February 15 and August 15 of each year, commencing on August 15, 2013. We may redeem the Notes prior to maturity, in whole or in part, as described in this prospectus supplement. If we experience a Change of Control Triggering Event (as defined herein), we may be required to offer to purchase the Notes from holders. See "Description of Notes Change of Control."

	Public Offering Price(1)	Underwriting Discount	Proceeds before Expenses
Per 2.80% Note	99.965%	0.45%	99.515%
Total	\$1,249,562,500	\$5,625,000	\$1,243,937,500
Per 4.15% Note	99.881%	0.875%	99.006%
Total	\$749,107,500	\$6,562,500	\$742,545,000
Combined Total for 2.80% Notes and 4.15% Notes	\$1,998,670,000	\$12,187,500	\$1,986,482,500

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from February 15, 2013.

Investing in our Securities involves risks. Before buying our Securities, you should refer to the risk factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference herein, our other periodic reports and in other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. See "Risk Factors" on page S-2 of this prospectus supplement and on page 4 of the accompanying prospectus.

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

The Notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company on or about February 15, 2013.

Joint Bookrunners

Credit Suisse

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Morgan Stanley

BofA Merrill Lynch

J.P. Morgan

Co-Managers

Barclays
Danske Markets
ING
PNC Capital Markets LLC
Santander
Standard Chartered Bank

BNP PARIBAS
Deutsche Bank Securities
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities
RBC Capital Markets
Scotia Capital
UBS Investment Bank
Wells Fargo Securities

Citi
HSBC
Mizuho Securities
RBS
SOCIETE GENERALE
US Bancorp

The date of this prospectus supplement is February 12, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

<u>About Dupont</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-2</u>
<u>Use Of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-3</u>
<u>Description Of Notes</u>	<u>S-4</u>
<u>United States Federal Taxation</u>	<u>S-9</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-10</u>
<u>Notice To Canadian Residents</u>	<u>S-14</u>
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	<u>S-16</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-16</u>

PROSPECTUS

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Information</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>About DuPont</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>United States Federal Taxation</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>25</u>

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We are offering to sell Notes and making offers to buy Notes only in jurisdictions in which offers and sales of the Notes are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any sale of the Notes. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the "Company," "DuPont," "we," "us" and "our" refer to E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

If we use a capitalized term in this prospectus supplement and do not define the term, it is defined in the accompanying prospectus.

The Notes are offered globally for sale only in those jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and in other jurisdictions where it is lawful to make such offers. See "Underwriting."

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the Notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. See "Underwriting."

Table of Contents

ABOUT DUPONT

We were founded in 1802 and incorporated in Delaware in 1915. We have been in continuous operation for over 200 years. Our principal offices are at 1007 Market Street in Wilmington, Delaware.

We bring world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace in the form of innovative products, materials and services. We believe that by collaborating with customers, governments, non-governmental organizations and thought leaders we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment.

Our 13 businesses are aggregated into eight reportable segments based on similar economic characteristics, the nature of the products and production processes, end-use markets, channels of distribution and regulatory environment. Our reportable segments are Agriculture, Electronics & Communications, Industrial Biosciences, Nutrition & Health, Performance Chemicals, Performance Materials, Safety & Protection, and Pharmaceuticals. We include certain embryonic businesses not included in our reportable segments, such as pre-commercial programs, and nonaligned businesses in Other.

S-1

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our notes, in addition to the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should carefully consider the risk factors under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in Part I, Item 1A in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, which are incorporated herein by reference. These risk factors may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by risk factors contained in other Exchange Act reports that we file with the SEC, which will be subsequently incorporated by reference herein, by a free writing prospectus to this prospectus supplement or by a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In addition, new risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. See "Risk Factors," "Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference" and "Forward-Looking Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

S-2

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Notes, which are expected to be approximately \$1,983 million after payment of expenses related to the offering, for general corporate purposes and to repay debt, including commercial paper and all or a portion of our:

\$250 million aggregate principal amount 4.125% notes due March 6, 2013; and

\$750 million aggregate principal amount 5.0% notes due July 15, 2013.

If for any reason we do not use the net proceeds from the sale of the Notes to repay the notes specifically described above, we will use such net proceeds for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment and refinancing of debt other than that described above, acquisitions, working capital, capital expenditures and repurchases and redemptions of securities other than those described above. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in cash equivalents and short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

The following description of the particular terms of the 2.80% Notes due 2023 (the "2.80% Notes") and the 4.15% Notes due 2043 (the "4.15% Notes") offered hereby (referred to in the prospectus as the "Debt Securities") supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of the Debt Securities included in the accompanying prospectus. The 2.80% Notes and the 4.15% Notes are collectively referred to in this prospectus supplement as the "Notes." The following summary of the Notes is qualified in its entirety by reference in the accompanying prospectus to the description of the Indenture dated as of June 1, 1992 (the "Indenture"), between the Company and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, formerly known as Bankers Trust Company, as trustee (the "Trustee"). Each of the 2.80% Notes and 4.15% Notes constitutes a separate series of notes under the Indenture.

General

The 2.80% Notes and 4.15% Notes will mature at par on February 15, 2023 and February 15, 2043, respectively, unless we redeem or repurchase the Notes prior to that date, as described below under "Optional Redemption" and "Change of Control." The Notes will constitute part of the senior debt of the Company and will rank pari passu with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of the Company. The Notes will be issued in fully registered form only, in denominations of \$2,000 and additional multiples of \$1,000. Principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable, and the transfer of Notes will be registrable, through The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), as described below.

Each 2.80% Note will bear interest from February 15, 2013 at the annual rate of 2.80%. Each 4.15% Note will bear interest from February 15, 2013 at the annual rate of 4.15%. Interest on the Notes will be payable semiannually on February 15 and August 15 of each year, commencing on August 15, 2013, to the person in whose name such Note is registered at the close of business on the 14th calendar day immediately preceding such date (whether or not a Business Day).

Interest payable at the maturity of the Notes will be payable to registered holders of the Notes to whom principal is payable. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the interest payment will be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such interest payment date. If the maturity date of the Notes falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the payment of interest and principal may be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after the maturity date.

Interest payments for the Notes will include accrued interest from and including the date of issue or from and including the last date in respect of which interest has been paid, as the case may be, to but excluding the interest payment date or the date of maturity, as the case may be.

The Company may, without the consent of the holders of any series of Notes, issue additional notes having the same ranking and the same interest rate, maturity and other terms as the Notes of such series. Any additional notes having such similar terms, together with the Notes of such series, will constitute a single series of notes under the Indenture. In the event that additional Notes of any series are not fungible with such series of Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such additional Notes will be issued with a separate CUSIP or other applicable identifying number so that they are distinguishable from such series of Notes. No additional Notes of such series may be issued if an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes of such series.

Table of Contents

As used in this prospectus supplement, "Business Day" means any day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, that is not a day on which banking institutions are authorized or required by law or regulation to close in the City of New York.

Optional Redemption

The 2.80% Notes will be redeemable as a whole at any time or in part from time to time, at the option of the Company, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the 2.80% Notes or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon from the redemption date to the maturity date (exclusive of any accrued interest) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus 12.5 basis points, plus, in each case, any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

The 4.15% Notes will be redeemable as a whole at any time or in part from time to time, at the option of the Company, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the 4.15% Notes or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon from the redemption date to the maturity date (exclusive of any accrued interest) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus 15 basis points, plus, in each case, any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

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

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

"*Independent Investment Banker*" means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Trustee after consultation with the Company.

"*Comparable Treasury Price*" means, with respect to any redemption date for the Notes, (i) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for that redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

"*Reference Treasury Dealer*" means each of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC or their respective affiliates, and one other primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City appointed by the Trustee in consultation with the Company (each, a "Primary Treasury Dealer"); provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, the Company shall substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer.

