

ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form 497
January 26, 2015

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[Table of Contents](#)

[INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS 4](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed pursuant to Rule 497
Registration No. 333-195748

[PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT](#)
(To Prospectus dated June 27, 2014)

\$200,000,000

3.875% Notes due 2020

We are offering \$200,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of our 3.875% notes due 2020, which we refer to as the Notes. The Notes will mature on January 15, 2020. We will pay interest on the Notes on January 15 and July 15 of each year, beginning July 15, 2015.

The Notes offered hereby are a further issuance of the 3.875% notes due 2020 that we issued on November 21, 2014 in the aggregate principal amount of \$400,000,000 (the "existing 2020 Notes"). The Notes offered hereby will be treated as a single series with the existing 2020 Notes under the indenture and will have the same terms as the existing 2020 Notes. The Notes offered hereby will have the same CUSIP number and will be fungible and rank equally with the existing 2020 Notes. Upon the issuance of the Notes offered hereby, the outstanding aggregate principal amount of our 3.875% notes due 2020 will be \$600,000,000. Unless the context otherwise requires, references herein to the "Notes" or the "2020 Notes" include the Notes offered hereby and the existing 2020 Notes.

We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at the redemption price discussed under the caption "Description of Notes Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement. In addition, holders of the Notes can require us to repurchase the Notes at 100% of their principal amount upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event (as defined herein). The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

The Notes will be our direct senior unsecured obligations and rank pari passu, or equally, with all outstanding and future unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness issued by Ares Capital Corporation.

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including "unitranche" loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make equity investments. We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager with approximately \$80 billion of assets under management as of September 30, 2014. Ares Operations LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Investing in the Notes involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page S-12 of this prospectus supplement and page 22 of the accompanying prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in the Notes. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at www.arescapitalcorp.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	100.185%	\$200,370,000
Underwriting discount (sales load)	0.650%	\$1,300,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to Ares Capital Corporation(2)	99.535%	\$199,070,000

- (1) The public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest of \$1,442,361.11 in the aggregate from November 21, 2014 up to, but not including, the date of delivery, which will be paid by the purchasers of the Notes offered hereby. On July 15, 2015, we will pay this pre-issuance accrued interest to the holders of the Notes offered hereby as of the applicable record date along with interest accrued on the Notes offered hereby from the date of delivery to such interest payment date.
- (2) Before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, estimated at \$0.7 million.

THE NOTES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF A BANK AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

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.

Delivery of the Notes offered hereby in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company will be made on or about January 28, 2015.

BofA Merrill Lynch

J.P. Morgan

Wells Fargo Securities

SMBC Nikko

The date of this prospectus supplement is January 23, 2015.

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

**Prospectus Supplement
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>The Company</u>	<u>S-3</u>
<u>Specific Terms of the Notes and the Offering</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-12</u>
<u>Selected Condensed Consolidated Financial Data of Ares Capital</u>	<u>S-15</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-19</u>
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>S-20</u>
<u>Capitalization</u>	<u>S-21</u>
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>S-22</u>
<u>Senior Securities</u>	<u>S-56</u>
<u>Description of Notes</u>	<u>S-59</u>
<u>Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>S-72</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-77</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-82</u>
<u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>S-83</u>

**Prospectus
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>The Company</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Offerings</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Selected Condensed Consolidated Financial Data of Ares Capital</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Senior Securities</u>	<u>95</u>
<u>Business</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>Portfolio Companies</u>	<u>116</u>
<u>Management</u>	<u>132</u>

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>Control Persons and Principal Stockholders</u>	<u>163</u>
<u>Determination of Net Asset Value</u>	<u>165</u>
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	<u>167</u>
<u>Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>169</u>
<u>Description of Securities</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Description of Our Capital Stock</u>	<u>181</u>
<u>Description of Our Preferred Stock</u>	<u>188</u>
<u>Description of Our Subscription Rights</u>	<u>189</u>
<u>Description of Our Warrants</u>	<u>191</u>
<u>Description of Our Debt Securities</u>	<u>193</u>
<u>Description of Our Units</u>	<u>205</u>
<u>Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value</u>	<u>206</u>
<u>Issuance of Warrants or Securities to Subscribe For or Convertible Into Shares of Our Common Stock</u>	<u>211</u>
<u>Regulation</u>	<u>212</u>
<u>Custodian, Transfer and Dividend Paying Agent and Registrar</u>	<u>219</u>
<u>Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices</u>	<u>219</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>220</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>222</u>
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>222</u>
<u>Available Information</u>	<u>222</u>
<u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>F-1</u>

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including statements concerning:

our, or our portfolio companies', future business, operations, operating results or prospects;

the return or impact of current and future investments;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;

the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;

the impact of changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation thereof) governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies or the operations of our competitors;

the valuation of our investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market;

our ability to recover unrealized losses;

our ability to successfully invest any capital raised in this offering;

market conditions and our ability to access alternative debt markets and additional debt and equity capital;

our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;

uncertainty surrounding the financial stability of the U.S. and the EU;

Middle East turmoil and the potential for rising energy prices and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;

European sovereign debt issues;

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

the financial condition of and ability of our current and prospective portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our ability to successfully complete and integrate any acquisitions;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;

the timing, form and amount of any dividend distributions;

the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies; and

the ability of our investment adviser to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements include these words. Our actual results and condition could differ materially from those implied or expressed in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in

S-1

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

"Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on information available to us as of their respective dates, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we have filed or in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

S-2

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and "our investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and "our administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" and "Ares Management" refer to Ares Management, L.P. and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).

Ares Capital

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately \$9.2 billion of total assets as of September 30, 2014.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a subsidiary of Ares Management, a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager with approximately \$80 billion of assets under management ("AUM")¹ as of September 30, 2014. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a subsidiary of Ares Management, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. However, we may from time to time invest in larger or smaller (in particular, for investments in early stage and/or venture capital-backed) companies. We generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$10 million and \$250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including unitranche loans), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior secured loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between \$30 million and \$500 million each, investments in project finance/power generation projects generally range between \$10 million and \$200 million each and investments in early-stage and/or venture capital-backed companies generally range between \$1 million and \$25 million each. However, the investment sizes may

1

AUM refers to the assets of the funds, alternative asset companies and other entities and accounts that are managed or co-managed by Ares (including funds managed by Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P., a wholly owned portfolio company of Ares Capital, and a registered investment adviser). It includes drawn and undrawn amounts, including certain amounts that are subject to regulatory leverage restrictions and/or borrowing base restrictions. AUM amounts are as of September 30, 2014 and are unaudited. Certain amounts are preliminary and remain subject to change, and differences may arise due to rounding.

Table of Contents

be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on, among other things, our capital availability, the composition of our portfolio and general micro- and macro-economic factors.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate or sell a portion of such amount (including, without limitation, to vehicles managed by our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM")), such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market (including purchases of a portfolio of investments).

The first and second lien senior secured loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB " by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB " by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which, under the guidelines established by these entities, is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships of Ares with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 16 years and its senior partners have an average of over 26 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, commercial real estate finance, investment banking and capital markets. The Company has access to Ares' investment professionals and administrative professionals, who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations. As of September 30, 2014, Ares had approximately 320 investment professionals and approximately 420 administrative professionals.

We and General Electric Capital Corporation and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") also co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies through an unconsolidated vehicle, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). As of September 30, 2014, the SSLP had available capital of \$11.0 billion of which approximately \$9.5 billion in aggregate principal amount was funded. As of September 30, 2014, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately \$2.3 billion, of which approximately \$2.0 billion was funded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with

Table of Contents

approval from a representative of each required). As of September 30, 2014, our investment in the SSLP was approximately \$2.0 billion at fair value (including unrealized appreciation of \$29.3 million), which represented approximately 23% of our total portfolio at fair value. As of September 30, 2014, the SSLP had 49 underlying borrowers. For more information on the SSLP, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Secured Loan Program."

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

In the first quarter of 2011, the staff of the SEC (the "Staff") informally communicated to certain BDCs the Staff's belief that certain entities, which would be classified as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act but for the exception from the definition of "investment company" set forth in Rule 3a-7 promulgated under the Investment Company Act, could not be treated as "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in Section 2(a)(46) under the Investment Company Act) (i.e., not eligible to be included in a BDC's 70% "qualifying assets" basket). Subsequently, in August 2011 the SEC issued a concept release (the "Concept Release") which stated that "[a]s a general matter, the Commission presently does not believe that Rule 3a-7 issuers are the type of small, developing and financially troubled businesses in which the U.S. Congress intended BDCs primarily to invest" and requested comment on whether or not a 3a-7 issuer should be considered an "eligible portfolio company." We provided a comment letter in respect of the Concept Release and continue to believe that the language of Section 2(a)(46) of the Investment Company Act permits a BDC to treat as "eligible portfolio companies" entities that rely on the 3a-7 exception. However, given the current uncertainty in this area (including the language in the Concept Release) and subsequent discussions with the Staff, we have, solely for purposes of calculating the composition of our portfolio pursuant to Section 55(a) of the Investment Company Act, identified such entities, which include the SSLP, as "non-qualifying assets" should the Staff ultimately disagree with our position.

As of September 30, 2014, our portfolio company, IHAM, which became an SEC-registered investment adviser effective March 30, 2012, managed 13 vehicles and served as the sub-manager/sub-servicer for three other vehicles (these vehicles managed or sub-managed/sub-serviced by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Vehicles"). As of September 30, 2014, IHAM had assets under management ("IHAM AUM")² of approximately \$2.6 billion. As of September 30, 2014, Ares Capital had invested approximately \$171 million (at amortized cost) in IHAM. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012, we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM once IHAM became an SEC-registered investment adviser. From time to time, IHAM or certain IHAM Vehicles may purchase investments from us or sell investments to us, in each case for a price equal to the fair market value of such investments determined at the time of such transactions.

2

IHAM AUM refers to the assets of the vehicles managed, sub-managed and sub-serviced by IHAM. It includes drawn and undrawn amounts, including amounts that are subject to certain restrictions. IHAM AUM amounts are as of September 30, 2014 and are unaudited. Certain amounts are preliminary and remain subject to change, and differences may arise due to rounding.

Table of Contents

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of 82 U.S.-based investment professionals as of September 30, 2014 and led by the senior partners of the Ares Direct Lending Group: Michael Arougheti, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has 12 members, including the senior partners and U.S.-based partners of the Ares Direct Lending Group, senior partners in the Ares Private Equity Group and a senior partner in the Ares Tradable Credit Group.

Recent Developments

We have applied to the Small Business Administration ("SBA") for a license to allow a new wholly owned subsidiary to operate as a Small Business Investment Company ("SBIC") under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. In May 2014, we received a "green light" or "go forth letter" from the SBA inviting us to continue our application process to obtain a license to form and operate an SBIC subsidiary, and we submitted our license application in October 2014. If approved, the license would provide us with an incremental source of long-term debt capital. Receipt of a green light letter from the SBA does not assure an applicant that the SBA will ultimately issue an SBIC license, and we have received no assurance or indication from the SBA that we will receive an SBIC license or of the timeframe in which we would receive a license should one ultimately be granted.

In November 2014, we declared a fourth quarter 2014 dividend of \$0.38 per share payable on December 31, 2014 to stockholders of record as of December 15, 2014.

In November 2014, we issued \$400 million aggregate principal amount of the existing 2020 Notes. We used the net proceeds of the issuance of the existing 2020 Notes to repay certain outstanding indebtedness under our debt facilities and for general corporate purposes, which included investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. The Notes offered hereby will be treated as a single series with the existing 2020 Notes under the indenture and will have the same terms as the existing 2020 Notes. See "Description of Notes."

From October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, we made new investment commitments of approximately \$1.4 billion, of which approximately \$1.2 billion were funded. Of these new commitments, 51% were in first lien senior secured loans, 28% were in second lien senior secured loans, 9% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP to make co-investments with GE in first lien senior secured loans through the SSLP, 9% were in senior subordinated debt and 3% were in other equity securities. Of the approximately \$1.4 billion of new investment commitments, 88% were floating rate, 9% were fixed rate and 3% were non-interest bearing. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 9.1%. We may seek to syndicate a portion of these new investment commitments, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

From October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, we exited approximately \$1.3 billion of investment commitments. Of these investment commitments, 88% were first lien senior secured loans, 4% were senior subordinated debt, 4% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP, 3% were other equity securities and 1% were preferred equity securities. Of the approximately \$1.3 billion of exited investment commitments, 91% were floating rate, 6% were fixed rate and 3% were non-interest bearing. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 7.9%. On the approximately \$1.3 billion of investment commitments exited from October 1, 2014 through December 31, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately \$54 million.

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

In addition, as of December 31, 2014, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately \$200 million and \$230 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions approved by our investment adviser's investment committee and/or for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may syndicate a portion of these investments and certain of these investments may result in the repayment of existing investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of these investments.

Our Corporate Information

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

Table of Contents**SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE NOTES AND THE OFFERING**

This prospectus supplement sets forth certain terms of the Notes that we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement and supplements the accompanying prospectus that is attached to the back of this prospectus supplement. This section outlines the specific legal and financial terms of the Notes. You should read this section together with the more general description of the Notes under the heading "Description of Notes" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of Our Debt Securities" before investing in the Notes. Capitalized terms used in this prospectus supplement and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the accompanying prospectus or in the indenture governing the Notes.

