

MERGE HEALTHCARE INC  
Form S-3  
November 04, 2011  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 4, 2011

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
*UNDER*  
*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**MERGE HEALTHCARE INCORPORATED**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of

39-1600938  
(I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification Number)

**200 East Randolph Street, 24th Floor**

**Chicago, Illinois 60601-6436**

**(312) 565-6868**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

**Jeffery A. Surges**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Merge Healthcare Incorporated**

**200 East Randolph Street, 24th Floor**

**Chicago, Illinois 60601-6436**

**(312) 565-6868**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copy to:*

**Ann Mayberry-French**

**Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary**

**Merge Healthcare Incorporated**

**200 East Randolph Street, 24th Floor**

**Chicago, Illinois 60601-6436**

**(312) 565-6868**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time following the effectiveness of this registration statement.

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If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee
		Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	
Primary Offering(3)				
Debt Securities				
Common Stock				
Preferred Stock				
Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities				
Warrants to Purchase Common Stock or Preferred Stock				
Depository Shares(4)				
Stock Purchase Contracts				
Stock Purchase Units				
Total Primary Offering			\$ 150,000,000	\$ 17,190
Secondary Offering				
Common Stock	10,500,000	\$6.01(5)	\$ 63,105,000	\$ 7,232(6)
Total			\$ 213,105,000	\$ 24,422(7)

- (1) This registration statement also registers such indeterminate amounts of securities as may be issued upon conversion of, or in exchange for, the securities registered and pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may be issued from time to time upon conversion or exchange as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) The proposed maximum offering price per security and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time in connection with the issuance by the Registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (3) The Primary Offering made pursuant to this registration statement relates to such indeterminate number or amount of shares of common stock, debt securities, preferred stock, warrants, depository shares, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units of the Registrant as may from time to time be issued or sold by the Registrant at indeterminate prices, in U.S. Dollars or the equivalent thereof denominated in foreign currencies or units of two or more foreign currencies or composite currencies (such as the Euro). In no event will the maximum aggregate offering price of all shares of common stock, debt securities, preferred stock, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units issued or sold by the Registrant pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$150,000,000 nor if any debt securities are issued with original issue discount, such greater amount as will result in an aggregate offering price of \$150,000,000. These securities may be sold separately, together or as units with other securities registered hereby.
- (4) Represents depository shares, evidenced by depository receipts, issued pursuant to a deposit agreement. In the event the Registrant issues fractional interests in shares of the preferred stock registered hereunder, depository receipts will be distributed to purchasers of such fractional interests, and such shares of preferred stock will be issued to a depository under the terms of a deposit agreement.
- (5) Estimated solely for purposes of determining the registration fee for the Secondary Offering made pursuant to this registration statement in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low per share sale price for the Registrant's Common Stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Select Market on November 1, 2011.
- (6) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (7) Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) and Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, the Registrant hereby offsets the total registration fee due under this registration statement by the amount of the filing fee associated with the unsold securities from the Registrant's Form S-3 Registration

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Statement, filed with the Commission on September 2, 2009 (SEC File No. 333-161691), registering securities for a maximum aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000 (the Prior Registration Statement ). The associated filing fee of \$4,059.33 for the \$72,747,904 of the unsold securities remaining under the Prior Registration Statement is hereby used to offset the current registration fee due. Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6), the offering of the unsold securities registered under the Prior Registration Statement will be deemed terminated as of the date of effectiveness of this registration statement.

**The Registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.**

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**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. Neither we nor the selling securityholders named herein may sell these securities or accept an offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2011**

**PROSPECTUS**

# **MERGE HEALTHCARE INCORPORATED**

**Debt Securities**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Depositary Shares**

**Stock Purchase Contracts**

**Stock Purchase Units**

From time to time, we may sell up to an aggregate of \$150,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. In addition, the selling securityholders named herein may offer and sell from time to time up to an aggregate of 10,500,000 shares of our common stock under this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling securityholders. We will specify the terms of any offering of securities by us or the selling securityholders in a prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference herein or therein carefully before you invest.

**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors described in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as described under **Risk Factors** on page 2.**

**This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

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Our common stock is quoted and traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MRGE. On November 3, 2011, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$6.66. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on The NASDAQ Global Select Market or any securities market or exchange of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

The securities may be offered directly by us or the selling securityholders named herein to investors, to or through underwriters or dealers or through agents. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them, and any applicable over-allotment options, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we or the selling securityholders expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

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

**The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2011**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we and the selling securityholders named herein may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we and the selling securityholders may offer. Each time we or the selling securityholders sell securities, we and/or the selling securityholders, as applicable, will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**. You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. Neither we nor the selling securityholders have authorized anyone to provide you with information other than the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. Neither we nor the selling securityholders are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information contained in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this prospectus and the information in the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus speaks only as of the respective dates those documents were filed with the SEC. To the extent that any statement that we make in a prospectus supplement is inconsistent with statements made in this prospectus or a document that is incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the statements made in this prospectus will be deemed modified or superseded by those made in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms **Merge**, **Merge Healthcare**, **the Company**, **we**, **us**, **our** refer to Merge Healthcare Incorporated.