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

Table of Contents

Unless the Company defaults in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date interest will cease to accrue on the Notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

Change of Control

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the Notes as described above under "Optional Redemption," holders of Notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 and additional multiples of \$1,000) of their Notes pursuant to the offer described below (the "Change of Control Offer") on the terms set forth in the Notes. In the Change of Control Offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes repurchased, to the date of purchase (the "Change of Control Payment"). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event, we will be required to mail a notice to holders of Notes describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the Notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the "Change of Control Payment Date"), pursuant to the procedures required by the Notes and described in such notice. We must comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the Notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control provisions of the Notes, we will be required to comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control provisions of the Notes by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

accept for payment all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the Paying Agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the Notes properly accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of Notes or portions of Notes being purchased.

The Paying Agent will promptly mail to each holder of Notes properly tendered the purchase price for the Notes, and the Trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book-entry) to each holder a new Note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of any Notes surrendered; *provided* that each new Note will be in a principal amount of \$2,000 and additional multiples of \$1,000. We will not be required to make an offer to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Triggering Event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us, and such third party purchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase of Notes at the option of holders, the following definitions are applicable:

"*Below Investment Grade Rating Event*" means the Notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the Rating Agencies (as defined below) on any date from the date of the public notice of an arrangement that could result in a Change of Control until the end of the 60-day period following public notice of the occurrence of the Change of Control (which 60-day period shall be extended so long as the rating of the Notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies); provided that a Below Investment Grade Rating Event

Table of Contents

otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in rating shall not be deemed to have occurred with respect to a particular Change of Control (and thus shall not be deemed a Below Investment Grade Rating Event for purposes of the definition of Change of Control Triggering Event hereunder) if the Rating Agency or Agencies making the reduction in rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the Trustee in writing at its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, the applicable Change of Control (whether or not the applicable Change of Control shall have occurred at the time of the Below Investment Grade Rating Event).

"*Change of Control*" means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to any Person or group of related persons for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act (a "Group") other than the Company or one of its subsidiaries; (2) the approval by the holders of the Company's voting stock of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company (whether or not otherwise in compliance with the provisions of the Indenture); (3) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any Person or Group becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the then outstanding voting interests in our capital stock; or (4) the first day on which a majority of the members of our Board of Directors are not Continuing Directors.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of "all or substantially all" of our and our subsidiaries' properties or assets taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of Notes to require us to repurchase such holder's Notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our and our subsidiaries' assets taken as a whole to another Person or Group may be uncertain.

"*Change of Control Triggering Event*" means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

"*Continuing Directors*" means, as of any date of determination, any member of our Board of Directors who (1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the date of the issuance of the Notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination or election (either by a specific vote or by approval of our proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

"*Fitch*" means Fitch Ratings.

"*Investment Grade Rating*" means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's, BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P and an equivalent rating of any replacement agency, respectively.

"*Moody's*" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

"*Paying Agent*" shall mean the Trustee or any other Person authorized by the Company to pay the principal of or interest on the Notes on behalf of the Company.

"*Person*" has the meaning set forth in the Indenture and includes a "person" as used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

"*Rating Agencies*" means (1) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P; and (2) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the Notes or fails to make a rating of the Notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a "nationally recognized statistical rating organization" within the meaning of

Table of Contents

Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

"S&P" means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Applicable Law

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

Book-Entry, Delivery and Form

The Notes will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered global notes (the "Global Notes") registered in the name of DTC or Cede & Co., DTC's nominee. Beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC and investors will hold such beneficial interests only through DTC, or through Clearstream Banking, S.A. or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. as DTC participants. Beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be held in denominations of \$2,000 and additional multiples of \$1,000. Except as described below, the Global Notes may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

DTC has advised the Company as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities deposited with it by its participants and records the settlement of transactions among its participants in such securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers (including the Underwriters), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. Access to the DTC book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Individual certificates in respect of the Notes will not be issued in exchange for the Global Notes, except in very limited circumstances. If DTC notifies the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a clearing system in connection with the Global Notes, or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor clearing system is not appointed by the Company within 90 days after receiving such notice from DTC or upon becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered, the Company will issue or cause to be issued individual certificates in registered form on registration of transfer of, or in exchange for, book-entry interests in the Notes represented by such Global Notes upon delivery of such Global Notes for cancellation.

Book-entry interests in the Notes may be transferred within DTC in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by DTC. A further description of DTC's procedures with respect to the Global Notes is set forth in the accompanying prospectus under "Description of Debt Securities Global Securities."

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAXATION

The information provided in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "United States Federal Taxation" is supplemented with the following information.

Each non-United States person (as such term is defined in the accompanying prospectus) should be aware that if it does not properly provide the required IRS form, or if the IRS form (or, if permissible, a copy of such form) is not properly transmitted to and received by the United States person otherwise required to withhold United States federal income tax, interest on the Note may be subject to United States withholding tax at a 30% rate or a lower applicable treaty rate. Such tax, however, may in certain circumstances be allowed as a refund or as a credit against such owner's United States federal income tax. The foregoing does not deal with all aspects of federal income tax withholding that may be relevant to non-United States persons. Investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors for specific advice concerning the ownership and disposition of Notes.

Despite the December 31, 2012 effective date set forth in the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") as part of the HIRE Act, as referenced in the accompanying prospectus, the IRS recently finalized Treasury regulations that delay the withholding requirements with respect to payments of interest until January 1, 2014, and delay the withholding requirements with respect to gross proceeds from a disposition until January 1, 2017. In addition, under the new Treasury regulations, the FATCA withholding tax will generally not apply to debt securities outstanding on January 1, 2014, unless such securities are significantly modified after that date. Accordingly, payments of interest and principal on the Notes, and proceeds from a disposition of the Notes, will generally not be subject to withholding under FATCA unless the Notes are "significantly modified" for United States federal income tax purposes after January 1, 2014. The withholding tax provisions of FATCA are extremely broad and complex and continue to be subject to future guidance and interpretation. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding this legislation and the recently issued Treasury regulations under FATCA as they apply to the Notes.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, dated February 12, 2013 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), the underwriters named below (the "Underwriters") have severally agreed to purchase, and the Company has agreed to sell to them, severally, the principal amount of each series of Notes set forth opposite their names below:

Name	Principal Amount of 2.80% Notes	Principal Amount of 4.15% Notes
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 150,000,000
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	250,000,000	150,000,000
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	250,000,000	150,000,000
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	187,500,000	112,500,000
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	187,500,000	112,500,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	6,579,000	3,948,000
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	6,579,000	3,948,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	6,579,000	3,948,000
Danske Markets Inc.	6,579,000	3,948,000
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	6,579,000	3,948,000
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	6,579,000	3,948,000
ING Financial Markets LLC	6,579,000	3,948,000
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
Mizuho Securities USA Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
PNC Capital Markets LLC	6,579,000	3,947,000
RBC Capital Markets, LLC	6,579,000	3,947,000
RBS Securities Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
Santander Investment Securities Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
SG Americas Securities, LLC	6,579,000	3,947,000
Standard Chartered Bank	6,579,000	3,947,000
UBS Securities LLC	6,579,000	3,947,000
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.	6,579,000	3,947,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	6,578,000	3,947,000
Total	\$ 1,250,000,000	\$ 750,000,000

The Underwriting Agreement provides that the obligations of the several Underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the Notes are subject to, among other things, the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and certain other conditions. The Underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all the Notes if any are taken.

The Underwriters propose initially to offer part of the Notes to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page hereof and in part to certain dealers at prices that represent a concession not in excess of 0.30% of the principal amount of the 2.80% Notes and 0.50% of the principal amount of the 4.15% Notes. Any Underwriter may allow, and such dealers may re-allow, a concession not in excess of 0.125% of the principal amount of the 2.80% Notes and 0.25% of the principal amount of the 4.15% Notes to certain other dealers. After the initial offering of the Notes, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the Underwriters. The offering of the Notes by the Underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the Underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

In order to facilitate the offering of the Notes, the Underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the Notes. Specifically, the Underwriters may

Table of Contents

over-allot in connection with this offering, creating short positions in the Notes for their own account. In addition, to cover over-allotments or to stabilize the price of the Notes, the Underwriters may bid for, and purchase, Notes in the open market. Finally, the Underwriters may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or dealer for distributing Notes in this offering, if the Underwriters repurchase previously distributed Notes in transactions that cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the Notes above independent market levels. The Underwriters are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

The Underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular Underwriter repays to the Underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased Notes sold by or for the account of such Underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

The Underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the Underwriters and their affiliates engage in transactions with, and perform services for, the Company in the ordinary course of business and have engaged, and may in the future engage, in commercial banking and investment banking transactions with the Company. Certain of the Underwriters and their affiliates are lenders under our revolving credit facility. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the Underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments including serving as counterparties to certain derivative and hedging arrangements and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer. The Underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

The Notes are offered for sale in those jurisdictions where it is lawful to make such offers.