Issuer	Ares Capital Corporation
Title of the Securities	3.875% Notes due 2020
Initial Aggregate Principal Amount Being Offered	\$200,000,000 The Notes offered hereby are a further issuance of the existing 2020 Notes. The Notes offered hereby will be treated as a single series with the existing 2020 Notes under the indenture and will have the same terms as the existing 2020 Notes. The Notes offered hereby will have the same CUSIP number and will be fungible and rank equally with the existing 2020 Notes.
Initial Public Offering Price	100.185% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest from November 21, 2014 up to, but not including, the date of delivery.
Aggregate Accrued Interest	\$1,442,361.11 of accrued and unpaid interest from November 21, 2014 up to, but not including, the date of delivery.
Interest Rate	3.875%
Yield to Maturity	3.831%
Trade Date	January 23, 2015
Issue Date	January 28, 2015
Maturity Date	January 15, 2020
Interest Payment Dates	January 15 and July 15, commencing July 15, 2015
Ranking of Notes	The Notes are our general unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated, or junior, in right of payment to the Notes. The Notes rank pari passu, or equally, in right of payment with all of our existing and future senior liabilities that are not so subordinated, or junior, effectively subordinated, or junior, to any of our secured indebtedness (including unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness, and structurally subordinated, or junior, to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$4.0 billion principal amount, of which approximately \$170 million was secured indebtedness at the Ares Capital level, and of which an aggregate of approximately \$386 million was indebtedness of our subsidiaries. After giving effect to the issuance of the Notes, including the Notes offered hereby, and assuming the proceeds therefrom are used to repay outstanding borrowings under our \$1,250 million revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), the \$540 million revolving funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC (the "Revolving Funding Facility"), and/or the \$400 million revolving funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital JB Funding LLC (the "SMBC Funding Facility" and, together with the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility, the "Facilities"), our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$4.0 billion principal amount as of December 31, 2014. See "Recent Developments" and "Capitalization" for more information on our outstanding indebtedness.

Denominations	We will issue the Notes in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
Optional Redemption	We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time, or from time to time, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (exclusive of accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption) on the Notes to be redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using the applicable Treasury Rate plus 35 basis points, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date; <i>provided</i> , however, that if we redeem any Notes on or after December 15, 2019 (the date falling one month prior to the maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for the Notes will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.
Sinking Fund	The Notes will not be subject to any sinking fund. A sinking fund is a reserve fund accumulated over a period of time for the retirement of debt.
Offer to Purchase upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event	If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs prior to maturity, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash some or all of the Notes at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date.

Table of Contents

Legal Defeasance	The Notes are subject to legal defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under "Description of Notes Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance," we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the Notes.
Covenant Defeasance	The Notes are subject to covenant defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under "Description of Notes Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance," we will be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture.
Form of Notes	The Notes will be represented by global securities that will be deposited and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee. This means that, except in limited circumstances, you will not receive certificates for the Notes. Beneficial interests in the Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the Notes through either DTC, if they are a participant, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in DTC.
Trustee, Paying Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent	U.S. Bank National Association
Events of Default	If an event of default (as described herein under "Description of Notes") on the Notes occurs, the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, may be declared immediately due and payable, subject to conditions set forth in the indenture. These amounts automatically become due and payable in the case of certain types of bankruptcy or insolvency events involving us.
Other Covenants	In addition to the covenants described in the accompanying prospectus, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes:

We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate, whether or not we are subject to, Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions.

Table of Contents

If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").

Trading Market

While a trading market developed after issuing the existing 2020 Notes, we cannot assure you that an active and liquid market for the Notes will be maintained. Although the underwriters have informed us that they intend to continue to make a market in the Notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making activities at any time without notice. See "Underwriting." Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid market for the Notes will be maintained. The Notes are not listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system, and we do not intend to apply for a listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Interests in the Notes will trade in DTC's Same Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such Notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. None of the Company, the trustee or the paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Governing Law

The Notes and the indenture are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risk factors described below and under the caption "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

The Notes are unsecured and therefore are effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we have currently incurred or may incur in the future.

The Notes are not secured by any of our assets or any of the assets of our subsidiaries. As a result, the Notes are effectively subordinated, or junior, to any secured indebtedness we or our subsidiaries have currently incurred and may incur in the future (or any indebtedness that is initially unsecured to which we subsequently grant security) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. In any liquidation, dissolution, bankruptcy or other similar proceeding, the holders of any of our existing or future secured indebtedness and the secured indebtedness of our subsidiaries may assert rights against the assets pledged to secure that indebtedness in order to receive full payment of their indebtedness before the assets may be used to pay other creditors, including the holders of the Notes. As of December 31, 2014, we had \$170.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Facility is secured by certain assets in our portfolio and excludes investments held by Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") under the Revolving Funding Facility, those held by Ares Capital JB Funding LLC ("ACJB") under the SMBC Funding Facility and certain other investments; the indebtedness thereunder is therefore effectively senior to the Notes to the extent of the value of such assets.

The Notes are structurally subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The Notes are obligations exclusively of Ares Capital and not of any of our subsidiaries. None of our subsidiaries is a guarantor of the Notes and the Notes are not required to be guaranteed by any subsidiaries we may acquire or create in the future. A significant portion of the indebtedness required to be consolidated on our balance sheet is held through subsidiary financing vehicles and secured by certain assets of such subsidiaries. For example, the secured indebtedness with respect to the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility are each held through our consolidated subsidiaries, Ares Capital CP and ACJB, respectively. The assets of such subsidiaries are not directly available to satisfy the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources Debt Capital Activities" for more detail on the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility.

Except to the extent we are a creditor with recognized claims against our subsidiaries, all claims of creditors (including trade creditors) and holders of preferred stock, if any, of our subsidiaries will have priority over our equity interests in such subsidiaries (and therefore the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes) with respect to the assets of such subsidiaries. Even if we are recognized as a creditor of one or more of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interests in the assets of any such subsidiary and to any indebtedness or other liabilities of any such subsidiary senior to our claims. Consequently, the Notes are structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of any of our subsidiaries and any subsidiaries that we may in the future acquire or establish as financing vehicles or

Table of Contents

otherwise. As of December 31, 2014, we had \$324.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility and \$62.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the SMBC Funding Facility. All of such indebtedness is structurally senior to the Notes. In addition, our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, all of which would be structurally senior to the Notes.

The indenture governing the Notes contains limited protection for holders of the Notes.

The indenture governing the Notes offers limited protection to holders of the Notes. The terms of the indenture and the Notes do not restrict our or any of our subsidiaries' ability to engage in, or otherwise be a party to, a variety of corporate transactions, circumstances or events that could have an adverse impact on your investment in the Notes. In particular, the terms of the indenture and the Notes do not place any restrictions on our or our subsidiaries' ability to:

issue securities or otherwise incur additional indebtedness or other obligations, including (1) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be equal in right of payment to the Notes, (2) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be secured and therefore rank effectively senior in right of payment to the Notes to the extent of the values of the assets securing such debt, (3) indebtedness of ours that is guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries and which therefore is structurally senior to the Notes and (4) securities, indebtedness or obligations issued or incurred by our subsidiaries that would be senior to our equity interests in our subsidiaries and therefore rank structurally senior to the Notes with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries, in each case other than an incurrence of indebtedness or other obligation that would cause a violation of Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions;

pay dividends on, or purchase or redeem or make any payments in respect of, capital stock or other securities ranking junior in right of payment to the Notes;

sell assets (other than certain limited restrictions on our ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets);

create liens (including liens on the shares of our subsidiaries) or enter into sale and leaseback transactions;

enter into transactions with affiliates;

make investments; or

create restrictions on the payment of dividends or other amounts to us from our subsidiaries.

Furthermore, the terms of the indenture and the Notes do not protect holders of the Notes in the event that we experience changes (including significant adverse changes) in our financial condition, results of operations or credit ratings, as they do not require that we or our subsidiaries adhere to any financial tests or ratios or specified levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow, or liquidity.

Our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the Notes may have important consequences for you as a holder of the Notes, including making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to the Notes or negatively affecting the trading value of the Notes.

Certain of our current debt instruments include more protections for their holders than the indenture and the Notes. See in the accompanying prospectus "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes (as defined below) and the Convertible Unsecured Notes (as defined below)

Table of Contents

contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Unsecured Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations." In addition, other debt we issue or incur in the future could contain more protections for its holders than the indenture and the Notes, including additional covenants and events of default. The issuance or incurrence of any such debt with incremental protections could affect the market for and trading levels and prices of the Notes.

We may not be able to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event, as defined in the indenture that governs the Notes, as supplemented, subject to certain conditions, we will be required to offer to repurchase all outstanding Notes at 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The source of funds for that purchase of Notes will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other potential sources, including borrowings, investment repayments, sales of assets or sales of equity. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds from such sources will be available at the time of any Change of Control Repurchase Event to make required repurchases of Notes tendered. The terms of our Facilities provide that certain change of control events will constitute an event of default thereunder entitling the lenders to accelerate any indebtedness outstanding under the Facilities at that time and to terminate the Facilities. In addition, the indentures governing our Convertible Unsecured Notes contain a provision that would require us to offer to purchase the Convertible Unsecured Notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change. A failure to purchase any tendered Convertible Unsecured Notes would constitute an event of default under the indentures for the Convertible Unsecured Notes, as applicable, which would, in turn, constitute a default under the Facilities and the indenture governing the Notes. Our future debt instruments also may contain similar restrictions and provisions. If the holders of the Notes exercise their right to require us to repurchase all the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the financial effect of this repurchase could cause a default under our future debt instruments, even if the Change of Control Repurchase Event itself would not cause a default. It is possible that we will not have sufficient funds at the time of the Change of Control Repurchase Event to make the required repurchase of the Notes and/or our other debt. See "Description of Notes Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event."

While a trading market developed after issuing the existing 2020 Notes, we cannot assure you that an active trading market for the Notes will be maintained.

While a trading market developed after issuing the existing 2020 Notes, we cannot assure you that an active and liquid market for the Notes will be maintained. Although the underwriters have informed us that they intend to continue to make a market in the Notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making activities at their sole discretion at any time without notice. In addition, any market-making activity will be subject to limits imposed by law. The liquidity of the trading market in the Notes, and the market price quoted for the Notes, may be adversely affected by changes in the overall market for this type of security and by changes in our financial performance or prospects or in the prospects for companies in our industry generally or other factors. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that an active trading market for the Notes will be maintained, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. If an active trading market is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected. The Notes are not listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system, and we do not intend to apply for a listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

Table of Contents

SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ARES CAPITAL

The following selected financial and other data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included elsewhere in the accompanying prospectus. The selected financial and other data as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2013 and other quarterly financial information is derived from our unaudited financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim periods. Interim results as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2014. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Senior Securities," which are included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

S-15

Table of Contents

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

As of and For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2013 and
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009
(dollar amounts in millions, except per share data and as otherwise indicated)

	As of and For the Nine Months Ended September 30,		As of and For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	(unaudited)						
Total Investment Income	\$ 718.0	\$ 648.0	\$ 881.7	\$ 748.0	\$ 634.5	\$ 483.4	\$ 245.3
Total Expenses	392.6	317.4	437.2	387.9	344.6	262.2	111.3
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	325.4	330.6	444.5	360.1	289.9	221.2	134.0
Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax	15.8	11.7	14.1	11.2	7.5	5.4	0.6
Net Investment Income	309.6	318.9	430.4	348.9	282.4	215.8	133.4
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Extinguishment of Debt and Other Assets	127.9	35.7	58.1	159.3	37.1	280.1	69.3
Gain on the Allied Acquisition						195.9	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	\$ 437.5	\$ 354.6	\$ 488.5	\$ 508.2	\$ 319.5	\$ 691.8	\$ 202.7
Per Share Data:							
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:							
Basic	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.83	\$ 2.21	\$ 1.56	\$ 3.91	\$ 1.99
Diluted	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.83	\$ 2.21	\$ 1.56	\$ 3.91	\$ 1.99
Cash Dividend Declared	\$ 1.19(1)	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.57(2)	\$ 1.60(3)	\$ 1.41	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.47
Net Asset Value	\$ 16.71	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.46	\$ 16.04	\$ 15.34	\$ 14.92	\$ 11.44
Total Assets	\$ 9,203.1	\$ 7,754.1	\$ 8,141.5	\$ 6,401.2	\$ 5,387.4	\$ 4,562.5	\$ 2,313.5
Total Debt (Carrying Value)	\$ 3,679.2	\$ 3,137.9	\$ 2,986.3	\$ 2,195.9	\$ 2,073.6	\$ 1,378.5	\$ 969.5
Total Debt (Principal Amount)	\$ 3,756.3	\$ 3,230.8	\$ 3,078.8	\$ 2,293.8	\$ 2,170.5	\$ 1,435.1	\$ 969.5
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$ 5,249.6	\$ 4,392.4	\$ 4,904.4	\$ 3,988.3	\$ 3,147.3	\$ 3,050.5	\$ 1,257.9
Other Data:							
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End(4)	204	175	193	152	141	170	95
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased	\$ 3,082.7	\$ 2,428.3	\$ 3,493.2	\$ 3,161.6	\$ 3,239.0	\$ 1,583.9	\$ 575.0
Principal Amount of Investments Acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,833.8	\$
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments	\$ 2,030.7	\$ 992.7	\$ 1,801.4	\$ 2,482.9	\$ 2,468.2	\$ 1,555.9	\$ 515.2
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Fair Value(5):	9.9%	10.5%	10.4%	11.3%	12.0%	12.9%	12.7%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Amortized Cost(5):	9.9%	10.6%	10.4%	11.4%	12.1%	13.2%	12.1%
Total Return Based on Market Value(6)	(2.36)%	5.31%	10.5%	23.6%	2.3%	43.6%	119.9%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(7)	8.81%	8.48%	11.4%	14.3%	10.5%	31.6%	17.8%

(1) Includes an additional dividend of \$0.05 per share.