We have filed or incorporated by reference exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You should read the exhibits carefully for provisions that may be important to you.

**MERGE HEALTHCARE INCORPORATED**

Merge Healthcare Incorporated, along with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is an enterprise image provider dedicated to healthcare information technology (IT) solutions. We develop software solutions that automate healthcare data and diagnostic workflow to create a more comprehensive electronic record of the patient experience. Our solutions are designed to help solve some of the toughest challenges in health information exchange today, such as the incorporation of medical images and diagnostic information into broader healthcare IT applications, the interoperability of proprietary software solutions, advanced clinical tools like computer aided detection, the profitability of outpatient imaging practices in the face of declining reimbursement and the ability to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of our customers' businesses.

Our products, ranging from standards-based development toolkits to fully integrated clinical applications, have been used by healthcare providers worldwide for over 20 years. Our solutions optimize processes for healthcare organizations ranging in size from single-doctor practices to health systems, to the sponsors of clinical trials and the medical device industry. These solutions are licensed by more than 1,500 hospitals, 6,000 clinics and labs, 250 healthcare equipment manufacturers and 70% of the top pharmaceutical companies.

Merge primarily generates revenue from the sale of perpetual software licenses (limited by volume), upgrading and/or renewing those licenses, hardware, professional services and maintenance. The first four of these elements comprise the majority of non-recurring revenue. Our backlog of non-recurring revenue was approximately \$39.7 million as of September 30, 2011. Maintenance, which we renew annually with our customer base, is the primary component of recurring revenues. Recurring revenue also includes software licenses sold through contracts that are annually renewed and recognized ratably over the annual period and recorded as software revenue, and revenues derived from SaaS offerings which are recorded as professional

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services revenue. During 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, recurring revenue was approximately 65.0% of total net sales. During the second and third quarters of 2011, recurring revenue was approximately 62.5% and 57.5%, respectively, of total net sales. The following table presents our consolidated revenues by category, as a percentage of total revenues for software and other sales, professional services and maintenance and electronic data interchange ( EDI ):

	Nine Months		Years Ended December 31,	
	Ended			
	September 30, 2011	2010	2009	2008
Net sales:				
Software and other	33.4%	30.2%	49.4%	48.6%
Professional services	18.4%	16.5%	17.7%	15.1%
Maintenance and EDI	48.2%	53.3%	32.9%	36.3%

Merge was founded in 1987 and was reincorporated in Delaware on December 5, 2008. Our principal executive offices are located at 200 East Randolph Street, 24th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, 60601-6436, and our telephone number there is (312) 565-6868. Our website address, which we use to communicate important business information, can be accessed at: [www.merge.com](http://www.merge.com). The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus.

Each prospectus supplement may include additional information about us.

**RISK FACTORS**

Before you invest in our securities, in addition to the other information, documents or reports included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, you should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement as well as in "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and in "Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed subsequent to such Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement in their entirety, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Each of the risks described in these sections and documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects and the market price of our shares and any other securities we may issue. Moreover, the risks and uncertainties discussed in the foregoing documents are not the only risks and uncertainties that we face, and our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects and the market price of our shares and any other securities we may issue could be materially adversely affected by other matters that are not known to us or that we currently do not consider to be material risks to our business.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Information both included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement may contain forward-looking statements, concerning, among other things, our outlook, financial projections and business strategies, all of which are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions. These forward-looking statements are identified by the use of terms such as "intend," "plan," "may," "should," "will," "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "continue," "potential," "opportunity," "project" and similar terms. These statements are based on assumptions and analyses that we believe are appropriate under the circumstances. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should our assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may differ materially from those indicated in these statements. We can not guarantee that we will achieve these plans, intentions or expectations. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any of them in light of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Factors that may impact forward-looking statements include, among others, our ability to maintain the technological competitiveness of our current products, develop new products, successfully market our products, respond to competitive developments, develop and maintain partnerships with providers of complementary technologies, manage our costs and the challenges that may come with growth of our business and the integration of newly acquired companies, and attract and retain qualified sales, technical and management employees. We are also affected by the growth and regulation of the medical technology industry, including the acceptance of enterprise-wide advanced visualization by hospitals, clinics, and universities, product clearances and approvals by the United States Food and Drug Administration and similar regulatory bodies outside the United States, and reimbursement and regulatory practices by Medicare, Medicaid, and private third-party payer organizations. We are also affected by the recent downturn in the United States and international economies and as such may be further impacted by the lack of credit available to our customers. We are affected by other factors identified in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, some of which are set forth in the section entitled "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in "Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors," in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed subsequent to such Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement in their entirety, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Exchange Act. Although we have attempted to list these important factors, we also wish to caution investors that other factors may prove to be important in the future in affecting our operating results. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of these factors, nor can we assess the impact each factor or combination of factors may have on our business.