Standard Chartered Bank is not a U.S. registered broker-dealer and, therefore, to the extent that they intend to effect any sales of the Notes in the United States, they will do so through one or more U.S. registered broker-dealers as permitted by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority regulations.

Each of the Underwriters has represented and agreed that it has not and will not offer, sell or deliver any of the Notes directly or indirectly, or distribute this prospectus supplement or the prospectus or any other offering material relating to the Notes, in or from any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations thereof and that will not impose any obligations on the Company except as set forth in the Underwriting Agreement.

In particular, each Underwriter has represented and agreed that:

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), each Underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the "Relevant Implementation Date"), it has not made and will not make an offer of Notes to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

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

Table of Contents

to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by the issuer for any such offer; or

- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided, that no such offer of Notes shall require the issuer or any Underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this representation, the expression an "offer of Notes to the public" in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression "2010 PD Amending Directive" means Directive 2010/73/EU.

With respect to sales to residents of the United Kingdom:

- (d) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the Notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Issuer; and
- (e) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the Notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

The Notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than to persons whose ordinary business is to buy or sell shares or debentures, whether as principal or agent, or in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong, and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Notes may be issued, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made thereunder.

The Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the "Financial Instruments and Exchange Law") and each underwriter will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore

Table of Contents

(the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the Notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Underwriters have advised the Company that the Underwriters intend to make a market in the Notes. The Underwriters are not obligated, however, to do so and may discontinue their market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Notes.

Expenses associated with this offering, to be paid by the Company, are estimated to be \$3.2 million.

The Company has agreed to indemnify the several Underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

Table of Contents

NOTICE TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS

Resale Restrictions

The distribution of the Notes in Canada is being made only on a private placement basis exempt from the requirement that we prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each province where trades of Notes are made. Any resale of the Notes in Canada must be made under applicable securities laws which will vary depending on the relevant jurisdiction, and which may require resales to be made under available statutory exemptions or under a discretionary exemption granted by the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authority. Purchasers are advised to seek legal advice prior to any resale of the Notes.

Representations of Purchasers

By purchasing Notes in Canada and accepting a purchase confirmation a purchaser is representing to us and the dealer from whom the purchase confirmation is received that:

the purchaser is entitled under applicable provincial securities laws to purchase the Notes without the benefit of a prospectus qualified under those securities laws,

where required by law, that the purchaser is purchasing as principal and not as agent,

the purchaser has reviewed the text above under Resale Restrictions, and

the purchaser acknowledges and consents to the provision of specified information concerning its purchase of the Notes to the regulatory authority that by law is entitled to collect the information.

Further details concerning the legal authority for this information is available on request.

Rights of Action Ontario Purchasers Only

Under Ontario securities legislation, certain purchasers who purchase a security offered by this prospectus supplement during the period of distribution will have a statutory right of action for damages, or while still the owner of the Notes, for rescission against us in the event that this prospectus supplement contains a misrepresentation without regard to whether the purchaser relied on the misrepresentation. The right of action for damages is exercisable not later than the earlier of 180 days from the date the purchaser first had knowledge of the facts giving rise to the cause of action and three years from the date on which payment is made for the Notes. The right of action for rescission is exercisable not later than 180 days from the date on which payment is made for the Notes. If a purchaser elects to exercise the right of action for rescission, the purchaser will have no right of action for damages against us. In no case will the amount recoverable in any action exceed the price at which the Notes were offered to the purchaser and if the purchaser is shown to have purchased the securities with knowledge of the misrepresentation, we will have no liability. In the case of an action for damages, we will not be liable for all or any portion of the damages that are proven to not represent the depreciation in value of the Notes as a result of the misrepresentation relied upon. These rights are in addition to, and without derogation from, any other rights or remedies available at law to an Ontario purchaser. The foregoing is a summary of the rights available to an Ontario purchaser. Ontario purchasers should refer to the complete text of the relevant statutory provisions.

Enforcement of Legal Rights

All of our directors and officers as well as the experts named herein may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible for Canadian purchasers to effect service of process within Canada upon us or those persons. All or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of those persons may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible to satisfy a

Table of Contents

judgment against us or those persons in Canada or to enforce a judgment obtained in Canadian courts against us or those persons outside of Canada.

Taxation and Eligibility for Investment

Canadian purchasers of Notes should consult their own legal and tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in the Notes in their particular circumstances and about the eligibility of the Notes for investment by the purchaser under relevant Canadian legislation.

S-15

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

The validity of the Notes offered hereby will be passed on for the Company by Thomas L. Sager, Esq., Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Company, and for the Underwriters by Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. Certain matters may be passed upon for the Company by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Mr. Sager beneficially owned, as of February 11, 2013, 34,230 shares of the common stock of the Company, plus 77,815 shares of which he has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days of February 11, 2013 under the Company's equity-based compensation plans. Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP performs legal services for the Company from time to time.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in the accompanying prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting

S-16

PROSPECTUS

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company

Debt Securities and Common Stock

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company may offer, issue and sell from time to time debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities (the "Debt Securities"), and shares of our common stock, par value \$0.30 per share (the "Common Stock" and, together with the Debt Securities, the "Securities").

Our Common Stock may also be issued upon the conversion or the exchange of our Debt Securities.

We will provide the specific terms of any offering of Debt Securities or Common Stock in supplements to this prospectus. We may describe the terms of the Debt Securities or Common Stock in a term sheet that will precede the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

This prospectus may not be used to sell Securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may offer and sell the Debt Securities and Common Stock to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement for each offering of Securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of Securities offered, please see "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus.

Our Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "DD." The last reported sale price of our Common Stock on March 29, 2011 was \$54.59.

Investing in our Securities involves risks. Before buying our Securities, you should refer to the risk factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference herein, our other periodic reports and in other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. See "Risk Factors" on page 4.

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

The date of this prospectus is March 31, 2011.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Information</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>About Dupont</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>United States Federal Taxation</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>25</u>

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a "shelf" registration process. Using this process, we may, from time to time, offer to sell the Securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings at an unspecified aggregate initial offering price. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell Securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the Securities offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement, in addition to the information contained in the documents we refer you to under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference" appearing immediately below. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

In this prospectus and any prospectus supplement hereto, unless the context suggests otherwise, references to "our company," "the Company," "DuPont," "we," "us" and "our" mean E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information about the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a web site that contains information we file electronically with the SEC, which you can access over the internet at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our SEC filings are also available at our website at <http://www.dupont.com>. You can also obtain information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC on Form S-3. As permitted by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement. You should also read the documents incorporated by reference to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, as described immediately below under "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus documents that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus. Any statement in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus shall be automatically modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in a subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such prior 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 into this prospectus the documents listed below and all documents we subsequently file with the SEC (other than any portion of such filings that are furnished under applicable SEC rules rather than filed) pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), prior to the completion of the offering of all Securities covered by the relevant prospectus supplement:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on February 8, 2011;

Edgar Filing: DUPONT E I DE NEMOURS & CO - Form 424B2

Table of Contents

those portions of our definitive proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on April 27, 2011 that are incorporated by reference into the above mentioned annual report, filed with the SEC on March 18, 2011; and

our current reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on January 12, 2011, January 27, 2011 and March 8, 2011.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to these filings unless we have specifically incorporated that exhibit by reference into the filing), at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

DuPont Company
1007 Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19898
Attention: Treasury
Telephone: (302) 774-1000

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any incorporated document. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. We are not offering to sell or soliciting any offer to buy any Securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale thereof is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any document incorporated by reference herein is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Exchange Act and Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act"), which may be identified by their use of words like "plans," "expects," "will," "anticipates," "intends," "projects," "estimates" or other words of similar meaning. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about our strategy for growth, product development, market position, expenditures and financial results, are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions and expectations of future events. We cannot guarantee that these assumptions and expectations are accurate or will be realized. In addition, the following are some of the important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements:

Price increases for energy and raw materials could have a significant impact on our ability to sustain and grow earnings.