(2) Includes an additional dividend of \$0.05 per share.

Table of Contents

- (3) Includes additional dividends of \$0.10 per share.
- (4) Includes commitments to portfolio companies for which funding had yet to occur.
- (5) Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at fair value is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and income producing securities at fair value. Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost is computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and income producing securities at amortized cost.
- (6) Total return based on market value for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 equaled the decrease of the ending market value at September 30, 2014 of \$16.16 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2013 of \$17.77 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.19 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, divided by the market value at December 31, 2013. Total return based on market value for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 equaled the decrease of the ending market value at September 30, 2013 of \$17.29 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2012 of \$17.50 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.14 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, divided by the market value at December 31, 2012. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2013 equaled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2013 of \$17.77 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2012 of \$17.50 per share plus the dividends declared and payable of \$1.57 per share for the year ended December 31, 2013, divided by the market value at December 31, 2012. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2012 equaled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2012 of \$17.50 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2011 of \$15.45 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.60 per share for the year ended December 31, 2012. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equaled the decrease of the ending market value at December 30, 2011 of \$15.45 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of \$16.48 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equaled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of \$16.48 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of \$12.45 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equaled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of \$12.45 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of \$6.33 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009. Total return based on market value is not annualized. Our shares fluctuate in value. Our performance changes over time and currently may be different than that shown. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.
- (7) Total return based on net asset value for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.19 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.14 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2013 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the dividends declared and payable of \$1.57 per share for the year ended December 31, 2013, divided by the beginning net asset value for the period. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2012 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.60 per share for the year ended December 31, 2012, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equaled the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividends of \$1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009, divided by the beginning net asset value. These calculations are adjusted for shares issued in connection with the dividend reinvestment plan, the issuance of common stock with any equity offerings and the equity components of any convertible notes issued during the period. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized. Our performance changes over time and currently may be different than that shown. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Table of Contents

SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (Unaudited)
(dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data)

	2014			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 253,396	\$ 224,927	\$ 239,719	
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains and income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 149,722	\$ 127,699	\$ 141,589	
Income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 44,432	\$ 35,708	\$ 29,253	
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains	\$ 105,290	\$ 91,991	\$ 112,336	
Net realized and unrealized gains	\$ 72,449	\$ 50,840	\$ 4,656	
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 177,739	\$ 142,831	\$ 116,992	
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.39	
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	\$ 16.71	\$ 16.52	\$ 16.42	

	2013			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 233,742	\$ 246,801	\$ 206,123	\$ 195,055
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 145,003	\$ 161,421	\$ 126,951	\$ 119,182
Income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 33,493	\$ 35,199	\$ 33,374	\$ 20,085
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	\$ 111,510	\$ 126,222	\$ 93,577	\$ 99,097
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	\$ 22,374	\$ 14,575	\$ 39,921	\$ (18,755)
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 133,884	\$ 140,797	\$ 133,498	\$ 80,342
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.32
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	\$ 16.46	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.21	\$ 15.98

	2012			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 212,160	\$ 190,572	\$ 177,555	\$ 167,738
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains and income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 138,249	\$ 123,599	\$ 110,634	\$ 103,424
Income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	\$ 43,787	\$ 34,139	\$ 22,733	\$ 26,386
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains	\$ 94,462	\$ 89,460	\$ 87,901	\$ 77,038
Net realized and unrealized gains	\$ 80,682	\$ 47,095	\$ 3,031	\$ 28,509
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 175,144	\$ 136,555	\$ 90,932	\$ 105,547
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.49
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	\$ 16.04	\$ 15.74	\$ 15.51	\$ 15.47

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of the Notes in this offering will be approximately \$198.4 million, after deducting the underwriting discount of \$1.3 million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$0.7 million payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility (\$170.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of December 31, 2014), the Revolving Funding Facility (\$324.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of December 31, 2014) and/or the SMBC Funding Facility (\$62.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of December 31, 2014).

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one-, two-, three- or six-month) plus an applicable spread of 2.00% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.00%. As of December 31, 2014, one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 0.17%, 0.21%, 0.26% and 0.36%, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on May 4, 2019. Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus an applicable spread ranging from 2.25% to 2.50% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread ranging from 1.25% to 1.50%, in each case, determined monthly based on the composition of the borrowing base relative to outstanding borrowings under the facility. The Revolving Funding Facility matures on May 14, 2019 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent). Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the SMBC Funding Facility is based on one month LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.00% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the SMBC Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.00%. The SMBC Funding Facility matures on September 14, 2021 (subject to two one-year extension options exercisable upon mutual consent).

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility or the SMBC Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility.

We intend to use any net proceeds from this offering that are not applied as described above for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective.

Investing in portfolio companies could include investments in our investment backlog and pipeline that, as of December 31, 2014, were approximately \$200 million and \$230 million, respectively. Please note that the consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may syndicate a portion of these investments and certain of these investments may result in the repayment of existing investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of these investments.

Table of Contents**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges of the Company, computed as set forth below, were as follows:

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014	For the Year Ended December 31, 2013	For the Year Ended December 31, 2012	For the Year Ended December 31, 2011	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010	For the Year Ended December 31, 2009
Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)	3.8(2)	3.9	4.6(3)	3.7(4)	9.8(5)	9.4(6)

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represent net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations plus (or minus) income tax expense (benefit) including excise tax expense plus fixed charges. Fixed charges include interest and credit facility fees expense and amortization of debt issuance costs.

- (1) Earnings include net realized and unrealized gains or losses and the capital gains incentive fee expense accrued in accordance with GAAP. Net realized and unrealized gains or losses and the capital gains incentive fee expense accrued in accordance with GAAP can vary substantially from period to period.
- Excluding the net realized and unrealized gains or losses and the capital gains incentive fee expense accrued in accordance with GAAP, the earnings to fixed charges ratio would be 3.2 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, 3.7 for the year ended December 31, 2013, 3.7 for the year ended December 31, 2012, 3.6 for the year ended December 31, 2011, 4.0 for the year ended December 31, 2010 and 6.5 for the year ended December 31, 2009.
- (2) Earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 included a net realized loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$0.1 million.
- (3) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2012 included a net realized loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$2.7 million.
- (4) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2011 included a net realized loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$19.3 million.
- (5) Earnings for year ended December 31, 2010 included a one-time gain on the Allied Acquisition (as defined below) of \$195.9 million, a net realized loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$2.0 million and net realized gain on sale of other assets of \$5.9 million.
- (6) Earnings for the year ended December 31 2009, included a net realized gain on the extinguishment of debt of \$26.5 million.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our actual capitalization at September 30, 2014. You should read this table together with "Use of Proceeds" described in this prospectus supplement and our most recent balance sheet included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2014 (dollar amounts in thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 107,878
Debt(1)	
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 335,000
Revolving Funding Facility	324,000
SMBC Funding Facility	54,000
February 2016 Convertible Notes	562,805
June 2016 Convertible Notes	224,196
2017 Convertible Notes	159,936
2018 Convertible Notes	265,091
2019 Convertible Notes	295,913
2018 Notes	750,745
February 2022 Notes	143,750
October 2022 Notes	182,500
2040 Notes	200,000
2047 Notes	181,265
Total Debt	\$ 3,679,201
Stockholders' Equity	
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, 500,000,000 common shares authorized, and 314,108,062 common shares issued and outstanding	314
Capital in excess of par value	5,250,934
Accumulated overdistributed net investment income	(59,999)
Accumulated net realized loss on investments, foreign currency transactions, extinguishment of debt and other assets	(124,980)
Net unrealized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions	183,379
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 5,249,648
Total capitalization	\$ 8,928,849

(1)

The above table reflects the carrying value of indebtedness outstanding as of September 30, 2014. As of December 31, 2014, indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility were \$170.0 million, \$324.0 million and \$62.0 million, respectively. In November 2014, we issued \$400 million aggregate principal amount of the 2020 Notes, the net proceeds of which were used to pay down certain outstanding indebtedness under our debt facilities and for general corporate purposes, which included investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes offered hereby are expected to be used to pay down outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility, the Revolving Credit Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility, and for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. See "Use of Proceeds."

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The information contained in this section should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Condensed Consolidated Financial Data of Ares Capital" and our financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

OVERVIEW

We are a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management, a subsidiary of Ares Management, a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager, pursuant to our investment advisory and management agreement. Ares Operations, a subsidiary of Ares Management, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including unitranche loans), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component like warrants.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments, of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through September 30, 2014, our exited investments resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 13% (based on original cash invested, net of syndications, of approximately \$9.2 billion and total proceeds from such exited investments of approximately \$11.2 billion). Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of a debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. Approximately 69% of these exited investments resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater.

Additionally, since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through September 30, 2014, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by approximately \$296 million (excluding a one-time gain on the acquisition of Allied Capital Corporation ("Allied Capital") and realized gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our average annualized net realized gain rate was approximately 1.1% (excluding a one-time gain on the acquisition of Allied Capital and realized gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). Net realized gain/loss rates for a particular period are the amount of net realized gains/losses during such period divided by the average quarterly investments at amortized cost in such period.

Information included herein regarding internal rates of return, realized gains and losses and annualized net realized gain rates since our initial public offering are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

Table of Contents

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in "qualifying assets," including securities and indebtedness of private U.S. companies and certain public U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. We also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

We have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC," under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to RICs. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and timely distribute to our stockholders generally at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. Pursuant to this election, we generally will not have to pay U.S. federal corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders provided that we satisfy those requirements.

Table of Contents**PORTFOLIO AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY**

Our investment activity for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 is presented below (information presented herein is at amortized cost unless otherwise indicated).

(dollar amounts in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013
New investment commitments(1):		
New portfolio companies	\$ 488.5	\$ 842.3
Existing portfolio companies(2)	829.5	289.7
Total new investment commitments	1,318.0	1,132.0
Less:		
Investment commitments exited	654.2	391.1
Net investment commitments	\$ 663.8	\$ 740.9
Principal amount of investments funded:		
First lien senior secured loans	\$ 826.1	\$ 603.7
Second lien senior secured loans	294.0	134.9
Subordinated certificates of the SSLP(3)	86.4	182.4
Senior subordinated debt	126.4	
Preferred equity securities	5.0	
Other equity securities	12.2	10.7
Total	\$ 1,350.1	\$ 931.7
Principal amount of investments sold or repaid:		
First lien senior secured loans	\$ 365.0	\$ 190.9
Second lien senior secured loans	102.6	42.9
Subordinated certificates of the SSLP(3)	70.4	25.3
Senior subordinated debt	40.9	106.1
Preferred equity securities	11.0	5.5
Other equity securities	39.3	2.1
Commercial real estate	4.0	
Total	\$ 633.2	\$ 372.8
Number of new investment commitments(4)	30	25
Average new investment commitment amount	\$ 43.9	\$ 45.3
Weighted average term for new investment commitments (in months)	73	79
Percentage of new investment commitments at floating rates	87%	95%
Percentage of new investment commitments at fixed rates	12%	4%
Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities(5):		
Funded during the period at amortized cost	8.8%	9.5%
Funded during the period at fair value(6)	8.7%	9.5%
Exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost	9.1%	10.4%
Exited or repaid during the period at fair value(6)	8.8%	10.3%

(1) New investment commitments include new agreements to fund revolving credit facilities or delayed draw loans.

(2) Includes investment commitments to the SSLP to make co-investments with GE in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies of \$99.8 million and \$221.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

- (3) See "Senior Secured Loan Program" below and Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information on the SSLP.
- (4) Number of new investment commitments represents each commitment to a particular portfolio company or a commitment to multiple companies as part of an individual transaction (e.g., the purchase of a portfolio of investments).
- (5) "Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost" is computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost. "Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at fair value" is computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and other income producing securities at fair value.
- (6) Represents fair value for investments in the portfolio as of the most recent prior quarter end, if applicable.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, our investments consisted of the following:

(in millions)	As of			
	September 30, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
First lien senior secured loans	\$ 4,030.2	\$ 4,012.5	\$ 3,405.6	\$ 3,377.6
Second lien senior secured loans	1,488.0	1,451.6	1,335.8	1,319.2
Subordinated certificates of the SSLP(1)	1,954.1	1,983.4	1,745.2	1,771.4
Senior subordinated debt	470.2	469.4	364.1	323.2
Preferred equity securities	224.5	214.1	226.0	229.0
Other equity securities	430.9	645.6	453.7	600.2
Commercial real estate	2.9	7.0	7.0	12.3
	\$ 8,600.8	\$ 8,783.6	\$ 7,537.4	\$ 7,632.9

-
- (1) The proceeds from these certificates were applied to co-investments with GE to fund first lien senior secured loans to 49 and 47 different borrowers as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.

Table of Contents

The weighted average yields at amortized cost and fair value of the following portions of our portfolio as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were as follows:

	As of			
	September 30, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Debt and other income producing securities(1)	9.9%	9.9%	10.4%	10.4%
Total portfolio(2)	9.1%	8.9%	9.4%	9.3%
First lien senior secured loans(2)	8.2%	8.2%	7.8%	7.8%
Second lien senior secured loans(2)	8.3%	8.5%	9.4%	9.5%
Subordinated certificates of the SSLP(2)(3)	13.8%	13.5%	15.0%	14.8%
Senior subordinated debt(2)	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%	11.6%
Income producing equity securities(2)	9.7%	9.6%	10.1%	9.1%

- (1) "Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost" is computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost. "Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at fair value" is computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) total accruing debt and other income producing securities at fair value.
- (2) "Weighted average yields at amortized cost" are computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on the relevant accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) the total relevant investments at amortized cost. "Weighted average yields at fair value" are computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount or premium earned on the relevant accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) the total relevant investments at fair value.
- (3) The proceeds from these certificates were applied to co- investments with GE to fund first lien senior secured loans.