These risks and uncertainties, along with the risk factors discussed under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, should be considered in evaluating any forward-looking statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements in this section.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

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

	Nine Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	September 30, 2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
<b>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</b>	N/A	N/A	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Dollar amount of deficiency (in thousands)</b>	\$ (1,658)	\$ (25,162)	N/A	\$ (23,743)	\$ (171,808)	\$ (249,473)
<b>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Dollar amount of deficiency (in thousands)</b>	\$ (4,811)	\$ (66,813)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings consists of pre-tax income from continuing operations plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense (including amortization of debt issuance premiums, discounts and issuance costs) and the interest portion of rental expense. The interest portion of rental expense is estimated at 23.0% of rental expense based on net present value analysis. Preferred dividends are the pretax earnings that are required to pay the dividends on outstanding preferred stock and are calculated as the amount of the dividend divided by the difference between 100% and the effective tax rate for the respective period. The Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges is calculated by dividing earnings by the sum of the fixed charges. The Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends is calculated by dividing earnings by the sum of the fixed charges and preferred dividends.

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For further information on these ratios, see Exhibit 12.1, Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges, filed herewith.

**SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS**

Up to an aggregate of 10,500,000 shares of common stock may be offered by the selling securityholders listed in the table below. Each applicable prospectus supplement will identify:

the number of shares of common stock then being offered by each selling securityholder; and

the number of shares and the percentage of common stock owned by each selling securityholder after completion of the offering.

Selling Securityholder	Shares of Common Stock Owned Before the Offering		Maximum Number of Shares of Common Stock Offered
	Number	%	
Merrick RIS, LLC(1)	31,265,137	34.5%(2)	10,000,000
Merrick Ventures, LLC(1)	500,000	*	500,000

\* Less than 1% of outstanding common stock.

(1) Michael W. Ferro, Jr., the Chairman of our board of directors, exercises voting and investment powers over all of these shares of common stock.

(2) The ownership percentage is based on 90,504,495 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of October 31, 2011.

**General**

Michael W. Ferro, Jr., the Chairman of our board of directors, and trusts for the benefit of Mr. Ferro's family members beneficially own a majority of the equity interests in Merrick RIS, LLC ( Merrick RIS ). Mr. Ferro also serves as the chairman and chief executive officer of Merrick RIS and the chairman and chief executive officer of Merrick Ventures, LLC ( Merrick Ventures ). Accordingly, Mr. Ferro indirectly controls all of the shares of common stock owned by Merrick RIS and Merrick Ventures. In addition, Justin C. Dearborn, a director of the Company and our President and Chief Financial Officer, served as managing director and general counsel of Merrick Ventures from January 2007 to June 2008.

**Amendment of Merrick RIS Consulting Agreement**

In January of 2009, we entered into a Consulting Agreement with Merrick RIS which was effective as of January 1, 2009, had a one year term and allowed us to take advantage of certain consulting services offered by Merrick RIS to us. These services included, but were not limited to, investor relations, financial analysis and strategic planning. Effective on January 1, 2010 we and Merrick RIS entered into an amendment to extend the term of this Consulting Agreement through December 31, 2011, and modified the payment terms from a flat fee arrangement per quarter to a per transaction or success based arrangement. Our Audit Committee considered the amendment to the Consulting Agreement prior to its execution and approved its terms. The fees under the Consulting Agreement in 2010 were approximately \$1,050,000.

On April 28, 2010, we acquired AMICAS, Inc. (now Merge Healthcare Solutions Inc.) and its subsidiaries for total consideration of approximately \$223.9 million. As a result of the completion of that acquisition we paid a \$1.0 million success fee to Merrick RIS in April 2010.

**Merrick RIS's Investments in Connection with our Acquisition of AMICAS, Inc.**

On April 28, 2010, Merrick RIS purchased an aggregate principal amount of \$5.0 million of the \$200 million of 11.75% senior secured notes due 2015 that we offered in a private placement pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The notes purchased by Merrick RIS were purchased at the same purchase price per note as all other investors in the private placement.