Failure to develop and market new products and manage product life cycles could impact our competitive position and have an adverse effect on our financial results.

Our results of operations could be adversely affected by litigation and other commitments and contingencies.

Our business, including our results of operations and reputation, could be adversely affected by process safety and product stewardship issues.

As a result of our current and past operations, including operations related to divested businesses, we could incur significant environmental liabilities.

Our ability to generate sales from genetically enhanced products, particularly seeds and other agricultural products, could be adversely affected by market acceptance, government policies, rules or regulations and competition.

Changes in government policies and laws could adversely affect our financial results.

Economic factors, including inflation and fluctuations in currency exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices could affect our financial results.

Conditions in the global economy and global capital markets may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Our results of operations and financial condition could be seriously impacted by business disruptions and security threats.

Inability to protect and enforce our intellectual property rights could adversely affect our financial results.

The foregoing list of important factors is not inclusive, or necessarily in order of importance. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial also could affect our businesses.

ABOUT DUPONT

Edgar Filing: DUPONT E I DE NEMOURS & CO - Form 424B2

We were founded in 1802 and incorporated in Delaware in 1915. We have been in continuous operation for over 200 years. Our principal offices are at 1007 Market Street in Wilmington, Delaware.

We are a world leader in science and innovation across a range of disciplines, including agriculture and industrial biotechnology, chemistry, biology, materials science and manufacturing. We operate

Table of Contents

globally and offer a wide range of innovative products and services for markets, including agriculture and food, building and construction, electronics and communications, general industrial and transportation.

Our 13 businesses are aggregated into seven reportable segments based on similar economic characteristics, the nature of the products and production processes, end-use markets, channels of distribution and regulatory environment. Our reportable segments are Agriculture & Nutrition, Electronics & Communications, Performance Chemicals, Performance Coatings, Performance Materials, Safety & Protection, and Pharmaceuticals. We include certain embryonic businesses not included in our reportable segments, such as Applied BioSciences, and nonaligned businesses in Other.

RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in any of our Securities, in addition to the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, you should carefully consider the risk factors under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in Part I, Item 1A in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, which are incorporated herein by reference. These risk factors may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by risk factors contained in other Exchange Act reports that we file with the SEC, which will be subsequently incorporated by reference herein; by any prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus; or by a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In addition, new risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. See "Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the offered Securities for general corporate purposes. These purposes may include repayment and refinancing of debt, acquisitions, working capital, capital expenditures and repurchases and redemptions of Securities. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	6.1x	4.8x	5.5x	7.8x	6.6x

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, (i) "earnings" represent the sum of income before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles, provision for (benefit from) income taxes, non-controlling interests in earnings (losses) of consolidated subsidiaries, adjustment for companies accounted for by the equity method, capitalized interest and amortization of capitalized interest plus fixed charges, and (ii) "fixed charges" represent the sum of interest and debt expense, capitalized interest and rental expense representative of interest factor. The ratio is based solely on historical financial information.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We will issue the Debt Securities under one of two indentures:

an indenture dated as of June 1, 1992 between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee; or

an indenture dated as of June 1, 1992 between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank and Chemical Bank, as trustee.

Each indenture is incorporated into or filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part. The trustee will be designated in the prospectus supplement for each offering of Debt Securities. All references to the "trustee" mean the trustee identified in the prospectus supplement. The following summaries of certain provisions of the indentures are not complete. We encourage you to read the indentures.

General

The indentures do not limit the amount of Debt Securities that we may issue. Each provides that Debt Securities may be issued up to the aggregate principal amount that we authorize from time to time. The Debt Securities will be unsecured and will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of Debt Securities will describe the terms of that series, including, where applicable:

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency or currencies and denominations of the Debt Securities;

whether the Debt Securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities;

the price or prices, expressed as a percentage of aggregate principal amount, at which the Debt Securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which the Debt Securities will mature;

the currency or currencies in which the Debt Securities are being sold and in which the principal of and any interest on the Debt Securities will be payable and whether the holder of the Debt Securities may elect the currency in which payments are to be made, and, if so, the manner of such election;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the Debt Securities will bear interest, if any;

the date from which interest on the Debt Securities will accrue, the dates on which interest will be payable and the date on which payment of interest will commence;

the dates on which and the price or prices at which the Debt Securities will, under any mandatory sinking fund provision, or may, under any optional redemption or required repayment provisions, be redeemed or repaid and the other terms and provisions of any mandatory sinking fund, optional redemption or required repayment;

Edgar Filing: DUPONT E I DE NEMOURS & CO - Form 424B2

whether the Debt Securities are to be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depository or depositaries for the global security or securities;

any special provisions for the payment of additional amounts on the Debt Securities;

Table of Contents

if a temporary global security is to be issued for a series, the requirements for certification of ownership by non-United States persons that will apply before (a) the issuance of a definitive global security or (b) the payment of interest on an interest payment date that occurs before the issuance of a definitive global security;

if a temporary global security is to be issued with respect to the series, the terms upon which interests in the temporary global security may be exchanged for interests in a definitive global security or for definitive Debt Securities of the series and the terms upon which interests in a definitive global security, if any, may be exchanged for definitive Debt Securities of the series;

any additions, modifications or deletions to the restrictive covenants included for the benefit of holders of the Debt Securities;

any additions, modifications or deletions to the events of default provided with respect to the Debt Securities;

if the Debt Securities of the series are subject to defeasance at our option, the provisions, federal income tax consequences and other considerations applicable thereto;

the designated trustee for the Debt Securities; and

any other terms of the Debt Securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable indenture. (Section 301)

Debt Securities of a series may be issuable in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities, as described below under "Global Securities." Registered securities denominated in U.S. dollars will ordinarily be issued only in denominations of \$2,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000. One or more global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the aggregate principal amount of outstanding Debt Securities of the series. (Section 303) The prospectus supplement relating to a series of Debt Securities denominated in a foreign or composite currency will specify the allowable denominations and any special U.S. federal income tax and other considerations. No service charge will be made for any tender or exchange of Debt Securities but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge. (Section 305)

Debt Securities may be presented for exchange, and registered securities that are not in global form may be presented for transfer, with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed, at the office of any transfer agent or at the office of the security registrar, without service charge and upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the indenture. Transfers or exchanges will be effected once the transfer agent or the security registrar, as the case may be, is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. (Section 305)

Debt Securities may be issued under the indenture as original issue discount securities to be offered and sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. "Original issue discount securities" means any debt securities that provide for an amount less than their principal amount to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of maturity upon the occurrence and continuation of an event of default and any debt securities issued with original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. (Section 101) A prospectus supplement will describe U.S. federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to any original issue discount securities.

Global Securities

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to that series. Global securities will be issued in registered form and may be issued in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for Debt Securities in definitive form, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the

Table of Contents

depository to a nominee of the depository or by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository or by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository or a nominee of that successor. (Sections 303 and 305)

The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any Debt Securities of a series will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the Debt Securities represented by the global security to the accounts of "participants" that have accounts with the depository. The accounts to be credited shall be designated by the underwriters of Debt Securities, by certain of our agents or by us if we sell Debt Securities directly. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository or by participants or persons that hold through participants.