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, employs an investment rating system to categorize our investments. In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, our investment adviser grades the credit risk of all investments on a scale of 1 to 4 no less frequently than quarterly. This system is intended primarily to reflect the underlying risk of a portfolio investment relative to our initial cost basis in respect of such portfolio investment (i.e., at the time of origination or acquisition), although it may also take into account under certain circumstances the performance of the portfolio company's business, the collateral coverage of the investment and other relevant factors. Under this system, investments with a grade of 4 involve the least amount of risk to our initial cost basis. The trends and risk factors for this investment since origination or acquisition are generally favorable, which may include the performance of the portfolio company or a potential exit. Investments graded 3 involve a level of risk to our initial cost basis that is similar to the risk to our initial cost basis at the time of origination or acquisition. This portfolio company is generally performing as expected and the risk factors to our ability to ultimately recoup the cost of our investment are neutral to favorable. All investments or acquired investments in new portfolio companies are initially assessed a grade of 3. Investments graded 2 indicate that the risk to our ability to recoup the initial cost basis of

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

such investment has increased materially since origination or acquisition, including as a result of factors such as declining performance and non-compliance with debt covenants; however, payments are generally not more than 120 days past due. An investment grade of 1 indicates that the risk to our ability to recoup the initial cost basis of such investment has substantially increased since origination or acquisition, and the portfolio company likely has materially declining performance. For debt investments with an investment grade of 1, most or all of the debt covenants are out of compliance and payments are substantially delinquent. For investments graded 1, it is anticipated that we will not recoup our initial cost basis and may realize a substantial loss of our initial cost basis upon exit. For investments graded 1 or 2, our investment adviser enhances its level of scrutiny over the monitoring of such portfolio company. The grade of a portfolio investment may be reduced or increased over time.

Set forth below is the grade distribution of our portfolio companies as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

(dollar amounts in millions)	As of							
	September 30, 2014				December 31, 2013			
	Fair Value	%	# of Companies	%	Fair Value	%	# of Companies	%
Grade 1	\$ 56.4	0.7%	5	2.5%	\$ 54.6	0.7%	7	3.6%
Grade 2	248.9	2.8%	10	4.9%	256.3	3.4%	12	6.2%
Grade 3	7,359.3	83.8%	170	83.3%	6,636.2	86.9%	162	84.0%
Grade 4	1,119.0	12.7%	19	9.3%	685.8	9.0%	12	6.2%
	\$ 8,783.6	100.0%	204	100.0%	\$ 7,632.9	100.0%	193	100.0%

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the weighted average grade of the investments in our portfolio at fair value was 3.1 and 3.0, respectively.

As of September 30, 2014, loans on non-accrual status represented 2.2% and 1.6% of the total investments at amortized cost and at fair value, respectively. As of December 31, 2013, loans on non-accrual status represented 3.1% and 2.1% of the total investments at amortized cost and at fair value, respectively.

Senior Secured Loan Program

We co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies with GE through an unconsolidated Delaware limited liability company, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC (d/b/a "the Senior Secured Loan Program") or the SSLP. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of ours and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). We provide capital to the SSLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SSLP Certificates").

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we and GE had agreed to make \$11.0 billion of capital available to the SSLP, of which approximately \$9.5 billion and \$8.7 billion in aggregate principal amount, respectively, was funded. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately \$2.3 billion, of which approximately \$2.0 billion and \$1.7 billion in aggregate principal amount, respectively, was funded. Investment of any unfunded amount must be approved by the investment committee of the SSLP as described above.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the SSLP had total assets of \$9.5 billion and \$8.7 billion, respectively. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, GE's investment in the SSLP consisted of senior notes of \$7.2 billion and \$6.7 billion, respectively, and SSLP Certificates of \$279.2 million and \$249.3 million, respectively. The SSLP Certificates are junior in right of payment

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

to the senior notes held by GE. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we and GE owned 87.5% and 12.5%, respectively, of the outstanding SSLP Certificates.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the SSLP portfolio was comprised of all first lien senior secured loans to U.S. middle-market companies. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, one loan was on non-accrual status, representing 0.9% and 1.0%, respectively, of the total loans at principal amount in the SSLP. The portfolio companies in the SSLP are in industries similar to the companies in our portfolio. Additionally, as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the SSLP had commitments to fund various delayed draw investments to certain of its portfolio companies of \$501.7 and \$510.4 million, respectively, which had been approved by the SSLP investment committee. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we had commitments to co-invest in the SSLP for our portion of the SSLP's commitments to fund such delayed draw investments of up to \$92.8 million and \$85.1 million, respectively.

Below is a summary of the SSLP's portfolio, followed by a listing of the individual first lien senior secured loans in the SSLP's portfolio as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

(dollar amounts in millions)	As of	
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
Total first lien senior secured loans(1)	\$ 9,363.6	\$ 8,664.4
Weighted average yield on first lien senior secured loans(2)	6.8%	7.1%
Number of borrowers in the SSLP	49	47
Largest loan to a single borrower(1)	\$ 332.9	\$ 321.7
Total of five largest loans to borrowers(1)	\$ 1,543.2	\$ 1,510.7

(1) At principal amount.

(2) Computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate on accruing first lien senior secured loans, divided by (b) total first lien senior secured loans at principal amount.

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of September 30, 2014

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount
Access CIG, LLC(2)	Records and information management services provider	10/2017	7.9%	\$ 196.6
ADG, LLC	Dental services provider	9/2019	8.1%	213.1
AMCP Clean Acquisition Company, LLC	Provider of outsourced commercial linen and laundry services	8/2019	8.0%	92.6
AMZ Products Merger Corporation	Specialty chemicals manufacturer	12/2018	6.8%	235.8
Argon Medical Devices, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of single-use specialty medical devices	4/2018	6.5%	234.4
Brewer Holdings Corp.	Provider of software and technology-enabled content and analytical solutions to insurance brokers	11/2019	7.0%	174.2
Cambridge International, Inc.	Manufacturer of custom designed and engineered metal products	4/2018	8.0%	84.3
CH Hold Corp.(2)	Collision repair company	11/2019	5.5%	300.0
Chariot Acquisition, LLC	Distributor and designer of aftermarket golf cart parts and accessories	1/2019	7.8%	153.2
CIBT Holdings, Inc.(4)	Expedited travel document processing services	12/2018	6.8%	188.5
Connoisseur Media, LLC	Owner and operator of radio stations	6/2019	7.3%	140.7
CWD, LLC	Supplier of automotive aftermarket brake parts	6/2016	7.0%	127.1
Document Technologies, LLC(2)(4)	Provider of legal process outsourcing and managed services	8/2020	5.8%	279.2

S-28

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of September 30, 2014

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount
Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC	Outpatient physical therapy provider	7/2018	8.0%	133.9
Driven Brands, Inc.(2)(4)	Automotive aftermarket car care franchisor	3/2017	6.0%	201.2
ECI Purchaser Company, LLC	Manufacturer of specialized pressure regulators, valves and other control equipment for use with liquefied and compressed gases	12/2019	6.0%	235.6
Excelligence Learning Corporation(4)	Developer, manufacturer and retailer of educational products	8/2018	7.8%	171.2
Fleischmann's Vinegar Company, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of industrial vinegar	5/2016	8.0%	70.6
Fox Hill Holdings, LLC(2)	Third party claims administrator on behalf of insurance carriers	6/2018	6.8%	287.3
Gentle Communications, LLC	Dental services provider	6/2020	6.5%	85.0
III US Holdings, LLC	Provider of library automation software and systems	3/2018	6.0%	215.8
Implus Footcare, LLC(4)	Provider of footwear and other accessories	4/2019	6.8%	246.4
Instituto de Banca y Comercio, Inc.(2)(4)(5)	Private school operator	12/2016		87.6
iParadigms, LLC	Provider of anti-plagiarism software to the education industry	12/2019	5.8%	269.6
Laborie Medical Technologies Corp(4)	Provider of medical diagnostics products	10/2018	6.8%	112.7
MCH Holdings, Inc.(4)	Healthcare professional provider	1/2020	6.3%	179.5
MWI Holdings, Inc.(2)	Provider of engineered springs, fasteners, and other precision components	3/2019	7.4%	260.7
Noranco Manufacturing (USA) Ltd.	Supplier of complex machined and sheet metal components for the aerospace industry	4/2019	6.8%	156.7
Nordco, Inc.	Designer and manufacturer of railroad maintenance-of-way machinery	8/2019	7.0%	218.4
Oak Parent, Inc.(2)	Manufacturer of athletic apparel	4/2018	7.5%	302.8
Penn Detroit Diesel Allison, LLC	Distributor of new equipment and aftermarket parts to the heavy-duty truck industry	12/2016	9.0%	55.8
PetroChoice Holdings, LLC	Provider of lubrication solutions	1/2017	10.0%	155.2
PODS Funding Corp. II(2)	Storage and warehousing	12/2018	7.0%	332.9
Pretium Packaging, L.L.C.(4)	Plastic container and closure manufacturer	6/2020	6.0%	185.3
Protective Industries, Inc. dba Caplugs(2)(4)	Manufacturer of plastic protection products	10/2019	6.3%	276.2
PSSI Holdings, LLC(2)	Provider of mission-critical outsourced cleaning and sanitation services to the food processing industry	6/2018	6.0%	247.3
Restaurant Technologies, Inc.	Provider of bulk cooking oil management services to the restaurant and fast food service industries	6/2018	7.0%	199.0
Sanders Industries Holdings, Inc.(4)	Manufacturer of elastomeric parts, mid-sized composite structures, and composite tooling	5/2020	7.0%	84.0
Selig Sealing Products, Inc.	Manufacturer of container sealing products for rigid packaging applications	10/2019	6.8%	198.5
Singer Sewing Company	Manufacturer of consumer sewing machines	6/2017	7.3%	195.5
STATS Acquisition, LLC	Sports technology, data and content company	6/2020	7.0%	103.8
Strategic Partners, Inc.(4)	Supplier of medical uniforms, specialized medical footwear and accessories	8/2018	8.5%	230.3
TA THI Buyer, Inc. and TA THI Parent, Inc.(2)(4)	Supplier of branded light duty truck accessories for pick-up truck applications	7/2020	6.5%	313.5
TecoStar Acquisition Company	Manufacturer of precision complex components for the medical device market and the aerospace and defense market	12/2019	6.1%	157.4
The Teaching Company, LLC(2)(4)	Education publications provider	3/2017	9.0%	109.7
Towne Holdings, Inc.	Provider of contracted hospitality services and parking systems	12/2019	6.8%	153.2
U.S. Anesthesia Partners, Inc.(2)(3)	Anesthesiology service provider	12/2019	6.0%	264.7

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of September 30, 2014

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount
Universal Services of America, LP	Provider of security officer and guard services	7/2019	6.0%	294.0
Wrigley Purchaser, LLC and Wrigley Management, LLC(2)	Provider of outpatient rehabilitation services	5/2020	6.1%	152.6
				\$ 9,363.6

-
- (1) Represents the weighted average annual stated interest rate as of September 30, 2014. All interest rates are payable in cash. For loans on non-accrual status, the stated interest rate is not shown as there is no current yield on such loans.
- (2) We also hold a portion of this company's first lien senior secured loan.
- (3) We also hold a portion of this company's second lien senior secured loan.
- (4) We hold an equity investment in this company.
- (5) Loan was on non-accrual status, as determined by the investment committee of the SSLP, as of September 30, 2014.