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Merrick RIS also subscribed for and purchased 1.8 million shares of our common stock and 10,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock in the private placement that funded a portion of our acquisition of AMICAS, Inc. These shares were purchased by Merrick RIS at the same purchase price per share of common stock and per share of Series A Preferred Stock paid by all other investors in the private placement.

On June 20, 2011, Merrick RIS purchased an additional aggregate principal amount of \$5.0 million of the \$52.0 million of 11.75% senior secured notes due 2015 that we offered in a private placement pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The notes purchased by Merrick RIS were purchased at the same purchase price per note as all other investors in the private placement. We used the proceeds from this private placement to redeem and retire all outstanding shares of our Series A Preferred Stock for approximately \$1,176 per share, including \$11,755,200 to redeem and retire the 10,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock held by Merrick RIS.

### **Acquisition of Olivia Greets Assets from Merrick Healthcare Solutions, LLC**

On July 30, 2010, we entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement with Merrick Healthcare Solutions, LLC, a subsidiary of Merrick Ventures, pursuant to which we acquired substantially all of the assets related to the development and distribution of the Olivia Greets system. As consideration for this purchase, we issued 500,000 shares of our common stock to Merrick Healthcare Solutions, LLC, subject to a twelve month lockup, which has since expired. These shares of common stock were subsequently transferred by Merrick Healthcare Solutions, LLC to its affiliate Merrick Ventures.

### **Registration Fees and Expenses**

We have agreed to pay the fees and expenses of the registration of the shares of common stock of the selling securityholders.

### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities by Merge Healthcare will be used for general corporate purposes. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock by the selling securityholders.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. The debt securities will be our direct general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior debt indenture, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated debt indenture. We use the term indentures to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. A form of each of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term indenture trustee to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the debt securities and indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities and the description thereof contained in the prospectus supplement.

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**General**

We will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

The title or designation;

Any limit on the principal amount that may be issued;

Whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and the Depositary;

The maturity date;

The annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

Whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

The terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

The place where payments will be payable;

Our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

The date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;

The date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

Whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;

Whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;

A discussion on any material or special U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

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The denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and

Any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

### **Conversion or Exchange Rights**

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of common stock or other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

### **Consolidation, Merger or Sale**

The indentures will not contain any covenant which restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of our assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate.

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### **Events of Default Under the Indenture**

The following may be events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

If we fail to pay interest when due and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

If we fail to pay the principal, or premium, if any, when due and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

If we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture after we receive notice from the indenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

If specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur as to us.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the indenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the indenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately; provided that if an event of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occurs, such amounts shall automatically become due and payable without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver will cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture occurs and is continuing, the indenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the indenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the indenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the indenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

The direction given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

Subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the indenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies if:

The holder has given written notice to the indenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;



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The holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the indenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

The indenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer. These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

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We will periodically file statements with the indenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

### **Modification of Indenture; Waiver**

We and the indenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

To fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and

To change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the indenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the indenture trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

Changing the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities or any installment of principal of or interest on any series of debt securities;

Reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

Reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment.

### **Discharge**

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for obligations to:

Register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

Replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

Maintain paying agencies;

Hold monies for payment in trust;

Compensate and indemnify the indenture trustee; and

Appoint any successor indenture trustee.

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In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the indenture trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

### **Form, Exchange and Transfer**

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another Depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See [Book-Entry Issuance](#) for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series, at its option, can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

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Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, no service charge will be required for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

Issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

Register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

## **Payment and Paying Agents**

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the indenture trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the indenture trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

## **Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

## **Subordination of Subordinated Notes**

The subordinated notes will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated notes which we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

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### **Regarding the Indenture Trustee**

We will name the indenture trustee for debt securities issued under the applicable indenture in the applicable supplement to this prospectus and, unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the indenture trustee will also act as Transfer Agent and Paying Agent with respect to the debt securities. The indenture trustee may be removed at any time with respect to the debt securities of any series by act of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series delivered to the indenture trustee and to us.

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK AND PREFERRED STOCK**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 150,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of October 31, 2011, there were 90,504,495 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding. As of October 31, 2011, there were 9,246,034 shares of our common stock reserved for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding stock options. As of October 31, 2011, our common stock was held of record by approximately 428 stockholders.

The following description of the terms of our common stock and preferred stock is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date. To find out where copies of these documents can be obtained, see [Where to Obtain More Information](#).