So long as the depository or its nominee is the owner of a global security, the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Debt Securities represented by that global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have Debt Securities of the series represented by that global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of Debt Securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the Debt Securities under the indenture governing the Debt Securities. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of the depository and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant and, if applicable, the indirect participant, through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any right of a holder under the indenture.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on Debt Securities registered in the name of or held by a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner or the holder of the global security representing those Debt Securities. Neither we, the trustee, any paying agent nor the security registrar will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests. (Section 308)

We expect that the depository for Debt Securities of a series, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest in respect of a definitive global security, will credit immediately participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through those participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of owners of beneficial interests registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If a depository for Debt Securities of a series is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository and we do not appoint a successor depository within 90 days, we will issue Debt Securities of that series in definitive form in exchange for the global security or securities representing the Debt Securities of that series. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have any Debt Securities of a series represented by one or more global securities. In that event, we will issue Debt Securities of that series in definitive form in exchange for the global security or securities representing those Debt Securities. An owner of a beneficial interest in a global security representing Debt Securities of a series may, on terms acceptable to us and the depository for such global security,

Table of Contents

receive Debt Securities of that series in definitive form. In any of these instances, an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security will be entitled to physical delivery in definitive form of Debt Securities of the series represented by that global security equal in principal amount to that beneficial interest and to have Debt Securities registered in its name if the Debt Securities of that series are issuable as registered securities. Debt Securities of that series issued in definitive form will be issued only in authorized denominations. (Section 305)

Payment and Paying Agents

Payment of principal of and any premium on registered Securities will be made in the designated currency against surrender of any registered Securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee in New York City. Payment of any installment of interest on registered Securities will ordinarily be made to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that interest payment. Payments of interest will be made, at our option, by a check in the designated currency mailed to each holder at the holder's registered address or by wire transfer to an account designated by the holder pursuant to an arrangement that is satisfactory to the trustee and us. (Sections 307 and 1001)

The paying agents outside the United States that we initially appoint for a series of Debt Securities will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may terminate the appointment of any of the paying agents from time to time, except that we will maintain at least one paying agent in New York City for payments on registered Securities.

So long as any series of Debt Securities is listed on The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited or the Luxembourg Stock Exchange or any other stock exchange located outside the United States and it is a requirement of that stock exchange, we will maintain a paying agent in London or Luxembourg or any other required city located outside the United States, as the case may be, for that series of Debt Securities. (Section 1002)

All moneys that we pay to a paying agent for the payment of principal of or any premium, or interest on any debt security that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after it became due and payable will be repaid to us and the holder of that debt security will thereafter look only to us for payment. (Section 1003)

Certain Covenants

Liens. We covenant that, so long as any of the Debt Securities remain outstanding, we will not, nor will we permit any Restricted Subsidiary (as defined below, in "Definition of Certain Terms") to issue, assume, or guarantee any debt for money borrowed if that debt is secured by a mortgage on any Principal Property (as defined), or on any shares of stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary (whether the Principal Property, shares of stock, or indebtedness are now owned or hereafter acquired) without in any such case effectively providing that the Debt Securities shall be secured equally and ratably with such debt. This restriction, however, shall not apply to:

mortgages on property, shares of stock, or indebtedness of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary;

mortgages on property existing at the time that it is acquired, or to secure debt incurred for the purpose of financing the purchase price of such property or improvements or construction on the property, which debt is incurred prior to, at the time of or within one year after such acquisition, completion of such construction, or the commencement of commercial operation of such property thereon;

mortgages securing debt owing by any Restricted Subsidiary to us or another Restricted Subsidiary;

Table of Contents

mortgages on property of a corporation existing at the time that corporation is merged into or consolidated with us or a Restricted Subsidiary or at the time of a sale, lease or other disposition of the properties of a corporation as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to us or a Restricted Subsidiary;

mortgages on property of us or a Restricted Subsidiary in favor of the United States of America or any State thereof, or any department, agency or instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States of America or any State thereof, or in favor of any other country, or any political subdivision thereof, to secure certain payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of construction of the property subject to such mortgages, including without limitation mortgages incurred in connection with pollution control, industrial revenue or similar financings;

mortgages existing at the date of the indenture;

mortgages on particular property, or any proceeds of the sale of that property, to secure all or any part of the cost of exploration, drilling, mining or development of that property, including construction of facilities for field processing of minerals, intended to obtain or materially increase the production and sale or other disposition of oil, gas, coal, uranium, copper or other minerals of that property, or any indebtedness created, issued, assumed or guaranteed to provide funds for any or all such purposes; or

any extension, renewal or replacement or successive extensions, renewals or replacements, in whole or in part, of any mortgage referred to in the clauses immediately above.

Notwithstanding the above, we and one or more of our Restricted Subsidiaries may, without securing the Debt Securities issued under this prospectus, issue, assume, or guarantee debt secured by mortgages which would otherwise be subject to the above restrictions, provided that the aggregate amount of that debt that would then be outstanding, with certain exceptions, does not at any one time exceed 10% of the Consolidated Net Tangible Assets (as defined) of us and our consolidated subsidiaries. (Section 1004)

For the purposes of this covenant, the following types of transactions shall not be deemed to create debt secured by a mortgage:

the sale or other transfer of oil, gas, coal, uranium, copper or other minerals in place for a period of time until, or in an amount such that, the purchaser will realize therefrom a specified amount of money (however determined) or a specified amount of such minerals; or

the sale or other transfer of any other interest in property of the character commonly referred to as a "production payment." (Section 1004)

Sale and Leaseback Transactions. Sale and leaseback transactions by us or any Restricted Subsidiary of any Principal Property are prohibited unless (a) we or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled to issue, assume, or guarantee debt secured by a mortgage upon the property involved at least equal in amount to the Attributable Debt (as defined) for that transaction without equally and ratably securing the Debt Securities or (b) an amount in cash equal to the Attributable Debt for that transaction is applied to the retirement of our non-subordinated debt or debt of a Restricted Subsidiary, which by its terms matures at or is extendible or renewable at the option of the obligor to a date more than twelve months after its creation. (Section 1005)

Consolidation or Merger. We will not consolidate or merge with or dispose of all or substantially all of our property to any corporation unless the surviving corporation, if other than us, shall assume our obligations under the indenture and under the Debt Securities. (Section 801) If, on any consolidation or merger of us or any Restricted Subsidiary with or into any other corporation, or on any sale, conveyance, or lease of substantially all of our or a Restricted Subsidiary's properties, any

Table of Contents

Principal Property or any shares of stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary would then become subject to any mortgage, pledge, lien or encumbrance, we, prior to such event, will secure the Debt Securities by a direct lien on that Principal Property, shares of stock or indebtedness, prior to all liens other than any previously existing. (Section 802)

Except for the limitations on secured debt and sale and leaseback transactions described above, and other than any covenants or other provisions that may be included in a supplement to this prospectus describing any particular series of Debt Securities, the indenture and Debt Securities do not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the Debt Securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us.

Definition of Certain Terms

"Subsidiary" is defined to mean any corporation which is consolidated in our accounts and any corporation of which at least a majority of the outstanding stock having voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect a majority of the board of directors of that corporation shall at the time be owned or controlled by us, or by us and one or more Subsidiaries, or by one or more Subsidiaries. (Section 101)

"Restricted Subsidiary" is defined to mean any wholly-owned subsidiary:

substantially all the property of which is located within the continental United States of America;

which owns a Principal Property; and

in which our investment exceeds 1% of our total consolidated assets as of the end of the preceding year.