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2013

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
Access CIG, LLC(3)	Records and information management services provider	10/2017	7.0%	\$ 186.9	\$ 186.9
ADG, LLC	Dental services provider	9/2019	8.1%	217.5	217.5
AMZ Products Merger Corporation	Specialty chemicals manufacturer	12/2018	6.8%	237.6	237.6
Argon Medical Devices, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of single-use specialty medical devices	4/2018	6.5%	239.2	239.2
BECO Holding Company, Inc.(5)	Wholesale distributor of first response fire protection equipment and related parts	12/2017	8.3%	143.4	143.4
Brewer Holdings Corp. and Zywave, Inc.	Provider of software and technology-enabled content and analytical solutions to insurance brokers	11/2019	7.0%	175.5	175.5
Cambridge International, Inc.	Manufacturer of custom designed and engineered metal products	4/2018	8.0%	86.0	86.0
CCS Group Holdings, LLC(5)	Correctional facility healthcare operator	4/2016	8.0%	134.5	134.5
CH Hold Corp.	Collision repair company	11/2019	5.5%	270.0	270.0
Chariot Acquisition, LLC	Distributor and designer of aftermarket golf cart parts and accessories	1/2019	7.8%	142.3	142.3
CIBT Holdings, Inc.(5)	Expedited travel document processing services	12/2018	6.8%	178.9	178.9
CWD, LLC	Supplier of automotive aftermarket brake parts	6/2016	10.0%	130.5	130.5
Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC	Outpatient physical therapy provider	7/2018	7.5%	136.7	136.7
Driven Holdings, LLC(5)	Automotive aftermarket car care franchisor	3/2017	7.0%	159.1	159.1
ECI Purchaser Company, LLC	Manufacturer of equipment to safely control pressurized gases	12/2019	6.0%	209.0	209.0
Excelligence Learning Corporation(5)	Developer, manufacturer and retailer of educational products	8/2018	7.8%	174.0	174.0
Fleischmann's Vinegar Company, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of industrial vinegar products	5/2016	8.0%	74.7	74.7
Fox Hill Holdings, LLC(3)	Third party claims administrator on behalf of insurance carriers	6/2018	6.8%	289.5	289.5
III US Holdings, LLC	Provider of library automation software and systems	3/2018	7.6%	194.5	194.5
Implus Footcare, LLC(5)	Provider of footwear and other accessories	10/2016	9.0%	210.3	210.3
Instituto de Banca y Comercio, Inc.(3)(5)(6)	Private school operator	6/2015		82.4	74.2
Intermedix Corporation(4)	Revenue cycle management provider to the emergency healthcare industry	12/2018	6.3%	321.7	321.7
iParadigms, LLC	Provider of anti-plagiarism software to the education industry	4/2019	6.5%	164.2	164.2
JHP Pharmaceuticals, LLC(5)	Manufacturer of specialty pharmaceutical products	12/2019	6.8%	182.2	182.2
Laborie Medical Technologies Corp(5)	Developer and manufacturer of medical equipment	10/2018	6.8%	113.5	113.5
LJSS Acquisition, Inc.	Fluid power distributor	10/2017	6.8%	159.8	159.8
MWI Holdings, Inc.(3)	Provider of engineered springs, fasteners, and other precision components	3/2019	7.4%	261.6	261.6
Noranco Manufacturing (USA) Ltd.	Supplier of complex machined and sheet metal components for the aerospace industry	4/2019	6.8%	161.1	161.1
Nordco, Inc.	Designer and manufacturer of railroad maintenance-of-way machinery	8/2019	7.0%	224.7	224.7
Oak Parent, Inc.(3)	Manufacturer of athletic apparel	4/2018	7.5%	307.1	307.1
Penn Detroit Diesel Allison, LLC	Distributor of new equipment and aftermarket parts to the heavy-duty truck industry	12/2016	9.0%	59.5	59.5
PetroChoice Holdings, LLC	Provider of lubrication solutions	1/2017	10.0%	158.3	158.3
PODS Funding Corp. II(3)	Storage and warehousing	12/2018	7.0%	314.1	314.1

S-31

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2013

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
Pregis Corporation, Pregis Intellipack Corp. and Pregis Innovative Packaging Inc.(3)	Provider of highly-customized, tailored protective packaging solutions	3/2017	7.8%	152.0	152.0
Protective Industries, Inc. dba Caplugs(3)(5)	Manufacturer of plastic protection products	10/2019	6.8%	278.3	278.3
PSSI Holdings, LLC(3)	Provider of mission-critical outsourced cleaning and sanitation services to the food processing industry	6/2018	6.0%	224.4	224.4
Restaurant Technologies, Inc.	Provider of bulk cooking oil management services to the restaurant and fast food service industries	6/2018	7.0%	202.7	202.7
Selig Sealing Products, Inc.	Manufacturer of container sealing products for rigid packaging applications	10/2019	6.8%	209.0	209.0
Singer Sewing Company	Manufacturer of consumer sewing machines	6/2017	7.3%	197.0	197.0
Strategic Partners, Inc.(5)	Supplier of medical uniforms, specialized medical footwear and accessories	8/2018	7.8%	232.1	232.1
Talent Partners G.P. and Print Payroll Services, G.P.	Provider of technology-enabled payroll to the advertising industry	10/2017	8.0%	62.0	62.0
TecoStar Acquisition Company	Manufacturer of precision components for orthopedic medical devices	12/2019	6.4%	118.0	118.0
The Teaching Company, LLC(3)(5)	Education publications provider	3/2017	9.0%	111.5	109.3
Towne Holdings, Inc.	Provider of contracted hospitality services and parking systems	12/2019	6.8%	154.0	154.0
U.S. Anesthesia Partners, Inc.(3)	Anesthesiology service provider	12/2019	6.0%	210.0	210.0
Universal Services of America, LP	Provider of security officer and guard services	7/2019	6.0%	253.9	253.9
WB Merger Sub, Inc.	Importer, distributor and developer of premium wine and spirits	12/2016	9.0%	159.2	159.2
				\$ 8,664.4	\$ 8,654.0

-
- (1) Represents the weighted average annual stated interest rate as of December 31, 2013. All interest rates are payable in cash. For loans on non-accrual status, the stated interest rate is not shown as there is no current yield on such loans.
- (2) Represents the fair value in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 820-10. The determination of such fair value is not included in our board of directors valuation process described elsewhere herein.
- (3) We also hold a portion of this company's first lien senior secured loan.
- (4) We also hold a portion of this company's second lien senior secured loan.
- (5) We hold an equity investment in this company.
- (6) Loan was on non-accrual status, as determined by the investment committee of the SSLP, as of December 31, 2013.

The amortized cost and fair value of our SSLP Certificates was \$2.0 billion and \$2.0 billion, respectively, as of September 30, 2014, and \$1.7 billion and \$1.8 billion, respectively, as of December 31, 2013. The SSLP Certificates pay a weighted average contractual coupon of three month LIBOR plus approximately 8.0% and also entitle the holders thereof to receive a portion of the excess cash flow from the underlying loan portfolio, which may result in a return to the holders of the SSLP Certificates that is greater than both the contractual coupon on the SSLP Certificates as well as the weighted average yield on the SSLP's portfolio of 6.8% and 7.1% at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. Our yield on our investment in the SSLP at amortized cost and fair value was 13.8% and 13.5%, respectively, as of

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

September 30, 2014, and 15.0% and 14.8%, respectively, as of December 31, 2013. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, we earned interest income of \$69.8 million and \$205.4 million, respectively, from our investment in the SSLP Certificates.

S-32

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, we earned interest income of \$59.2 million and \$161.2 million, respectively, from our investment in the SSLP Certificates.

We are also entitled to certain fees in connection with the SSLP. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, in connection with the SSLP, we earned capital structuring service, sourcing and other fees totaling \$17.1 million and \$46.1 million, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, in connection with the SSLP, we earned capital structuring service, sourcing and other fees totaling \$19.9 million and \$42.8 million, respectively.

Selected financial information for the SSLP as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013 is as follows:

(in millions)	As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2013	
Selected Balance Sheet Information:		
Investments in loans receivable, net of discount for loan origination fees	\$	8,601.6
Cash and other assets	\$	142.3
Total assets	\$	8,743.9
Senior notes	\$	6,699.5
Other liabilities	\$	64.2
Total liabilities	\$	6,763.7
Subordinated certificates and members' capital	\$	1,980.2
Total liabilities and members' capital	\$	8,743.9
Selected Statement of Operations Information:		
Total revenues	\$	554.2
Total expenses	\$	296.7
Net income	\$	257.5

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013

Operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

(in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Total investment income	\$ 253.4	\$ 246.8	\$ 718.0	\$ 648.0
Total expenses	140.6	116.6	392.6	317.4
Net investment income before income taxes	112.8	130.2	325.4	330.6
Income tax expense, including excise tax	7.5	4.0	15.8	11.7
Net investment income	105.3	126.2	309.6	318.9
Net realized gains on investments and foreign currency transactions	76.5	9.0	40.1	29.3
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments and foreign currency transactions	(4.1)	5.6	87.9	6.4
Realized losses on extinguishment of debt			(0.1)	
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 177.7	\$ 140.8	\$ 437.5	\$ 354.6

Table of Contents

Net income can vary substantially from period to period due to various factors, including acquisitions, the level of new investment commitments, the recognition of realized gains and losses and unrealized appreciation and depreciation. As a result, quarterly comparisons of net income may not be meaningful.

Investment Income

(in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Interest income from investments	\$ 190.8	\$ 169.6	\$ 540.5	\$ 471.8
Capital structuring service fees	31.7	31.6	74.3	61.7
Dividend income	19.7	34.8	67.2	82.7
Management and other fees	6.4	5.4	18.4	14.9
Other income	4.8	5.4	17.6	16.9
Total investment income	\$ 253.4	\$ 246.8	\$ 718.0	\$ 648.0

The increase in interest income from investments for the three months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable period in 2013 was primarily due to an increase in the size of our portfolio, which increased from an average of \$7.0 billion at amortized cost for the three months ended September 30, 2013 to an average of \$8.2 billion at amortized cost for the comparable period in 2014. The increase in capital structuring service fees for the three months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable period in 2013 was primarily due to the increase in new investment commitments, which increased from \$1.1 billion for the three months ended September 30, 2013 to \$1.3 billion for the comparable period in 2014, partially offset by the decrease in the average capital structuring service fees received on new investments, from 2.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2013 to 2.4% in the comparable period in 2014. Dividend income for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 included dividends received from IHAM totaling \$10.0 million and \$25.0 million, respectively. The dividends received from IHAM for the three months ended September 30, 2013 included an additional dividend of \$15.0 million that was paid in addition to the quarterly dividends generally paid by IHAM. IHAM paid the additional dividend out of accumulated earnings that had previously been retained by IHAM. Also during the three months ended September 30, 2014, we received \$6.0 million in other non-recurring dividends from non-income producing equity securities compared to \$5.2 million for the comparable period in 2013.

The increase in interest income from investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable period in 2013 was primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio, which increased from an average of \$6.4 billion at amortized cost for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 to an average of \$7.9 billion at amortized cost for the comparable period in 2014. The increase in capital structuring service fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable period in 2013 was primarily due to the increase in new investment commitments, which increased from \$2.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 to \$3.2 billion for the comparable period in 2014, while the average capital structuring service fees received on new investments remained steady at 2.3% for both the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. Dividend income for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 included dividends received from IHAM totaling \$40.0 million and \$62.4 million, respectively. The dividends received from IHAM for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 included additional dividends of \$10.0 million and \$32.4 million, respectively, that were paid in addition to the quarterly dividends generally paid by IHAM. IHAM paid the additional dividends out of accumulated earnings that had previously been retained by IHAM. Also during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we received \$15.5 million

Table of Contents

in other non-recurring dividends from non-income producing equity securities compared to \$6.6 million for the comparable period in 2013.

Operating Expenses

(in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Interest and credit facility fees	\$ 54.1	\$ 44.4	\$ 159.7	\$ 124.0
Base management fees	32.7	27.5	93.5	75.6
Income based fees	31.3	32.3	85.2	81.5
Capital gains incentive fees	13.1	2.9	24.2	7.2
Administrative fees	3.1	3.3	9.7	8.6
Other general and administrative	6.3	6.2	20.3	20.5
Total expenses	\$ 140.6	\$ 116.6	\$ 392.6	\$ 317.4

Interest and credit facility fees for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, were comprised of the following:

(in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Stated interest expense	\$ 44.0	\$ 36.0	\$ 127.7	\$ 97.7
Facility fees	2.1	1.4	8.7	5.8
Amortization of debt issuance cost	4.2	3.5	12.1	10.4
Accretion of discount on notes payable	3.8	3.5	11.2	10.1
Total interest and credit facility fees	\$ 54.1	\$ 44.4	\$ 159.7	\$ 124.0

Stated interest expense for the three months ended September 30, 2014 increased from the comparable period in 2013 primarily due to the increase in the average principal amount of debt outstanding, which increased to \$3.4 billion as compared to \$2.9 billion for the comparable period in 2013. Stated interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 increased from the comparable period in 2013 primarily due to the increase in the average principal amount of debt outstanding, which increased to \$3.2 billion as compared to \$2.5 billion for the comparable period in 2013. Facility fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 increased from the comparable period in 2013 primarily due to higher non-usage fees incurred on the secured revolving facilities.

The increase in base management fees and fees based on our net investment income ("income based fees") for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable period in 2013 were primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio and in the case of income based fees, the related increase in net investment income excluding income based fees and fees based on our net capital gains ("capital gains incentive fees").

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, the capital gains incentive fee expense accrual calculated in accordance with GAAP was \$13.1 million and \$24.2 million, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, the capital gains incentive fee expense accrual calculated in accordance with GAAP was \$2.9 million and \$7.2 million, respectively. Capital gains incentive fee expense accrual for the three months ended September 30, 2014 increased from the comparable period in 2013 primarily due to higher net gains on investments and foreign currency transactions, which increased from \$8.9 million during the three months ended September 30, 2013 to \$76.5 million for the comparable period in 2014. Capital gains incentive fee expense accrual for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 increased from the comparable period in 2013 primarily due to

Table of Contents

higher net gains on investments and foreign currency transactions, which increased from \$29.3 million during the three months ended September 30, 2013 to \$40.1 million for the comparable period in 2014. The capital gains incentive fee accrued under GAAP includes an accrual related to unrealized capital appreciation, whereas the capital gains incentive fee actually payable under our investment advisory and management agreement does not. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future. The accrual for any capital gains incentive fee under GAAP in a given period may result in an additional expense if such cumulative amount is greater than in the prior period or a reduction of previously recorded expense if such cumulative amount is less than in the prior period. If such cumulative amount is negative, then there is no accrual. As of September 30, 2014, the total capital gains incentive fee accrual calculated in accordance with GAAP was \$87.7 million (included in "capital gains incentive fees payable" in the consolidated balance sheet). However, as of September 30, 2014, there was no capital gains incentive fee actually payable under our investment advisory and management agreement. See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 for more information on the base management fees, income based fees and capital gains incentive fees.

Administrative fees represent fees paid to Ares Operations for our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including our allocable portion of the cost of certain of our executive officers and their respective staffs. Other general and administrative expenses include professional fees, rent, insurance, depreciation, director's fees and other costs.

Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax

We have elected to be treated as a RIC under the Code and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to RICs. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, timely distribute to our stockholders generally at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. In order to maintain our RIC status, we, among other things, have made and intend to continue to make the requisite distributions to our stockholders which will generally relieve us from U.S. federal corporate-level income taxes.

Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions from such current year taxable income into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that we determine that our estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions from such income, we accrue excise tax on estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned. For the three months ended September 30, 2014, we had no U.S. federal excise tax expense. For the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we recorded a net expense of \$4.0 million for U.S. federal excise tax, which includes a reduction in expense in the third quarter related to the recording of a requested refund resulting from the overpayment of 2013 excise tax of \$1.7 million. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, we recorded a net expense of \$2.8 million and \$8.8 million, respectively, for U.S. federal excise tax.

Certain of our consolidated subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal and state income taxes. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, we recorded a tax expense of approximately \$7.5 million and \$11.8 million, respectively, for these subsidiaries. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, we recorded a tax expense of approximately \$1.2 million and \$2.9 million, respectively, for these subsidiaries. The increases in income tax expense for our taxable consolidated subsidiaries for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 from the comparable periods in 2013 were primarily driven by the realized gains from the exits of certain investments held by such subsidiaries during the three months ended September 30, 2014.

Table of Contents**Net Realized Gains/Losses**

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, we had \$706.6 million of sales, repayments or exits of investments resulting in \$73.8 million of net realized gains. Net realized gains of \$73.8 million on investments were comprised of \$80.9 million of gross realized gains and \$7.1 million of gross realized losses.

The net realized gains on investments during the three months ended September 30, 2014 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Realized Gains (Losses)
Insight Pharmaceuticals Corporation	\$ 33.1
The Dwyer Group	21.1
Service King Paint & Body, LLC	10.4
Platform Acquisition, Inc.	4.7
Apple & Eve, LLC	4.3
TOA Technologies, Inc.	1.9
BECO Holding Company, Inc.	1.9
X Plus Two Solutions, Inc.	1.5
Pillar Processing LLC	(6.6)
Other, net	1.5
Total	\$ 73.8

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, we also recognized net realized gains on foreign currency transactions of \$2.8 million.

During the three months ended September 30, 2013, we had \$381.7 million of sales, repayments or exits of investments resulting in \$8.9 million of net realized gains. These sales, repayments or exits included \$104.8 million of investments sold to IHAM and certain vehicles managed by IHAM. A net realized loss of \$0.2 million was recorded on the transactions with IHAM. Net realized gains of \$8.9 million on investments were comprised of \$50.8 million of gross realized gains and \$41.9 million of gross realized losses.

The net realized gains on investments during the three months ended September 30, 2013 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Realized Gains (Losses)
Component Hardware Group, Inc.	\$ 17.7
Financial Pacific Company	17.6
Tradesmen International, Inc.	10.0
Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC	1.8
Matrixx Initiatives, Inc.	1.6
eInstruction Corporation	(40.3)
Other, net	0.5
Total	\$ 8.9

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company had \$2,066.9 million of sales, repayments or exits of investments resulting in \$38.3 million of net realized gains. These sales, repayments or exits included \$64.5 million of investments sold to IHAM or certain vehicles managed by IHAM. No realized gains or losses were recognized on these transactions. Net realized gains of

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

\$38.3 million on investments were comprised of \$97.6 million of gross realized gains and \$59.3 million of gross realized losses.

The net realized gains on investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 consisted of the following:

(in millions)	Net Realized
Portfolio Company	Gains (Losses)
Insight Pharmaceuticals Corporation	33.1
The Dwyer Group	21.1
Service King Paint & Body, LLC	10.4
Platform Acquisition, Inc.	4.7
Apple & Eve, LLC	4.3
TOA Technologies, Inc.	2.0
JHP Group Holdings, Inc.	1.9
BECO Holding Company, Inc.	1.9
Dialysis Newco, Inc.	1.7
Orion Foods, LLC	1.6
La Paloma Generating Company, LLC	1.6
X Plus Two Solutions, Inc.	1.5
Magnacare Holdings, Inc.	1.3
Imperial Capital Group LLC	1.3
Stag-Parkway, Inc.	1.2
Eberle Design, Inc.	1.1
Geotrace Technologies, Inc.	(2.9)
Pillar Processing LLC	(6.6)
CitiPostal Inc.	(20.3)
MVL Group, Inc.	(27.7)
Other, net	5.1
 Total	 \$ 38.3

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we purchased \$0.4 million aggregate principal amount of the 2047 Notes (as defined below) and as a result of these transactions, we recognized realized losses of \$0.1 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we also recognized net realized gains on foreign currency transactions of \$1.8 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company had \$1,017.8 million of sales, repayments or exits of investments resulting in \$29.3 million of net realized gains. These sales, repayments or exits included \$139.8 million of investments sold to IHAM or certain vehicles managed by IHAM. A net realized loss of \$0.1 million was recorded on these transactions. Net realized gains of \$29.3 million on investments were comprised of \$72.1 million of gross realized gains and \$42.8 million of gross realized losses.

Table of Contents

The net realized gains on investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Realized Gains (Losses)
Component Hardware Group, Inc.	\$ 17.7
Financial Pacific Company	17.6
Tradesmen International, Inc.	10.0
Performant Financial Corporation	8.6
Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC	5.4
Performance Food Group, Inc.	4.1
BenefitMall Holdings Inc.	2.0
Matrixx Initiatives, Inc.	1.7
Promo Works, LLC	(1.0)
eInstruction Corporation	(40.3)
Other, net	3.5
 Total	 \$ 29.3

Net Unrealized Gains/Losses

We value our portfolio investments quarterly and the changes in value are recorded as unrealized gains or losses. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, net unrealized gains and losses for our portfolio were comprised of the following:

(in millions)	For the three months ended September 30,		For the nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Unrealized appreciation	\$ 86.1	\$ 35.4	\$ 152.8	\$ 82.5
Unrealized depreciation	(34.6)	(24.3)	(93.3)	(76.0)
Net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation reversal related to net realized gains or losses(1)	(56.5)	(5.5)	27.8	
 Total net unrealized gains (losses)	 \$ (5.0)	 \$ 5.6	 \$ 87.3	 \$ 6.5

-
- (1) The net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation reversal related to net realized gains or losses represents the unrealized appreciation or depreciation recorded on the related asset at the end of the prior period.

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

The changes in net unrealized appreciation during the three months ended September 30, 2014 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
10th Street, LLC	\$ 38.7
Ciena Capital LLC	6.6
UL Holding Co., LLC and Universal Lubricants, LLC	5.5
VSS-Tranzact Holdings, LLC	4.1
CCS Intermediate Holdings, LLC	3.9
Performance Food Group, Inc.	2.3
Restaurant Holding Company, LLC	(2.3)
2329497 Ontario Inc.	(2.4)
Orion Foods, LLC	(2.9)
ADF Capital, Inc.	(3.0)
The Step2 Company, LLC	(3.3)
Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P.	(3.4)
Other, net	7.7
Total	\$ 51.5

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, we also recognized net unrealized gains on foreign currency transactions of \$0.9 million.

The changes in net unrealized appreciation during the three months ended September 30, 2013 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
CitiPostal Inc.	\$ 4.0
Orion Foods, LLC	3.4
Community Education Centers, Inc.	3.3
Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC	2.7
HPro, Inc.	(2.1)
UL Holding Co., LLC	(3.1)
Insight Pharmaceuticals Corporation	(3.1)
ELC Acquisition Corp.	(3.5)
Competitor Group, Inc.	(3.5)
Other, net	13.0
Total	\$ 11.1

Table of Contents

The changes in net unrealized appreciation during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
10th Street, LLC	\$ 47.2
VSS-Tranzact Holdings, LLC	10.0
Ciena Capital LLC	9.4
Imperial Capital Private Opportunities, LP	8.4
Universal Lubricants, LLC	7.1
Campus Management Corp.	6.0
Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC	5.2
CCS Intermediate Holdings, LLC	3.9
Cast & Crew Payroll, LLC	3.4
Waste Pro USA, Inc	2.8
The Thymes, LLC	2.7
American Broadband Communications, LLC	2.6
Performance Food Group, Inc.	2.4
Service King Paint & Body, LLC	2.3
Netsmart Technologies, Inc.	2.1
EUNetworks Group Limited	(2.2)
Orion Foods, LLC	(2.7)
2329497 Ontario Inc.	(2.9)
R3 Education, Inc.	(4.2)
OTG Management, LLC	(4.3)
Community Education Centers, Inc.	(4.5)
ADF Capital, Inc.	(10.2)
The Step2 Company, LLC	(18.4)
Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P.	(21.5)
Other, net	14.9
Total	\$ 59.5

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we also recognized net unrealized gains on foreign currency transactions of \$0.6 million.

Table of Contents

The changes in net unrealized appreciation during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 consisted of the following:

(in millions) Portfolio Company	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Orion Foods, LLC	\$ 7.0
10th Street, LLC	6.8
Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC	6.1
Imperial Capital Private Opportunities, LP	4.7
Community Education Centers, Inc.	4.0
American Broadband Communications, LLC	3.7
AWTP, LLC	3.3
The Dwyer Group	3.1
Apple & Eve, LLC	2.8
Waste Pro USA, Inc	2.8
CT Technologies Intermediate Holdings, Inc.	2.7
Matrixx Initiatives, Inc.	2.3
Hojeij Branded Foods, Inc.	2.1
Woodstream Corporation	(2.1)
Insight Pharmaceuticals Corporation	(2.4)
The Step2 Company, LLC	(2.6)
HCPPro, Inc.	(3.3)
ADF Capital, Inc.	(3.4)
Campus Management Corp.	(4.6)
Ciena Capital LLC	(5.7)
Competitor Group, Inc.	(7.7)
UL Holding Co., LLC	(15.3)
Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P.	(18.8)
Other, net	21.1
Total	\$ 6.5

FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our liquidity and capital resources are generated primarily from the net proceeds of public offerings of equity and debt securities, advances from the Facilities, net proceeds from the issuance of other securities, including convertible unsecured notes, as well as cash flows from operations.

As of September 30, 2014, we had \$107.9 million in cash and cash equivalents and \$3.8 billion in total aggregate principal amount of debt outstanding (\$3.7 billion at carrying value). Subject to leverage and borrowing base restrictions, we had approximately \$1.4 billion available for additional borrowings under the Facilities as of September 30, 2014.

We may from time to time seek to retire or repurchase our common stock through cash purchases, as well as retire, cancel or purchase our outstanding debt through cash purchases and/or exchanges, in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. Such repurchases or exchanges, if any, will depend on prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual and regulatory restrictions and other factors. The amounts involved may be material. In addition, we may from time to time enter into additional debt facilities, increase the size of existing facilities or issue additional debt securities, including unsecured debt and/or debt securities convertible into common stock. Any such incurrence or issuance would be subject to prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual and regulatory restrictions and other factors. In accordance with

Table of Contents

the Investment Company Act, with certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, calculated pursuant to the Investment Company Act, is at least 200% after such borrowing. As of September 30, 2014, our asset coverage was 243%.

Equity Issuances

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, our total equity market capitalization was \$5.1 billion and \$5.3 billion, respectively. The following table summarizes the total shares issued and proceeds received in public offerings of our common stock net of underwriting discounts and offering costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

(in millions, except per share data)	Shares issued	Offering price per share	Proceeds net of underwriting and operating costs
2014			
July 2014 public offering	15.5	\$ 16.63(1)\$	257.6
Total for the nine months ended September 30, 2014	15.5	\$	257.6
2013			
April 2013 public offering	19.1	\$ 17.43(2)\$	333.2
Total for the nine months ended September 30, 2013	19.1	\$	333.2

- (1) The shares were sold to the underwriters for a price of \$16.63 per share, which the underwriters were then permitted to sell at variable prices to the public.
- (2) The shares were sold to the underwriters for a price of \$17.43 per share, which the underwriters were then permitted to sell at variable prices to the public.

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

Debt Capital Activities

Our debt obligations consisted of the following as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

(in millions)	September 30, 2014			December 31, 2013		
	Total Aggregate Principal Amount Committed/ Outstanding(1)	Principal Amount Outstanding	Carrying Value	Total Aggregate Principal Amount Committed/ Outstanding(1)	Principal Amount Outstanding	Carrying Value
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 1,250.0(2)	\$ 335.0	\$ 335.0	\$ 1,060.0	\$	\$
Revolving Funding Facility	540.0(3)	324.0	324.0	620.0	185.0	185.0
SMBC Funding Facility	400.0	54.0	54.0	400.0		
February 2016 Convertible Notes	575.0	575.0	562.8(4)	575.0	575.0	556.5(4)
June 2016 Convertible Notes	230.0	230.0	224.2(4)	230.0	230.0	221.8(4)
2017 Convertible Notes	162.5	162.5	159.9(4)	162.5	162.5	159.2(4)
2018 Convertible Notes	270.0	270.0	265.1(4)	270.0	270.0	264.1(4)
2019 Convertible Notes	300.0	300.0	295.9(4)	300.0	300.0	295.3(4)
2018 Notes	750.0	750.0	750.7(5)	600.0	600.0	596.7(5)
February 2022 Notes	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8
October 2022 Notes	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5
2040 Notes	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
2047 Notes	229.5	229.5	181.3(6)	230.0	230.0	181.4(6)
	\$ 5,233.3	\$ 3,756.3	\$ 3,679.2	\$ 4,973.8	\$ 3,078.8	\$ 2,986.3

-
- (1) Subject to borrowing base and leverage restrictions. Represents the total aggregate amount committed or outstanding, as applicable, under such instrument.
- (2) Provides for a feature that allows us, under certain circumstances, to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility to a maximum of \$1,755.0 million.
- (3) Provides for a feature that allows us and our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital CP, under certain circumstances, to increase the size of the Revolving Funding Facility to a maximum of \$865.0 million.
- (4) Represents the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Convertible Unsecured Notes less the unaccreted discount initially recorded upon issuance of the Convertible Unsecured Notes. The total unaccreted discount for the February 2016 Convertible Notes, the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the 2017 Convertible Notes, the 2018 Convertible Notes and the 2019 Convertible Notes was \$12.2 million, \$5.8 million, \$2.6 million, \$4.9 million and \$4.1 million, respectively, as of September 30, 2014. The total unaccreted discount for the February 2016 Convertible Notes, the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the 2017 Convertible Notes, the 2018 Convertible Notes and the 2019 Convertible Notes was \$18.5 million, \$8.2 million, \$3.3 million, \$5.9 million and \$4.7 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2013.
- (5)

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Represents the aggregate principal amount outstanding less the unaccreted discount initially recorded upon issuance of the 2018 Notes. The total unamortized premium for the 2018 Notes was \$0.7 million as of September 30, 2014. The total unaccreted discount for the 2018 Notes was \$3.3 million as of December 31, 2013.