#### **Common Stock**

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by the board of directors, out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock, if any.

Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share of common stock.

Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of its business, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share equally in all assets available for distribution after payment of all liabilities and provision for liquidation preference of any shares of preferred stock then outstanding.

The holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights and no rights to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are also no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol [MRGE](#).

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer and Trust Company LLC.

#### **Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the following terms of the preferred stock:

designations, powers, preferences, privileges;

relative participating, optional or special rights; and

the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences.



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Any or all of these rights may be greater than the rights of our common stock. From June 2010 to June 2011, we had outstanding 41,750 shares of our Series A Non-Voting Preferred Stock. On June 20, 2011, we redeemed all of our Series A Non-Voting Preferred Stock. All of such shares of preferred stock were retired at the time of redemption and returned to our authorized and unissued preferred stock.

Our board of directors, without stockholder approval, can issue preferred stock with voting, conversion or other rights that could negatively affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of our common stock. Preferred stock could thus be issued quickly with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control of Merge Healthcare or to make it more difficult to remove Merge Healthcare's management. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

## **Delaware Law Anti-Takeover Provisions**

As a Delaware corporation, Merge Healthcare is subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, as amended (the "DGCL"). Under Section 203, Merge Healthcare generally would be prohibited from engaging in any business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless:

Prior to such time, Merge Healthcare's board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder; or

Upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of Merge Healthcare's voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by persons who are directors and officers, and also by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by Merge Healthcare's board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of Merge Healthcare's stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Under Section 203, a "business combination" includes:

Any merger or consolidation involving Merge Healthcare and the interested stockholder;

Any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of Merge Healthcare's assets involving the interested stockholder;

Any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by Merge Healthcare of any of its stock to the interested stockholder, subject to limited exceptions; and

Any transaction involving Merge Healthcare that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of Merge Healthcare's capital stock beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through Merge Healthcare.

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

The description of Section 203 of the DGCL above is qualified in its entirety by reference to such section.

## **Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions**

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Various provisions contained in Merge's certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date, could delay or discourage some transactions involving an actual or potential change in control of Merge

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Healthcare or its management and may limit the ability of Merge Healthcare stockholders to remove current management or approve transactions that Merge Healthcare stockholders may deem to be in their best interests. For instance, these provisions:

Authorize Merge Healthcare's board of directors to establish one or more series of undesignated preferred stock, the terms of which can be determined by the board of directors at the time of issuance;

Require that any action required or permitted to be taken by Merge Healthcare's stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders and may not be effected by any consent in writing;

Provide an advance written notice procedure with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of Merge Healthcare's board of directors or a committee of its board of directors;

State that special meetings of Merge Healthcare's stockholders may be called only by the chairman of its board of directors, its chief executive officer or by a majority of its board of directors then in office; and

Allow Merge Healthcare's directors to fill vacancies on its board of directors, including vacancies resulting from removal or enlargement of the board.

### **DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. The following statements with respect to the warrants are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a warrant agreement to be entered into by Merge Healthcare and a warrant agent to be selected at the time of issue (the "warrant agent"), a form of which will be filed with the SEC.

#### **General**

The warrants, evidenced by warrant certificates, may be issued under the warrant agreement independently or together with any securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such securities. If warrants are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

The offering price, if any;

If applicable, the designation, aggregate principal amount, and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;

If applicable, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one debt warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

If applicable, the number of shares of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of each warrant and the initial price at which such shares may be purchased upon exercise;

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If applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;

If applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

The date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

Federal income tax consequences;

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Call provisions of such warrants, if any;

Anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

Whether the warrants represented by the warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form; and

Any additional or other terms, procedures, rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions relating to the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

The shares of preferred stock or common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants will, when issued in accordance with the warrant agreement, be fully paid and non-assessable.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the depositary shares that we may offer under this prospectus. The following statements with respect to the depositary shares and depositary receipts are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a deposit agreement to be entered into by Merge Healthcare and a depositary to be selected at the time of issue (the "depositary") and the form of depositary receipt. The form of deposit agreement and the form of depositary receipt will be filed with the SEC.

**General**

We may, at our option, elect to issue fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. In the event such option is exercised, we may elect to have a depositary issue receipts for depositary shares, each receipt representing a fraction, to be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock as described below.

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company that we select. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights.

**Depositary Receipts**

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of an offering of the preferred stock.

**Withdrawal of Preferred Stock**

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the office of the depositary and upon payment of the charges provided in the deposit agreement, a holder of depositary receipts may have the depositary deliver to the holder the whole shares of preferred stock relating to the surrendered depositary receipts. Holders of depositary shares may receive whole shares of the related series of preferred stock on the basis set forth in the related prospectus supplement for such series of preferred stock, but holders of such whole shares will not after the exchange be entitled to receive depositary shares for their whole shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of the related series of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares.