The term "Restricted Subsidiary" does not include any wholly-owned subsidiary which is principally engaged in leasing or in financing installment receivables or which is principally engaged in financing our operations outside the continental United States. (Section 101)

"Principal Property" is defined as any manufacturing plant or facility or any mineral producing property or any research facility located within the continental United States owned by us or any Restricted Subsidiary, unless, in the opinion of our Board of Directors, such plant, facility, property or research facility is not of material importance to the total business conducted by us and our Restricted Subsidiaries. (Section 101)

"Attributable Debt" is defined as the present value, discounted as provided in the indenture, of the obligation of a lessee for rental payments during the remaining term of any lease. (Section 1005)

"Consolidated Net Tangible Assets" means the total amount of assets less applicable reserves and other properly deductible items after deducting (a) all current liabilities excluding any thereof which are by their terms extendible or renewable at the option of the obligor thereon to a time more than 12 months after the time as of which the amount thereof is being computed, and (b) all goodwill, trade names, trademarks, patents, purchased technology, unamortized debt discount and other like intangible assets, all as set forth on our most recent quarterly balance sheet and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. (Section 101)

Modification of the Indenture

The indenture permits us and the trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Debt Securities at the time outstanding and affected to execute a supplemental indenture modifying the indenture or the rights of the holders of Debt Securities and any

Table of Contents

related coupons. No modification shall, without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby:

change the maturity of any debt security or coupon, or reduce its principal amount, or reduce the rate or change the time of payment of interest, or change any place of payment or change the coin or currency in which a debt security or coupon is payable or impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of payment in accordance with the foregoing;
or

reduce the percentage of Debt Securities, the consent of the holders of which is required for any modification. (Section 902)

The indenture contains provisions for convening meetings of the holders of Debt Securities of a series. (Section 1401) A meeting may be called at any time by the trustee or upon our request or the request of holders of at least 10% in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of the series, upon notice given in accordance with the indenture. (Section 1402) Except as limited in the preceding paragraph, any resolution presented at a meeting or adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present may be adopted by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series. Except as limited in the preceding paragraph, any resolution with respect to any demand, consent, waiver or other action that may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage, which is less than a majority in principal amount of outstanding Debt Securities of a series, may be adopted at a meeting or adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present by the affirmative vote of the holders of such specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series. (Section 1404)

Any resolution passed or decision taken at any meeting of holders of Debt Securities of any series duly held in accordance with the indenture will be binding on all holders of Debt Securities of that series and the related coupons. The quorum at any meeting called to adopt a resolution, and at any reconvened meeting, will be persons holding or representing not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of a series. (Section 1404)

Events of Default

The indenture defines an event of default with respect to any series of Debt Securities as any one of the following events and any other event that is established for the Debt Securities of a particular series:

default for 30 days in any payment of interest on the series;

default in any payment of principal and premium, if any, on the series;

default in the payment of any sinking fund installment;

default for 60 days after appropriate notice in performance of any other covenant in the indenture; or

certain events involving bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

No event of default with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities issued under the indenture necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of Debt Securities. (Section 501).

We are required to file with the trustee annually an officer's certificate indicating whether we are in default under the indenture. (Section 1008)

The indenture provides that, if an event of default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series of Debt Securities, either the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the Debt Securities of the series (in the case of defaults under the final two clauses listed

above, the holders of

Table of Contents

25% in principal amount of all the Debt Securities) then outstanding may declare the principal, or in the case of original issue discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified, of the Debt Securities of the series or of all the Debt Securities, as the case may be, to be due and payable immediately. (Section 502) In certain cases, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of any series, or in the case of defaults under the final two clauses listed above, the holders of a majority in principal amount of all the Debt Securities may on behalf of the holders of all the Debt Securities of any such series or of all the Debt Securities, as the case may be, waive any past default or event of default except a default not previously cured in payment of the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on any of the Debt Securities of such series or of all the Debt Securities. (Section 513)

The indenture contains a provision entitling the trustee, subject to the duty of the trustee during default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified by the holders of the Debt Securities of any series before exercising any right or power under the indenture at the request of the holders. (Section 603) The indenture provides that no holder of any Debt Securities of any series may institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, to enforce the indenture except, among other things, where the trustee has, for 60 days after it is given notice of default, failed to act, and where there has been both a request to enforce the indenture by the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding Debt Securities of that series and an offer of reasonable indemnity to the trustee. (Section 507) This provision will not prevent any holder of Debt Securities from enforcing payment of the principal thereof and premium, if any, and interest thereon at their due dates. (Section 508) The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of any series then outstanding may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on it for the Debt Securities of that series. However, the trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the indenture or which would be unjustly prejudicial to the other holders. (Section 512)

The indenture provides that the trustee will, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default on any series of Debt Securities known to it, give to the holders of that series notice of the default if not cured or waived. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of, any premium, or interest on, any Debt Securities, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it determines in good faith that doing so is in the holders' interests. (Section 602)

Discharge and Defeasance

The indenture provides that we may specify that, for Debt Securities of a certain series, we will be discharged from any and all obligations regarding those Debt Securities if we irrevocably deposit with the trustee, in trust, money and/or U.S. government obligations which through the payment of interest and principal will provide enough money to pay any installment of principal, any premium, and, any interest, and any mandatory sinking fund payments of such Debt Securities on their stated maturity in accordance with the terms of the indenture and the Debt Securities. A trust may only be established if it would not cause the Debt Securities of a series listed on any nationally recognized securities exchange to be de-listed. Establishment of a trust may be conditioned on our delivery to the trustee of an opinion of counsel, who may be our counsel, to the effect that, based upon applicable U.S. federal income tax law or a ruling published by the United States Internal Revenue Service, a defeasance and discharge will not be deemed, or result in, a taxable event to holders of the Debt Securities. (Section 1301) Defeasance, however, will not end our obligations to register the transfer or exchange of Debt Securities, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated Debt Securities, to maintain paying agencies and hold monies for payment in trust and, if so specified for Debt Securities of a certain series, to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on those Debt Securities.

Table of Contents

Trustees' Relationship with Issuer

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. acts as trustee for our Medium-Term Notes Series G and 4.125% Notes due 2013.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas acts as depository for our funds and performs other services for us in the normal course of business. It also acts as trustee for our 4.75% Notes due 2012, 5.0% Notes due 2013, 5.0% Notes due 2013, 1.75% Notes due 2014, 4.875% Notes due 2014, 5.875% Notes due 2014, Floating Rate Notes due 2014, 3.25% Notes due 2015, 4.75% Notes due 2015, 1.95% Notes due 2016, 2.75% Notes due 2016, 5.25% Notes due 2016, 6.0% Notes due 2018, 5.75% Notes due 2019, 4.625% Notes due 2020, 3.625% Notes due 2021, 4.25% Notes due 2021, 6.50% Debentures due 2028, 5.60% Notes due 2036 and 4.90% Notes due 2041.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of certain terms of our Common Stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our restated certificate of incorporation, our by-laws and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"). For more information on how you can obtain our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws, see "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 1 of this prospectus. We urge you to read our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws in their entirety.

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that we are authorized to issue up to 1,800,000,000 shares of Common Stock. As of February 28, 2011, we had outstanding 926,678,952 shares of Common Stock. Our Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "DD."

Voting Rights. The holders of Common Stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters to the exclusion of all other stockholders except as specifically stated in our restated certificate of incorporation. All corporate actions, other than the election of directors, are decided by a plurality vote by holders of our Common Stock.

Quorum. The holders of our Common Stock entitled to cast a majority of votes at a stockholders' meeting constitute a quorum at such meeting.

Election of Directors. Directors are generally elected by a majority of the votes cast by holders of our Common Stock. However, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by holders of our Common Stock in the case of elections held at a stockholders' meeting for which our corporate secretary has received a notice or otherwise has become aware, prior to such meeting, that a holder of our Common Stock has nominated a person for election to our board of directors. A majority of the votes cast means that the number of votes cast "for" a director's election exceeds the number of votes cast "against" that director's election. Abstentions and broker non-votes are not counted as votes cast either "for" or "against" a director's election.

Dividends and Liquidation Rights. Holders of Common Stock are entitled to dividends as may be declared by our board of directors whenever full accumulated dividends for all past dividend periods and for the current dividend period have been paid, or declared and set apart for payment, on the then outstanding preferred stock. Upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our company, whether voluntary or involuntary, our remaining assets and funds will be divided and paid to holders of our Common Stock according to their respective shares after payments have been made to holders of our preferred stock.

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that we are authorized to issue up to 23,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value, of which 1,688,850 shares are designated as \$4.50 Series preferred stock and 700,000 shares are designated as \$3.50 Series preferred stock. As of February 28, 2011, we had outstanding 1,672,594 shares of \$4.50 Series preferred stock and 700,000 shares of \$3.50 Series preferred stock. Our \$4.50 Series preferred stock and \$3.50 Series preferred stock are each listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbols "DDPRB" and "DDPRA", respectively.