(6)

Represents the aggregate principal amount outstanding less the unaccreted purchased discount. The total unaccreted purchased discount for the 2047 Notes was \$48.2 million and \$48.6 million as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.

S-44

Table of Contents

The weighted average stated interest rate and weighted average maturity, both on aggregate principal amount, of all our debt outstanding as of September 30, 2014 were 4.9% and 6.8 years, respectively, and as of December 31, 2013 were 5.3% and 7.9 years, respectively.

The ratio of total principal amount of debt outstanding to stockholders' equity as of September 30, 2014 was 0.72:1.00 compared to 0.63:1.00 as of December 31, 2013. The ratio of total carrying value of debt outstanding to stockholders' equity as of September 30, 2014 was 0.70:1.00 compared to 0.61:1.00 as of December 31, 2013.

See "Recent Developments" as well as Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information on the existing 2020 Notes issued subsequent to September 30, 2014.

Revolving Credit Facility

We are party to the Revolving Credit Facility, which allows us to borrow up to \$1,250 million at any one time outstanding. The end of the revolving period and the stated maturity date for the Revolving Credit Facility are May 4, 2018 and May 4, 2019, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility also provides for a feature that allowed us, under certain circumstances, to increase the size of the facility to a maximum of \$1,755 million. The interest rate charged on the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.00% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.00%. Additionally, we are required to pay a commitment fee of 0.375% per annum on any unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. As of September 30, 2014, there was \$335.0 million outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and we were in compliance in all material respects with the terms of the Revolving Credit Facility.

Revolving Funding Facility

Our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital CP, is party to the Revolving Funding Facility, which allows Ares Capital CP to borrow up to \$540 million at any one time outstanding. The Revolving Funding Facility is secured by all of the assets held by, and the membership interest in, Ares Capital CP. The end of the reinvestment period and the stated maturity date for the Revolving Funding Facility is May 14, 2017 and May 14, 2019, respectively. The Revolving Funding Facility also provides for a feature that allowed, under certain circumstances, for an increase in the size of the facility to a maximum of \$865 million. The interest rate charged on the Revolving Funding Facility is one month LIBOR plus an applicable spread ranging from 2.25% to 2.50% over LIBOR and ranging from 1.25% to 1.50% over "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) in each case, determined monthly based on the composition of the borrowing base relative to outstanding borrowings under the facility. Additionally, Ares Capital CP is required to pay a commitment fee of between 0.50% and 1.50% per annum depending on the size of the unused portion of the Revolving Funding Facility. As of September 30, 2014, there was \$324.0 million outstanding under the Revolving Funding Facility and we and Ares Capital CP were in compliance in all material respects with the terms of the Revolving Funding Facility.

SMBC Funding Facility

Our consolidated subsidiary, ACJB, is party to the SMBC Funding Facility, which allows ACJB to borrow up to \$400 million at any one time outstanding. The SMBC Funding Facility is secured by all of the assets held by ACJB. The end of the reinvestment period and the stated maturity date for the SMBC Funding Facility are September 14, 2016 and September 14, 2021, respectively. The reinvestment period and the stated maturity date are both subject to two one-year extensions by mutual agreement. The interest rate charged on the SMBC Funding Facility is based on one month LIBOR plus an

Table of Contents

applicable spread of 2.00% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the SMBC Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.00%. Additionally, ACJB is required to pay a commitment fee of between 0.35% and 0.875% per annum depending on the size of the unused portion of the SMBC Funding Facility. As of September 30, 2014, there was \$54.0 million outstanding under the SMBC Funding Facility and we and ACJB were in compliance in all material respects with the terms of the SMBC Funding Facility.

Convertible Unsecured Notes

In January 2011, we issued \$575 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured convertible notes that mature on February 1, 2016 (the "February 2016 Convertible Notes"), unless previously converted or repurchased in accordance with their terms. In March 2011, we issued \$230 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured convertible notes that mature on June 1, 2016 (the "June 2016 Convertible Notes"), unless previously converted or repurchased in accordance with their terms. In March 2012, we issued \$162.5 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured convertible notes that mature on March 15, 2017 (the "2017 Convertible Notes"), unless previously converted or repurchased in accordance with their terms. In the fourth quarter of 2012, we issued \$270.0 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured convertible notes that mature on January 15, 2018 (the "2018 Convertible Notes"), unless previously converted or repurchased in accordance with their terms. In July 2013, we issued \$300.0 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured convertible notes that mature on January 15, 2019 (the "2019 Convertible Notes" and together with the February 2016 Convertible Notes, the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the 2017 Convertible Notes and the 2018 Convertible Notes, the "Convertible Unsecured Notes"), unless previously converted or repurchased in accordance with their terms. We do not have the right to redeem the Convertible Unsecured Notes prior to maturity. The February 2016 Convertible Notes, the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the 2017 Convertible Notes, the 2018 Convertible Notes and the 2019 Convertible Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.750%, 5.125%, 4.875%, 4.750% and 4.375%, respectively, per year, payable semi-annually.

In certain circumstances, the Convertible Unsecured Notes will be convertible into cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election, at their respective conversion rates (listed below as of September 30, 2014) subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments and the requirements of their respective indenture (the "Convertible Unsecured Notes Indentures"). Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding their respective conversion date (listed below), holders may convert their Convertible Unsecured Notes only under certain circumstances set forth in the respective Convertible Unsecured Notes Indenture. On or after their respective conversion dates until the close of business on the scheduled trading day immediately preceding their respective maturity date, holders may convert their Convertible Unsecured Notes at any time. In addition, if we engage in certain corporate events as described in their respective Convertible Unsecured Notes Indenture, holders of the Convertible Unsecured Notes may require us to repurchase for cash all or part of the Convertible Unsecured Notes at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Convertible Unsecured Notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest through, but excluding, the required repurchase date.

Table of Contents

Certain key terms related to the convertible features for each of the Convertible Unsecured Notes as of September 30, 2014) are listed below.

	February 2016 Convertible Notes	June 2016 Convertible Notes	2017 Convertible Notes	2018 Convertible Notes	2019 Convertible Notes
Conversion premium	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%	15.0%
Closing stock price at issuance	\$ 16.28	\$ 16.20	\$ 16.46	\$ 16.91	\$ 17.53
Closing stock price date	January 19, 2011	March 22, 2011	March 8, 2012	October 3, 2012	July 15, 2013
Conversion price(1)	\$ 18.56	\$ 18.47	\$ 19.02	\$ 19.70	\$ 20.05
Conversion rate (shares per one thousand dollar principal amount)(1)	53.8839	54.1501	52.5696	50.7591	49.8854
Conversion dates	August 15, 2015	December 15, 2015	September 15, 2016	July 15, 2017	July 15, 2018

- (1) Represents conversion price and conversion rate, as applicable, as of September 30, 2014, taking into account certain de minimis adjustments that will be made on the conversion date.

Unsecured Notes

2018 Notes

In November 2013, we issued \$600.0 million in aggregate principal amount of unsecured notes, which bear interest at a rate of 4.875% per year and mature on November 30, 2018 (the "2018 Notes"). The 2018 Notes require payment of interest semi-annually, and all principal is due upon maturity. These notes are redeemable in whole or in part at any time at our option at a redemption price equal to par plus a "make whole" premium, as determined pursuant to the indenture governing the 2018 Notes, and any accrued and unpaid interest.

In January 2014, we issued an additional \$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of the 2018 Notes at a premium of 102.7% of their principal amount.

February 2022 Notes

In February 2012, we issued \$143.8 million in aggregate principal amount of unsecured notes, which bear interest at a rate of 7.00% per year and mature on February 15, 2022 (the "February 2022 Notes"). The February 2022 Notes require payment of interest quarterly, and all principal is due upon maturity. These notes are redeemable in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option on or after February 15, 2015, at a par redemption price of \$25.00 per security plus accrued and unpaid interest.

October 2022 Notes

In September 2012 and October 2012, we issued \$182.5 million in aggregate principal amount of unsecured notes, which bear interest at a rate of 5.875% per year and mature on October 1, 2022 (the "October 2022 Notes"). The October 2022 Notes require payment of interest quarterly and all principal is due upon maturity. These notes are redeemable in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option on or after October 1, 2015, at a par redemption price of \$25.00 per security plus accrued and unpaid interest.

2040 Notes

In October 2010, we issued \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of unsecured notes which bear interest at a rate of 7.75% and mature on October 15, 2040 (the "2040 Notes"). The 2040 Notes require payment of interest quarterly, and all principal is due upon maturity. These notes are

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form 497

Table of Contents

redeemable in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option on or after October 15, 2015, at a par redemption price of \$25.00 per security plus accrued and unpaid interest.

2047 Notes

As part of our acquisition of Allied Capital (the "Allied Acquisition"), we assumed \$230.0 million aggregate principal amount of unsecured notes which bear interest at a rate of 6.875% and mature on April 15, 2047 (the "2047 Notes" and together with the 2018 Notes, the February 2022 Notes, the October 2022 Notes and the 2040 Notes, the "Unsecured Notes"). The 2047 Notes require payment of interest quarterly, and all principal is due upon maturity. These notes are redeemable in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option, at a par redemption price of \$25.00 per security plus accrued and unpaid interest.

As of September 30, 2014, we were in compliance in all material respects with the terms of the Convertible Unsecured Notes Indentures and the indentures governing the Unsecured Notes.

The Convertible Unsecured Notes and the Unsecured Notes are our unsecured obligations and rank senior in right of payment to any future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the Convertible Unsecured Notes and the Unsecured Notes; equal in right of payment to our existing and future unsecured indebtedness that is not expressly subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness (including existing unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and structurally junior to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities.

See "Recent Developments" as well as Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information on the existing 2020 Notes issued subsequent to September 30, 2014. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more detail on our debt obligations.

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We have various commitments to fund investments in our portfolio, as described below.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we had the following commitments to fund various revolving and delayed draw senior secured and subordinated loans, including commitments to fund which are at (or substantially at) our discretion:

(in millions)	As of	
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
Total revolving and delayed draw commitments	\$ 769.2	\$ 834.5
Less: funded commitments	(139.4)	(87.1)
Total unfunded commitments	629.8	747.4
Less: commitments substantially at discretion of ours	(6.0)	(16.0)
Less: unavailable commitments due to borrowing base or other covenant restrictions		(1.7)
Total net adjusted unfunded revolving and delayed draw commitments	\$ 623.8	\$ 729.7

Included within the total revolving and delayed draw commitments as of September 30, 2014 were commitments to issue up to \$79.8 million in letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of certain portfolio companies. As of September 30, 2014, we had \$20.4 million in letters of

Table of Contents

credit issued and outstanding under these commitments on behalf of the portfolio companies. In addition to these letters of credit included as a part of the total revolving and delayed draw commitments to portfolio companies, as of September 30, 2014, we also had \$5.3 million of letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of other portfolio companies. For all these letters of credit issued and outstanding, we would be required to make payments to third parties if the portfolio companies were to default on their related payment obligations. None of these letters of credit issued and outstanding are recorded as a liability on our balance sheet as such letters of credit are considered in the valuation of the investments in the portfolio company. Of these letters of credit, \$0.1 million expire in 2014, \$25.0 million expire in 2015 and \$0.6 million expire in 2016.

We also have commitments to co-invest in the SSLP for our portion of the SSLP's commitments to fund delayed draw investments to certain portfolio companies of the SSLP. See "Senior Secured Loan Program" above and Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we were party to subscription agreements to fund equity investments in private equity investment partnerships as follows:

(in millions)	As of	
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
Total private equity commitments	\$ 109.5	\$ 59.5
Less: funded private equity commitments	(15.2)	(11.9)
Total unfunded private equity commitments	94.3	47.6
Less: private equity commitments substantially at discretion of ours	(91.2)	(43.2)
Total net adjusted unfunded private equity commitments	\$ 3.1	\$ 4.4

In the ordinary course of business, we may sell certain of our investments to third party purchasers. In particular, in connection with the sale of certain controlled portfolio company equity investments (as well as certain other sales), we have, and may continue to do so in the future, agreed to indemnify such purchasers for future liabilities arising from the investments and the related sale transaction. Such indemnification provisions have given rise to liabilities in the past and may do so in the future.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

We have applied to the SBA for a license to allow a new wholly owned subsidiary to operate as a SBIC under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. In May 2014, we received a "green light" or "go forth letter" from the SBA inviting us to continue our application process to obtain a license to form and operate an SBIC subsidiary, and we submitted our license application in October 2014. If approved, the license would provide us with an incremental source of long-term debt capital. Receipt of a green light letter from the SBA does not assure an applicant that the SBA will ultimately issue an SBIC license, and we have received no assurance or indication from the SBA that we will receive an SBIC license, or of the timeframe in which we would receive a license, should one ultimately be granted.