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### **Dividends and Other Distributions**

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received for the preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares relating to the preferred stock in proportion to the numbers of such depositary shares owned by such holders.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares entitled thereto, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make distribution of the property. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to such holders.

### **Redemption of Depositary Shares**

If a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the series of preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to the series of the preferred stock. Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of preferred stock redeemed by us. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as may be determined by the depositary.

### **Voting the Preferred Stock**

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

### **Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement**

We and the depositary at any time may amend the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. We or the depositary may terminate the deposit agreement only if all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed, or there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Merge Healthcare and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

### **Charges of Depositary**

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

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### **Miscellaneous**

The depository will forward to the record holders of the depository shares relating to such preferred stock all reports and communications from us which are delivered to the depository.

Neither we nor the depository will be liable if either one is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond their control in performing the obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of Merge Healthcare and the depository under the deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties thereunder, and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depository shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. The depository may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depository receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

### **Resignation and Removal of Depository**

The depository may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the depository, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor depository and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor depository must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

## **DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS**

We may issue stock purchase contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and we may sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. Stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units ( stock purchase units ) consisting of a stock purchase contract and either (i) senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities or (ii) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, securing the holder's obligations to purchase the common stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner, and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid stock purchase contracts ( prepaid securities ) upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid securities. Certain material United States Federal income tax considerations applicable to the stock purchase units and stock purchase contracts will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

## **BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE**

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities of a series offered by us will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. We anticipate that these global securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company ( DTC ), which will act as depository, and registered in the name of its nominee. Except as described below, the global securities may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to DTC or to another nominee of DTC.

DTC has advised us that it is:

A limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law;

A banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

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A member of the Federal Reserve System;

A clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and

A clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

DTC was created to hold securities for institutions that have accounts with DTC ( participants ) and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants through electronic book-entry changes in participants accounts. Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. Access to DTC s book-entry system is also available to others that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly. DTC administers its book-entry system in accordance with its rules and bylaws and legal requirements.

Upon issuance of a global security representing offered securities, DTC will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the principal amount to participants accounts. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security will be limited to participants or to persons that hold interests through participants. Ownership of interests in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to participants interests) and the participants (with respect to the owners of beneficial interests in the global security). The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as DTC (or its nominee) is the registered holder and owner of a global security, DTC (or its nominee) will be considered, for all purposes under the applicable indenture, the sole owner and holder of the related offered securities. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not:

Be entitled to have the securities registered in their names; or

Receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated securities in definitive form.

Purchases of securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC s records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each global security ( beneficial owner ) is in turn recorded on the direct and indirect participants records. A beneficial owner does not receive written confirmation from DTC of its purchase, but is expected to receive a written confirmation providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of its holdings, from the direct or indirect participants through which such beneficial owner entered into the action. Transfers of ownership interests in securities are accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners do not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in securities, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, the securities are registered in the name of DTC s partnership nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of the securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. will effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the securities; DTC records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Delivery of notice and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners are governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

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Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. consents or votes with respect to the securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails a proxy (an Omnibus Proxy) to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the securities are credited on the record date (identified on a list attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments, if any, on the securities will be made to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the payment date in accordance with their respective holdings as shown on DTC's records, unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on the payment date. Payments by participants to beneficial owners are governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and are the responsibility of such participant and not of DTC, the trustee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal and interest, if any, to DTC is our or the trustee's responsibility, disbursement of such payments to direct participants is DTC's responsibility, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to us or, if applicable, the trustee. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not appointed, debt security certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC or a successor securities depository. In that event, debt security certificates will be printed and delivered.

We have obtained the information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

None of us, any underwriter or agent, the trustee or any applicable paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial interests in a global security, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial interest.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

Merge Healthcare and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination thereof) from time to time:

Through underwriters or dealers;

Directly to one or more purchasers;

Through agents; or

Through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of any securities, including:

The name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents and the amount of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

The purchase price of such securities and the proceeds to be received by Merge and/or the selling securityholders, if any;

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Any discounts, commissions or concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed, reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers or agents, if any;

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Any public offering price;

Any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions or concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers or agents may be changed from time to time.

Securities may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions, or in any transactions described in a prospectus supplement:

Block transactions in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of the securities as agent but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

Purchase by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its own account;

A special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with the rules of any exchange on which the securities are listed;

Ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

Sales at the market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise; or

Sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers.

The securities we and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, sell by any of the methods described above may be sold to the public, in one or more transactions, either:

At a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;

At market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

At prices related to prevailing market prices; or

At negotiated prices.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from Merge and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we and/or the selling securityholders pay for solicitation of these contracts.

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Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with Merge and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, to indemnification by Merge and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for Merge and its affiliates and/or the selling securityholders in the ordinary course of business.

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In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ( FINRA ), the aggregate maximum discount, commission or agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, as the case may be.

### **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The public may read and copy any reports, statements or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the Public Reference Room. Our public filings also are available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and may be obtained without charge at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Our filings with the SEC are also available on our website at [www.merge.com](http://www.merge.com). The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus or our other securities filings and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus or our other securities filings.

As noted above, we have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 to register the securities. This prospectus is part of that registration statement and, as permitted by the SEC's rules, does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement. For further information you may refer to the registration statement and to the exhibits and schedules filed as part of the registration statement. You can review and copy the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules at the Public Reference Room maintained by the SEC as described above. The registration statement, including its exhibits and schedules, is also available on the SEC's website.

### **INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we can disclose important information by referring to another document or information filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information amended or superseded by information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents and information set forth below that we have previously filed (but not furnished) with the SEC. These documents contain important information about us and our financial condition.

Merge's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010;

Merge's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011;

Merge's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011;

Merge's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2011;

Merge's Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, as filed with the SEC on April 21, 2011 and supplemented on April 26, 2011 (other than such information that is included in the proxy statement but not deemed to be filed with the SEC);

Merge's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 6, 2011, June 6, 2011, June 8, 2011 (two filings), June 15, 2011, June 20, 2011, August 8, 2011 (Item 3.02 only) and August 11, 2011 (as amended on August 22, 2011);

The description of Merge's common stock set forth in Merge's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, as filed with the SEC on January 9, 1998, including all amendments and reports filed for the purpose of updating such description;

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Merge s and AMICAS, Inc. s (now Merge Healthcare Solutions Inc.) Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2010 filed as Exhibit 99.5 to Merge s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-176640) filed with the SEC on September 1, 2011; and

AMICAS, Inc. s (now Merge Healthcare Solutions Inc.) Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for the Periods Ended December 31, 2010 and April 27, 2010, and the Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 filed as Exhibit 99.7 to Merge s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-176640) filed with the SEC on September 1, 2011.

Merge Healthcare does not incorporate portions of any document that is either (a) described in paragraphs (d)(1) through (3) and (e)(5) of Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC or (b) furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K. Merge Healthcare hereby incorporates by reference all future filings by Merge Healthcare made pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus. Nothing in this prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished but not filed with the SEC.

Merge Healthcare will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Corporate Secretary, Merge Healthcare Incorporated, 200 East Randolph Street, 24th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601-6436, telephone: (312) 565-6868.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplements, certain legal matters in connection with the securities will be passed upon for us by McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Chicago, Illinois. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel that we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Merge Healthcare Incorporated as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010 and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of Merge Healthcare Solutions Inc., formerly known as AMICAS, Inc. (Successor Company), as of December 31, 2010 and for the period April 28, 2010 through December 31, 2010 and AMICAS, Inc. (Predecessor Company) as of December 31, 2009 and for the period January 1, 2010 through April 27, 2010 and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2009 incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

Our estimated expenses in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting compensation, are as set forth in the following table:

SEC Registration Fee	\$	\$ 24,422
Printing and Engraving Expenses		
Legal Fees and Expenses		75,000*
Accounting Fees and Expenses		30,000*
Miscellaneous		10,000*
Total	\$	139,422

\* Estimated to nearest thousand U.S. dollars.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Merge Healthcare is a Delaware corporation. Reference is made to Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL, which enables a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment to eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director for violations of the director's fiduciary duty, except:

For any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders;

For acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

Pursuant to Section 174 of the DGCL (providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions); or

For any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit.

Reference is also made to Section 145 of the DGCL, which provides that a corporation may indemnify any persons, including officers and directors, who are, or are threatened to be made, parties to any threatened, pending or completed legal action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of such corporation or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such director, officer, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that the person's conduct was unlawful. A Delaware corporation may indemnify officers and directors in an action by or in the right of the corporation under the same conditions, except that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer or director is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him against the expenses that such officer or director actually and reasonably incurred. The indemnification permitted under the DGCL is not exclusive, and a corporation is empowered to purchase and maintain insurance against liabilities, whether or

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not indemnification would be permitted by statute.

Article VIII of Merge's Bylaws provides in effect that, subject to certain limited exceptions, Merge Healthcare shall indemnify its directors and officers to the extent not prohibited by the DGCL. Merge's directors and officers are insured under policies of insurance maintained by Merge Healthcare, subject to the limits of the policies, against certain losses arising from any claims made against them by reason of being or having been such

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directors or officers. In addition, Merge Healthcare has entered into contracts with certain of its directors providing for indemnification of such persons by Merge Healthcare to the full extent authorized or permitted by law, subject to certain limited exceptions.

**Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

**Exhibits**

- 1.1\* Form of Underwriting Agreement for Equity Securities
- 1.2\* Form of Underwriting Agreement for Debt Securities and Related Warrants
- 1.3\* Form of Underwriting Agreement for Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units
- 2.1 Merger Agreement, dated August 7, 2009, between the Registrant and Confirma, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 7, 2009)
- 2.2 Merger Agreement, dated May 30, 2009, between the Registrant and etrials Worldwide, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 30, 2009)
- 2.3 Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated February 28, 2010, among the Registrant, Project Ready Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Registrant, and AMICAS, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 4, 2010)
- 2.4 Stock Purchase Agreement, dated July 2, 2010, among Stryker Corporation, Stryker Imaging Corporation and the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.4 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010)
- 2.5 Asset Purchase Agreement, dated July 30, 2010, between the Registrant and Merrick Healthcare Solutions, LLC d/b/a Olivia Greetz (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 30, 2010)
- 2.6 Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated June 5, 2011 by and among the Registrant, ES Acquisition Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Registrant, and Ophthalmic Imaging Systems (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 6, 2011)
- 3.1 Certificate of Incorporation of Merge Healthcare Incorporated (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008)
- 3.2 Certificate of Merger as filed on December 3, 2008 and effective on December 5, 2008 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008)
- 3.3 Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation of Merge Healthcare Incorporated (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 30, 2010)
- 3.4 Series A Preferred Stock Certificate of Designations (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 30, 2010)
- 3.5 Bylaws (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008)
- 4.1 Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-161691) filed with the SEC on October 6, 2009)

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4.2	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-161691) filed with the SEC on October 6, 2009)
4.3*	Form of Debt Security
4.4*	Form of Deposit Agreement
4.5*	Form of Depositary Receipt
4.8*	Form of Stock Warrant Agreement
4.9*	Form of Debt Warrant Agreement
4.10*	Form of Stock Purchase Contract
4.11*	Form of Stock Purchase Unit
5.1**	Opinion of McDermott Will & Emery LLP
12.1**	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1**	Consent of BDO USA, LLP with respect to the financial statements of the Registrant
23.2**	Consent of BDO USA, LLP with respect to the financial statements of AMICAS, Inc. (now Merge Healthcare Solutions Inc.)
23.4	Consent of McDermott Will & Emery LLP (included in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
24	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature pages hereto)
25***	Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee on Form T-1 with respect to the Indentures for Senior Debt Securities and Subordinated Debt Securities

\* To be subsequently filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K.

\*\* Filed herewith.

\*\*\* To be subsequently filed by amendment, as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K or requisite filing under the Trust Indenture Act.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and



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- (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (2) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser,
- (i) each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (ii) each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i)(x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser,
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

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- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

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- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
- (d) (1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act will be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.
- (2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus will be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time will be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (e) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Chicago, State of Illinois on November 4, 2011.

**Merge Healthcare Incorporated**

By: /s/ Jeffery A. Surges  
 Name: Jeffery A. Surges  
 Title: Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Merge Healthcare Incorporated, hereby severally constitute and appoint Jeffery A. Surges and Ann G. Mayberry-French, and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys with full power to any of them, and to each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below any and all amendments to this registration statement and any related registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (in each case, including, without limitation, any post-effective amendments), and generally to do all such things in our name and behalf in our capacities as officers and directors to enable Merge Healthcare Incorporated to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys, or any of them, to said registration statements and any and all amendments thereto.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on November 4, 2011.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
/s/ Michael W. Ferro, Jr.	Chairman of the Board
Michael W. Ferro, Jr.	
/s/ Jeffery A. Surges	Director and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
Jeffery A. Surges	
/s/ Justin C. Dearborn	Director, President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
Justin C. Dearborn	
/s/ Steven M. Oreskovich	Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)
Steven M. Oreskovich	
/s/ Dennis Brown	Director
Dennis Brown	
/s/ Gregg G. Hartemayer	Director
Gregg G. Hartemayer	

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/s/ Richard A. Reck

Director

Richard A. Reck

/s/ Neele E. Stearns, Jr.

Director

Neele E. Stearns, Jr.

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