Miscellaneous. The shares of our Common Stock offered hereby will be fully paid and non-assessable upon issuance and payment therefor. Holders of Common Stock do not have any preemptive rights to subscribe for any additional shares of capital stock or other obligations convertible into or exercisable for shares of capital stock that we may issue in the future. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our Common Stock.

The transfer agent and registrar for our Common Stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A., telephone (888) 983-8766.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Considerations

The DGCL, our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws contain provisions that could serve to discourage or to make more difficult a change in control of us without the support of our board of directors or without meeting various other conditions.

Extraordinary Corporate Transactions

Delaware law provides that the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote must approve any fundamental corporate transactions such as mergers, sales of all or substantially all of a corporation's assets, dissolutions, etc.

State Takeover Legislation

Section 203 of the DGCL, in general, prohibits a business combination between a corporation and an interested stockholder within three years of the time such stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless (a) prior to such time, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, (b) 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, exclusive of shares owned by directors who are also officers and by certain employee stock plans, or (c) at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized by the affirmative vote at a stockholders' meeting of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Rights of Dissenting Stockholders

Delaware law does not afford appraisal rights in a merger transaction to holders of shares that are either listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 stockholders, provided that such shares will be converted into stock of the surviving corporation or another corporation, which corporation in either case must also be listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 stockholders. In addition, Delaware law denies appraisal rights to stockholders of the surviving corporation in a merger if the surviving corporation's stockholders weren't required to approve the merger pursuant to Section 251(f) of the DGCL.

Stockholder Action

Delaware law provides that, unless otherwise stated in the certificate of incorporation, any action which may be taken at an annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders may be taken without a meeting, if a consent in writing is signed by the holders of the outstanding stock having the minimum number of votes necessary to authorize the action at a meeting of stockholders. Our restated certificate of incorporation does not provide otherwise and thus permits action by written consent if such action has been approved in advance by the majority vote of our board of directors.

Meetings of Stockholders

Our by-laws provide that special meetings of the stockholders may be called by our board of directors and will be called by our corporate secretary at the request in writing of the holders of record of at least 25% of the outstanding stock entitled to vote.

Table of Contents

Cumulative Voting

Delaware law permits stockholders to cumulate their votes and either cast them for one candidate or distribute them among two or more candidates in the election of directors only if expressly authorized in a corporation's certificate of incorporation. Our restated certificate of incorporation does not authorize cumulative voting.

Removal of Directors

Delaware law provides that, except in the case of a classified board of directors or where cumulative voting applies, a director, or the entire board of directors, of a corporation may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of the corporation entitled to vote at an election of directors. Our restated certificate of incorporation does not provide otherwise and thus permits removal of directors, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors.

Vacancies

Delaware law provides that vacancies and newly created directorships resulting from a resignation or any increase in the authorized number of directors elected by all of the stockholders having the right to vote as a single class may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, unless the governing documents of a corporation provide otherwise. Our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws provide that vacancies occurring in our board of directors for any cause may be filled by vote of a majority of our whole board of directors. The remaining directors may elect a successor to hold office for the unexpired term of the director whose place is vacant and until the election of his successor.

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAXATION

The following summary describes the material United States federal income and certain estate tax consequences of ownership and disposition of the Debt Securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide, if appropriate, a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the ownership and disposition of the Common Stock. This summary provides general information only and is directed solely to original beneficial owners purchasing Debt Securities at the "issue price," that is, the first price at which a substantial amount of Debt Securities is sold to the public (excluding sales to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended to the date hereof (the "Code"), existing administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions, existing and proposed Treasury Regulations currently in effect, and interpretations of the foregoing, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this prospectus may affect the tax consequences described herein, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary deals only with Debt Securities held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. This summary does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a beneficial owner in light of his particular circumstances or to beneficial owners subject to special rules, such as certain financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities, persons holding Debt Securities in connection with a hedging transaction, "straddle," conversion transaction or other integrated transaction or persons who have ceased to be United States citizens or to be taxed as resident aliens. Persons considering the purchase of Debt Securities should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the United States federal income and estate tax laws to their particular situations, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

Tax Consequences to United States Persons

For purposes of the following discussion, "United States person" means a beneficial owner of the Debt Securities that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any State or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust (A) if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (B) that has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Partnerships are subject to special tax rules and should contact their own tax advisors.

Payments of Interest

Interest on the Debt Securities will generally be taxable to a United States person as ordinary interest income at the time it is accrued or is received in accordance with the United States person's method of accounting for tax purposes.

Sale, Exchange or Retirement of the Debt Securities

Upon the sale, exchange or retirement of the Debt Securities, a United States person will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or retirement and the United States person's adjusted tax basis in the Debt Securities. For these purposes, the amount realized does not include any amount attributable to accrued but unpaid interest on the Debt Securities. Amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest are treated as interest as described under "Payments of Interest" above. A United States person's adjusted tax basis in the Debt Securities generally will equal the cost of the Debt Securities to the United States person.

Table of Contents

In general, gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange or redemption of the Debt Securities will be capital gain or loss. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of capital gains (which may be taxed at lower rates than ordinary income for taxpayers who are individuals, trusts or estates) and losses (the deductibility of which is subject to limitations).

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Backup withholding and information reporting requirements may apply to certain payments of principal, premium and interest on the Debt Securities, and to payments of proceeds of the sale or redemption of the Debt Securities, to certain non-corporate United States persons. We, our agent, a broker, or any paying agent, as the case may be, will be required to withhold from any payment a tax at a rate currently equal to 28 percent of such payment if the United States person fails to furnish or certify its correct taxpayer identification number to the payor in the manner required, fails to certify that such United States person is not subject to backup withholding, or otherwise fails to comply with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a United States person may be credited against such United States person's United States federal income tax and may entitle such United States person to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax Consequences to Non-United States Persons

As used herein, the term "non-United States person" means a beneficial owner of the Debt Securities that is not a United States person.

Income and Withholding Tax

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding below:

(a) Payments of principal and interest on the Debt Securities that is beneficially owned by a non-United States person will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax; *provided*, that in the case of interest, (1)(i) the beneficial owner does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote, (ii) the beneficial owner is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related, directly or indirectly, to us through stock ownership, (iii) the beneficial owner of the Debt Securities is not a bank whose receipt of interest is described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code; and (iv) either (A) the beneficial owner of the Debt Securities provides an IRS Form W-8 BEN (or successor form) certifying to the person otherwise required to withhold United States federal income tax from such interest, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person and provides its name and address or (B) a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business (a "financial institution") and holds an interest in the Debt Securities certifies to the person otherwise required to withhold United States federal income tax from such interest, under penalties of perjury, that such statement has been received from the beneficial owner by it or by a financial institution between it and the beneficial owner and furnishes the payor with a copy thereof; (2) the beneficial owner is entitled to the benefits of an income tax treaty under which the interest is exempt from United States federal withholding tax and the beneficial owner of the Debt Securities or such owner's agent provides an IRS Form W-8 BEN (or successor form) claiming the exemption; or (3) the beneficial owner conducts a trade or business in the United States to which the interest is effectively connected and the beneficial owner of the Debt Securities or such owner's agent provides an IRS Form W-8 ECI (or successor form) provided that in each such case, the relevant certification or IRS Form is delivered pursuant to applicable procedures and is properly transmitted to the person otherwise required to withhold United States federal income tax, and none of the persons receiving the relevant certification or IRS Form has actual knowledge that the

Table of Contents

certification or any statement on the IRS Form is false. The Forms W-8 ECI and W-8 BEN must be periodically updated.

(b) A non-United States person will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax on any gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the Debt Securities unless the gain is effectively connected with the beneficial owner's trade or business in the United States or, in the case of an individual, the beneficial owner is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year in which the sale, exchange or other disposition occurs and certain other conditions are met, or the non-United States person is subject to United States tax under provisions applicable to certain United States expatriates.