In November 2014, we declared a fourth quarter 2014 dividend of \$0.38 per share payable on December 31, 2014 to stockholders of record as of December 15, 2014.

In November 2014, we issued \$400 million aggregate principal amount of the existing 2020 Notes. We used the net proceeds of the issuance of the existing 2020 Notes to repay certain outstanding indebtedness under our debt facilities and for general corporate purposes, which included

Table of Contents

investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. The Notes offered hereby will be treated as a single series with the existing 2020 Notes under the indenture and will have the same terms as the existing 2020 Notes. See "Description of Notes."

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with GAAP, and include the accounts of ours and our consolidated subsidiaries. We are an investment company following accounting and reporting guidance in Accounting Standards Codification 946. The consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications that, in the opinion of management, are necessary for the fair presentation of the results of the operations and financial condition as of and for the periods presented. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Interim financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP for interim financial information and pursuant to the requirements for reporting on Form 10-Q and Articles 6 or 10 of Regulation S-X. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting solely of normal recurring accruals considered necessary for the fair presentation of financial statements for the interim period presented, have been included. The current period's results of operations will not necessarily be indicative of results that ultimately may be achieved for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include funds from time to time deposited with financial institutions and short-term, liquid investments in a money market fund. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

Concentration of Credit Risk

We place our cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions and, at times, cash held in money market accounts may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limit.

Investments

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains or losses are measured by the difference between the net proceeds from the repayment or sale and the amortized cost basis of the investment without regard to unrealized gains or losses previously recognized, and include investments charged off during the period, net of recoveries. Unrealized gains or losses primarily reflect the change in investment values, including the reversal of previously recorded unrealized gains or losses when gains or losses are realized.

Investments for which market quotations are readily available are typically valued at such market quotations. In order to validate market quotations, we look at a number of factors to determine if the quotations are representative of fair value, including the source and nature of the quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market prices are not readily available (i.e., substantially all of our investments) are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors, based on, among other things, the input of our investment adviser, audit committee and independent third-party valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of our board of directors to assist in the valuation of each portfolio investment without a readily available market quotation at least once during a trailing 12-month period (with certain de minimis exceptions) and under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, and a minimum of 55% of our portfolio at fair value is

Table of Contents

subject to review by an independent valuation firm each quarter. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm obtains an understanding of, and performs select procedures relating to, our investment valuation process within the context of performing the integrated audit.

As part of the valuation process, we may take into account the following types of factors, if relevant, in determining the fair value of our investments: the enterprise value of a portfolio company (the entire value of the portfolio company to a market participant, including the sum of the values of debt and equity securities used to capitalize the enterprise at a point in time), the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, a comparison of the portfolio company's securities to any similar publicly traded securities, changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets generally that may affect the price at which similar investments would trade in their principal markets and other relevant factors. When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we consider the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our valuation.

Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors, as described herein. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may fluctuate from period to period. Additionally, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments and may differ materially from the values that we may ultimately realize. Further, such investments are generally subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or otherwise are less liquid than publicly traded securities. If we were required to liquidate a portfolio investment in a forced or liquidation sale, we could realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded it.

In addition, changes in the market environment and other events that may occur over the life of the investments may cause the gains or losses ultimately realized on these investments to be different than the unrealized gains or losses reflected in the valuations currently assigned.

Our board of directors undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment in conjunction with our portfolio management team.

Preliminary valuations are reviewed and discussed with our investment adviser's management and investment professionals, and then valuation recommendations are presented to our board of directors.

The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these valuations, as well as the input of third parties, including independent third-party valuation firms, who review a minimum of 55% of our portfolio at fair value.

Our board of directors discusses valuations and ultimately determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio without a readily available market quotation in good faith based on, among other things, the input of our investment adviser, audit committee and, where applicable, independent third-party valuation firms.

Interest and Dividend Income Recognition

Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis and includes the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums. Discounts from and premiums to par value on securities purchased are

Table of Contents

accreted/amortized into interest income over the life of the respective security using the effective yield method. The amortized cost of investments represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums, if any.

Loans are generally placed on non-accrual status when principal or interest payments are past due 30 days or more or when there is reasonable doubt that principal or interest will be collected in full. Accrued and unpaid interest is generally reversed when a loan is placed on non-accrual status. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment regarding collectability. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal and interest is paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current. We may make exceptions to this if the loan has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection.

Dividend income on preferred equity securities is recorded as dividend income on an accrual basis to the extent that such amounts are payable by the portfolio company and are expected to be collected. Dividend income on common equity securities is recorded on the record date for private portfolio companies or on the ex-dividend date for publicly traded portfolio companies.

Payment-in-Kind Interest

We have loans in our portfolio that contain payment-in-kind ("PIK") provisions. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each loan agreement, is added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. To maintain our status as a RIC, this non-cash source of income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of dividends even though we have not yet collected the cash.

Capital Structuring Service Fees and Other Income

Our investment adviser seeks to provide assistance to our portfolio companies in connection with our investments and in return we may receive fees for capital structuring services. These fees are generally only available to us as a result of our underlying investments, are normally paid at the closing of the investments, are generally non-recurring and are recognized as revenue when earned upon closing of the investment. The services that our investment adviser provides vary by investment, but generally include reviewing existing credit facilities, arranging bank financing, arranging equity financing, structuring financing from multiple lenders, structuring financing from multiple equity investors, restructuring existing loans, raising equity and debt capital, and providing general financial advice, which concludes upon closing of the investment. Any services of the above nature subsequent to the closing would generally generate a separate fee payable to us. In certain instances where we are invited to participate as a co-lender in a transaction and do not provide significant services in connection with the investment, a portion of loan fees paid to us in such situations will be deferred and amortized over the estimated life of the loan. We may also take a seat on the board of directors of a portfolio company, or observe the meetings of the board of directors without taking a formal seat.

Other income includes fees for asset management, management and consulting services, loan guarantees, commitments, amendments and other services rendered by us to portfolio companies. Such fees are recognized as income when earned or the services are rendered.

Foreign Currency Translation

Our books and records are maintained in U.S. dollars. Any foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. dollars on the following basis:

- (1) Fair value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the period.

Table of Contents

- (2) Purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses at the exchange rates prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions, income or expenses.

Results of operations based on changes in foreign exchange rates are separately disclosed in the statement of operations. Foreign security and currency translations may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies and U.S. government securities. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency fluctuations and revaluations and future adverse political, social and economic developments, which could cause investments in foreign markets to be less liquid and prices more volatile than those of comparable U.S. companies or U.S. government securities.

Accounting for Derivative Instruments

We do not utilize hedge accounting and instead mark our derivatives to market in our consolidated statement of operations.

Equity Offering Expenses

Our offering costs, excluding underwriters' fees, are charged against the proceeds from equity offerings when received.

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are amortized over the life of the related debt instrument using the straight line method or the effective yield method, depending on the type of debt instrument.

Income Taxes

We have elected to be treated as a RIC under the Code and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to RICs. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and timely distribute to our stockholders at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. We, among other things, have made and intend to continue to make the requisite distributions to our stockholders, which will generally relieve us from U.S. federal corporate-level income taxes.

Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions from such current year taxable income into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that we determine that our estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, we accrue excise tax, if any, on estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned.

Certain of our consolidated subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal and state corporate-level income taxes.

Dividends to Common Stockholders

Dividends and distributions to common stockholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The amount to be paid out as a dividend is determined by our board of directors each quarter and is generally based upon the earnings estimated by management. Net realized capital gains, if any, are generally distributed, although we may decide to retain such capital gains for investment.

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of any distributions we declare in cash on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our

Table of Contents

stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividend. We intend to use primarily newly issued shares to implement the dividend reinvestment plan (so long as we are trading at a premium to net asset value). If our shares are trading at a significant enough discount to net asset value and we are otherwise permitted under applicable law to purchase such shares, we intend to purchase shares in the open market in connection with our obligations under our dividend reinvestment plan. However, we reserve the right to issue new shares of our common stock in connection with our obligations under the dividend reinvestment plan even if our shares are trading below net asset value.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of actual and contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income or loss and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the valuation of investments.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)." The guidance in this ASU supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in Topic 605, "Revenue Recognition." Under the new guidance, an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The amendments in ASU No. 2014-09 are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period. Early application is not permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this ASU on our consolidated financial statements.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates and the valuations of our investment portfolio.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate sensitivity refers to the change in our earnings that may result from changes in the level of interest rates. Because we fund a portion of our investments with borrowings, our net investment income is affected by the difference between the rate at which we invest and the rate at which we borrow. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income.

As of September 30, 2014, 82% of the investments at fair value in our portfolio bore interest at variable rates, 8% bore interest at fixed rates, 8% were non-interest earning and 2% were on non-accrual status. Additionally, for the variable rate investments, 72% of these investments contained interest rate floors (representing 59% of total investments at fair value). The Facilities all bear interest at variable rates with no interest rate floors, while the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Unsecured Notes bear interest at fixed rates.

We regularly measure our exposure to interest rate risk. We assess interest rate risk and manage our interest rate exposure on an ongoing basis by comparing our interest rate sensitive assets to our interest rate sensitive liabilities. Based on that review, we determine whether or not any hedging transactions are necessary to mitigate exposure to changes in interest rates.

Table of Contents

While hedging activities may mitigate our exposure to adverse fluctuations in interest rates, certain hedging transactions that we may enter into in the future, such as interest rate swap agreements, may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our portfolio investments. In addition, there can be no assurance that we will be able to effectively hedge our interest rate risk.

Based on our September 30, 2014, balance sheet, the following table shows the annual impact on net income of base rate changes in interest rates (considering interest rate floors for variable rate instruments) assuming no changes in our investment and borrowing structure:

(in millions) Basis Point Change	Interest Income	Interest Expense	Net Income(1)
Up 300 basis points	\$ 139.6	\$ 21.4	\$ 118.2
Up 200 basis points	\$ 67.4	\$ 14.2	\$ 53.2
Up 100 basis points	\$ (3.6)	\$ 7.1	\$ (10.7)
Down 100 basis points	\$ 6.7	\$ (1.2)	\$ 7.9
Down 200 basis points	\$ 6.7	\$ (1.2)	\$ 7.9
Down 300 basis points	\$ 6.7	\$ (1.2)	\$ 7.9

(1)

Excludes the impact of income based fees. See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information on the income based fees.

Based on our December 31, 2013 balance sheet, the following table shows the annual impact on net income of base rate changes in interest rates (considering interest rate floors for variable rate instruments) assuming no changes in our investment and borrowing structure:

(in millions) Basis Point Change	Interest Income	Interest Expense	Net Income(1)
Up 300 basis points	\$ 98.2	\$ 5.6	\$ 92.6
Up 200 basis points	\$ 38.7	\$ 3.7	\$ 35.0
Up 100 basis points	\$ (19.0)	\$ 1.9	\$ (20.9)
Down 100 basis points	\$ 6.3	\$ (0.3)	\$ 6.6
Down 200 basis points	\$ 6.3	\$ (0.3)	\$ 6.6
Down 300 basis points	\$ 6.3	\$ (0.3)	\$ 6.6

(1)

Excludes the impact of income based fees. See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 for more information on the income based fees.

Table of Contents

SENIOR SECURITIES
(dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data)

Information about our senior securities (including preferred stock, debt securities and other indebtedness) is shown in the following tables as of the end of each fiscal year ended December 31 since we commenced operations and as of September 30, 2014. The report of our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, on the senior securities table as of December 31, 2013, is attached as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is a part. The " " indicates information that the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage Per Unit(2)	Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Unit(3)	Average Market Value Per Unit(4)
Revolving Credit Facility				
Fiscal 2014 (as of September 30, 2014, unaudited)	\$ 335,000	\$ 2,427	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2013	\$	\$	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2012	\$	\$	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2011	\$ 395,000	\$ 2,518	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2010	\$ 146,000	\$ 3,213	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2009	\$ 474,144	\$ 2,298	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2008	\$ 480,486	\$ 2,205	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2007	\$ 282,528	\$ 2,650	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2006	\$ 193,000	\$ 2,638	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2005	\$	\$	\$	N/A
Revolving Funding Facility				
Fiscal 2014 (as of September 30, 2014, unaudited)	\$ 324,000	\$ 2,427	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2013	\$ 185,000	\$ 2,642	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2012	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,816	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2011	\$ 463,000	\$ 2,518	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2010	\$ 242,050	\$ 3,213	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2009	\$ 221,569	\$ 2,298	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2008	\$ 114,300	\$ 2,205	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2007	\$ 85,000	\$ 2,650	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2006	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,638	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2005	\$ 18,000	\$ 32,645	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2004	\$ 55,500	\$ 3,878	\$	N/A
Revolving Funding II Facility				
Fiscal 2009	\$	\$	\$	N/A
SMBC Revolving Funding Facility				
Fiscal 2014 (as of September 30, 2014, unaudited)	\$ 54,000	\$ 2,427	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2013	\$	\$	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2012	\$	\$	\$	N/A
Debt Securitization				
Fiscal 2011	\$ 77,531	\$ 2,518	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2010	\$ 155,297	\$ 3,213	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2009	\$ 273,752	\$ 2,298	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2008	\$ 314,000	\$ 2,205	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2007	\$ 314,000	\$ 2,650	\$	N/A
Fiscal 2006	\$ 274,000	\$ 2,638	\$	N/A

S-56

Table of Contents

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage Per Unit(2)	Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Unit(3)	Average Market Value Per Unit(4)
February 2016 Convertible Notes				