(c) The Debt Securities owned by an individual who at the time of death is not, for United States estate tax purposes, a citizen or resident of the United States generally will not be subject to United States federal estate tax as a result of such individual's death if the individual does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote and, at the time of such individual's death the income on the Debt Securities would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the individual.

If a non-United States person owning the Debt Securities is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and if interest on the Debt Securities (or gain realized on its sale, exchange or other disposition) is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business, such owner, although exempt from the withholding tax discussed in the preceding paragraphs, will generally be subject to regular United States income tax on such effectively connected income in the same manner as if it were a United States person. In addition, if such owner is a foreign corporation, it may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax (unless reduced or eliminated by an applicable treaty) of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to certain adjustments. For purposes of the branch profits tax, interest on, and any gain recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of, the Debt Securities will be included in the effectively connected earnings and profits of such owner if such interest or gain, as the case may be, is effectively connected with the conduct by such owner of a trade or business in the United States.

Each owner of the Debt Securities should be aware that if it does not properly provide the required IRS form, or if the IRS form (or, if permissible, a copy of such form) is not properly transmitted to and received by the United States person otherwise required to withhold United States federal income tax, interest on the Debt Securities may be subject to United States withholding tax at a 30% rate or a lower applicable treaty rate. Such tax, however, may in certain circumstances be allowed as a refund or as a credit against such owner's United States federal income tax. The foregoing does not deal with all aspects of federal income tax withholding that may be relevant to foreign owners of the Debt Securities. Investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors for specific advice concerning the ownership and disposition of Debt Securities.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Under current Treasury Regulations, backup withholding (imposed at a rate currently equal to 28 percent) will not apply to payments made by us or a paying agent to an owner in respect of the Debt Securities if the certifications described above are received, provided in each case that we or the paying agent, as the case may be, does not have actual knowledge that the payee is a United States person.

Backup withholding is not a separate tax, but is allowed as a refund or credit against the owner's United States federal income tax, provided the necessary information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Table of Contents

Interest on the Debt Securities that is beneficially owned by a non-United States person will be reported annually on IRS Form 1042S, which must be filed with the Internal Revenue Service and furnished to such beneficial owner.

The United States federal income tax discussion set forth above is included for general information only and may not be applicable depending upon an owner's particular situation. Owners should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences to them of the ownership and disposition of the Debt Securities, including the tax consequences under state, local, foreign and other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act

Legislation enacted on March 18, 2010 will require, after December 31, 2012, withholding at a rate of 30 percent on interest payments (including original issue discount) in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, our Debt Securities held by or through certain foreign "financial institutions" (which, for this purpose, includes investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to accounts or interests in the institution held by certain United States persons and by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons. Accordingly, the entity through which a beneficial owner holds our Debt Securities will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, interest payments (including original issue discount) in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, our Debt Securities held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30 percent, unless such entity either (i) certifies that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners." The Act generally would apply to payments made after December 31, 2012, but would exempt from withholding payment on, or proceeds in respect of, Debt Securities outstanding on the date two years after the date of enactment. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-United States persons are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of the legislation on their investment in our Debt Securities.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Debt Securities

We may sell the Debt Securities in and outside the United States (a) through underwriters or dealers, (b) directly to purchasers or (c) through agents. The prospectus supplement will include the following information:

the terms of the offering

the names of any underwriters or agents

the purchase price from us of the Securities

the net proceeds to us from the sale of the Securities

any delayed delivery arrangements

any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation

any initial public offering price

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the Debt Securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the Securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer Securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered Securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the Securities in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, whereby selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered Securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if those offered Securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered Securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, these activities may be discontinued at any time.

If we use dealers in the sale of Securities, we will sell the Securities to them as principals. They may then resell those Securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

We may sell the Securities directly. In that case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the Securities through agents we designate from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered Securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

Table of Contents

We may sell the Securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those Securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase Securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Common Stock

We may sell the Common Stock offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation:

directly to purchasers;

to or through underwriters or dealers;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods.

In addition, the manner in which we may sell some or all of the Common Stock covered by this prospectus includes, without limitation, through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

privately negotiated transactions.

We may also enter into hedging transactions. For example, we may:

enter into transactions with a broker-dealer or affiliate thereof in connection with which such broker-dealer or affiliate will engage in short sales of the Common Stock pursuant to this prospectus, in which case such broker-dealer or affiliate may use shares of Common Stock received from us to close out its short positions;

sell short shares of Common Stock and redeliver such shares to close out our short positions;

Edgar Filing: DUPONT E I DE NEMOURS & CO - Form 424B2

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver Common Stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who will then resell or transfer the Common Stock under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the Common Stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who may sell the loaned shares or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell Common Stock not covered by this prospectus to third parties, in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell Common Stock covered by and pursuant to this prospectus. If so, the third party may use Common Stock borrowed from us or others to settle such sales, and may use Common Stock received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge Common Stock covered by this prospectus to third parties, who may sell the loaned Common Stock or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged Common Stock pursuant to this prospectus.

The prospectus supplement with respect to an offering of Common Stock pursuant to this prospectus will state the terms of such offering, including:

the name or names of any underwriters or agents and the amounts of Common Stock underwritten or purchased by each of them, if any;

the public offering price or purchase price of the Common Stock and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation; and

any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers.

The offer and sale of Common Stock described in this prospectus by us, the underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, including in "at the market offerings" within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Underwriters, Agents and Dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the offered Common Stock for their own account. The underwriters may resell the offered Common Stock in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. These sales may be made at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We may offer the Common Stock to the public through an underwriting syndicate or through a single underwriter. The underwriters in any particular offering of Common Stock will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of Common Stock, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered Common Stock will be subject to certain conditions contained in an underwriting agreement that we will enter into with the underwriters at the time of the sale to them. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the Common Stock offered if any of the Common Stock is purchased, unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of Common Stock. Any initial offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Table of Contents

We may designate agents to sell the offered Common Stock. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of Common Stock, the agents will agree to use their best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment.

We may sell the offered Common Stock to dealers as principals. We may negotiate and pay dealers' commissions, discounts or concessions for their services. Dealers may then resell such Common Stock to the public either at varying prices to be determined by the dealers or at a fixed offering price agreed to with us at the time of resale. Dealers engaged by us may allow other dealers to participate in resales.

Alternately, we may choose to sell the offered Common Stock directly. In this case, no underwriters, agents or dealers would be involved.

We may authorize underwriters, agents or dealers to solicit certain institutional investors to purchase offered Common Stock on a delayed delivery basis pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified future date. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide the details of any such arrangement, including the offering price and commissions payable on the solicitations. We will enter into such delayed contracts only with institutional purchasers that we approve. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions.

We may have agreements with underwriters, agents or dealers to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Underwriters, agents and dealers, and their affiliates, may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Market Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions

Our Common Stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange. In connection with any offering of Common Stock, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of Common Stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of Common Stock in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. "Covered" short sales are sales of shares made in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option, if any. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through any such over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered syndicate short involve either purchases of Common Stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of such over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make "naked" short sales of shares in excess of any over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of Common Stock 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. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of shares in the open market while the offering is in progress for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the Common Stock.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may also engage in penalty bids. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the Common Stock originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may

Table of Contents

cause the price of the Common Stock to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of such transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

Fees and Commissions

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions, concessions or other items constituting compensation paid, allowed or re-allowed to underwriters, agents or dealers may be changed from time to time. Underwriters, agents or dealers that participate in the distribution of the offered Common Stock may be "underwriters" as defined in the Securities Act. Any commissions, fees or discounts they receive from us and any profits they receive on the resale of the offered Common Stock may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any underwriters, agents or dealers, and describe any commissions, fees or discounts that they receive from us, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"), the maximum discount or commission to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the Common Stock offered hereby.

LEGAL OPINION

Thomas L. Sager, our Senior Vice President and General Counsel, or another of our lawyers, will issue an opinion about the legality of the offered Securities for us. Any underwriters will be advised about other issues relating to any offering by their own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents
