

EASTGROUP PROPERTIES INC

Form 424B5

March 22, 2011

**Table of Contents**

**Filed Pursuant To Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration No. 333-159328**

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities Offered</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered(1)</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee(2)</b>
Common Stock	2,000,000 shares	\$83,200,000	\$9,660

(1) Determined in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933 based on the average of the high and low reported sales prices on the New York Stock Exchange on March 18, 2011.

(2) This filing fee is calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) and relates to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-159328) filed by EastGroup Properties, Inc. on May 18, 2009.

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(To Prospectus dated May 18, 2009)**

**2,000,000 Shares**

**EastGroup Properties, Inc.**

**Common Stock**

We have entered into separate sales agency financing agreements with each of BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC and Raymond James & Associates, Inc., which we refer to individually as a sales agent and together as the sales agents, relating to the shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the sales agency financing agreements, we may offer and sell up to 2,000,000 shares of our common stock from time to time through the sales agents.

The common stock will be offered at market prices prevailing at the time of sale. We will pay each sales agent a commission not to exceed 2.0% of the sales price of all shares of common stock sold through it as our agent.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EGP. The last reported sales price of our common stock on March 18, 2011 was \$41.89 per share.

**Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before investing in our common stock, you should carefully read the discussion of material risks of investing in our common stock on page 1 of the accompanying prospectus under the heading Risk Factors, as well as the risk factors discussed in the documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and which we incorporate into this prospectus by reference.**

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

**BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC**

**Raymond James & Associates**

The date of this prospectus supplement is March 21, 2011.

---

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the sales agents have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the sales agents are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is accurate only as of their respective dates or on other dates which are specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Prospectus Supplement**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-1
<u>EASTGROUP PROPERTIES, INC.</u>	S-1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-1
<u>ADDITIONAL MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	S-1
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-2
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-4
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-4
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	S-4

**Prospectus Dated May 18, 2009**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
RISK FACTORS	1
FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION	1
RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES	2
USE OF PROCEEDS	2
DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK	2
DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK	3
DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK	4
DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS	5
CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS	6
MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES	9
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	23
SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS	25
LEGAL MATTERS	25
EXPERTS	25
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION	25
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE	26

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This document has two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering.

All references to we, our and us in this prospectus supplement means EastGroup Properties, Inc. and all entities owned or controlled by us except where it is made clear that the term means only the parent company. The term you refers to a prospective investor.

To the extent that any subject matter is addressed in both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the information contained in or incorporated by reference to this prospectus supplement updates or supersedes the information contained in the accompanying prospectus.

**EASTGROUP PROPERTIES, INC.**

We are an equity real estate investment trust, or REIT, focused on the development, acquisition and operation of industrial properties in major Sunbelt markets throughout the United States with an emphasis in the states of Florida, Texas, Arizona and California. Our goal is to maximize shareholder value by being the leading provider of functional, flexible, and quality business distribution space for location sensitive tenants primarily in the 5,000 to 50,000 square foot range. Our strategy for growth is based on ownership of premier distribution facilities generally clustered near major transportation features in supply constrained submarkets. Substantially all of our revenue is generated from renting real estate.

We are a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland. Our principal executive offices are located at 190 East Capitol Street, Suite 400, Jackson, MS 39201-2152, and our telephone number is (601) 354-3555. We also have a web site at [www.eastgroup.net](http://www.eastgroup.net). The information found on, or otherwise accessible through, our web site is not incorporated into, and does not form a part of, this prospectus.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock under the sales agency financing agreements from this offering for general corporate purposes, including working capital and the payment of costs of acquisition or development of industrial properties. Pending such use, the net proceeds will be used to reduce our outstanding variable rate debt. The weighted average interest rate on our variable rate debt was 1.12% as of March 17, 2011.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following discussion supplements the discussion under the heading Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences in the accompanying prospectus. Terms used in this section but not defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or in Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences in the prospectus. You should refer to the discussion in the prospectus under Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences for a discussion of the tax consequences of our election to be taxed as a REIT and the tax consequences to owners of shares of our common stock.

**Recent Legislation**

On March 18, 2010, the President signed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (the HIRE Act ) into law. The HIRE Act will require, effective for payments after December 31, 2012, withholding at a rate of 30% on dividends in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, our common stock held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in, and accounts maintained by, the institution to the extent such shares or accounts are held by certain United States persons or by

S-1

---

## **Table of Contents**

certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons. Accordingly, the entity through which our common stock is held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, dividends in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, our common stock held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any substantial United States owners or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's substantial United States owners, which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. Foreign investors are encouraged to consult with their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of these rules on their investment in our common stock.

On March 30, 2010, the President signed into law the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (the Reconciliation Act). The Reconciliation Act will require certain U.S. shareholders who are individuals, estates or trusts to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on, among other things, dividends on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares, subject to certain exceptions. This tax will apply for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

On December 17, 2010, the President signed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act (the 2010 Tax Relief Act). The 2010 Tax Relief Act continues the 15% maximum tax rate for long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income for taxable years through December 31, 2012. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, the capital gains tax rate is scheduled to increase to 20%, the rate applicable to dividends is scheduled to increase to the tax rate then applicable to ordinary income. In addition, the backup withholding rate remains at 28% through December 31, 2012. Because we are not generally subject to federal income tax on the portion of our REIT taxable income or capital gains distributed to our stockholders, our dividends will generally not be eligible for the 15% tax rate on qualified dividends. As a result, our ordinary REIT dividends will continue to be taxed at the higher tax rates applicable to ordinary income. However, the 15% tax rate for long-term capital gains and dividends will generally apply to: (i) long-term capital gains, if any, recognized on the disposition of our shares; (ii) our distributions designated as long-term capital gain dividends (except to the extent attributable to unrecaptured Section 1250 gain, in which case such distributions would continue to be subject to a 25% tax rate); (iii) our dividends attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations, such as taxable REIT subsidiaries; and (iv) our dividends to the extent attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax (e.g., to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income).

## **Changes to REIT Distributions**

Internal Revenue Service Revenue Procedure 2010-12, 2010-3 I.R.B, updates the circumstances that permits us to make taxable distributions of our stock (in lieu of cash) if (x) any such distribution is declared on or before December 31, 2012 with respect to a taxable year ending on or before December 31, 2011, and (y) each of our stockholders is permitted to elect to receive its entire entitlement under such declaration in either cash or shares of equivalent value subject to a limitation in the amount of cash to be distributed in the aggregate; provided that (i) the amount of cash that we set aside for distribution is not less than 10 percent of the aggregate distribution so declared, and (ii) if too many of our stockholders elect to receive cash, a pro rata amount of cash will be distributed to each such stockholder electing to receive cash, but in no event will any such stockholder receive less than its entire entitlement under such declaration. We have no present intentions of using our stock in connection with any dividend distributions.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We have entered into sales agency financing agreements, each dated as of March 21, 2011, with BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC and Raymond James & Associates, Inc., which we refer to individually as a sales agent and together as the sales agents, under which we may issue and sell up to 2,000,000 shares of our common stock from time to time

through the sales agents, as our agent for the offer and sale of the shares, for a 36-month period. The sales, if any, of the common stock under the sales agency financing agreements will be made in at the market offerings as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933, including sales made directly on the New York Stock Exchange, the existing trading market for our common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker or through

S-2

---



**Table of Contents**

an electronic communications network. In addition, our common stock may be offered and sold by such other methods, including privately negotiated transactions, as we and any sales agent agree to in writing.

From time to time during the term of the sales agency financing agreements, we may deliver an issuance notice to a sales agent specifying the length of the selling period (not to exceed 20 trading days), the amount of common stock to be sold (not to exceed 500,000 shares during any selling period without the sales agent's prior written consent) and the minimum price below which sales may not be made. Upon receipt of an issuance notice from us, and subject to the terms and conditions of the sales agency financing agreement, each sales agent has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such shares on such terms. We or the sales agent may suspend the offering of our common stock at any time upon proper notice to the other, upon which the selling period will immediately terminate. Settlement for sales of our common stock will occur on the later of: (i) the third trading day immediately following the last day of the selling period and (ii) the third trading day following the date on which any sales were made. The obligation of the sales agent under the applicable sales agency financing agreement to sell shares pursuant to any issuance notice is subject to a number of conditions, which the sales agent reserves the right to waive in its sole discretion.

We will pay the sales agents a commission not to exceed 2% of the sales price of all shares sold through it as agent under the sales agency financing agreement. We have also agreed to reimburse the sales agents for each of its reasonable documented out-of-pocket expenses, including fees and expenses of counsel (initial amount not to exceed \$75,000 and continuing due diligence in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per fiscal quarter), in connection with the sales agency financing agreements.

We will deliver to the New York Stock Exchange copies of this prospectus supplement pursuant to the rules of the exchange. We will report at least quarterly the number of shares of our common stock sold through both sales agents in at-the-market offerings, the net proceeds to us and the compensation paid by us to the sales agents in connection with such sales of our common stock.

Sales of our common stock as contemplated by this prospectus supplement will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as we and the sales agents may agree upon.

In connection with the sale of our common stock hereunder, the sales agents may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, and the compensation paid to the sales agents may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify the sales agents against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

The offering of our common stock pursuant to the sales agency financing agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of the 2,000,000 shares of our common stock subject to the sales agency financing agreements, (2) the third anniversary of the date of the sales agency financing agreements and (3) termination of each sales agency financing agreement by either the sales agent or us. Each sales agency financing agreement may be terminated by the sales agent or us at any time upon 10 days notice, and by the applicable sales agent in certain circumstances, including certain bankruptcy events relating to us or any material subsidiary, our failure to maintain a listing of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange or the occurrence of a material adverse effect in our company.

We have agreed not to directly or indirectly sell, offer to sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of, our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, warrants or any rights to purchase or acquire our common stock for a period beginning on the first trading day prior to the delivery of any issuance notice to a sales agent and ending on the first trading day following the settlement date for our common stock sold pursuant to the applicable issuance notice, without the prior written consent of the sales agent. This consent may be given at any time without public notice. The restriction described in this paragraph does not apply to sales of:

common stock we offer or sell pursuant to the sales agency financing agreements;

our common stock that we issue as consideration in connection with acquisitions of businesses, assets or securities of other persons;

S-3

---

**Table of Contents**

our common stock that we issue upon conversion of convertible securities, or the exercise of warrants, options or other rights; or

our common stock or options to purchase common stock that we issue, in either case, pursuant to any employee or director stock option, incentive or benefit plan, any stock purchase or ownership plan or dividend reinvestment plan.

In the ordinary course of business, each sales agent and/or its affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, investment banking, commercial banking, corporate trust services and other services for us from time to time for which they have received, and will in the future receive, customary fees and reimbursement of expenses.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of EastGroup Properties, Inc., as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2010, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, Buffalo, New York who may rely upon an opinion of DLA Piper LLP (US), Baltimore, Maryland as to certain Maryland law matters. Sidley Austin LLP, Palo Alto, California will pass upon certain legal matters in connection with this offering for the sales agents.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information contained in documents that we file with them. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and any future filings we make with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act prior to the completion of this offering.

You may request a free copy of these filings (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents) by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

EastGroup Properties, Inc.  
Attention: Chief Financial Officer  
190 East Capitol Street, Suite 400  
Jackson, MS 39201-2152  
(601) 354-3555

**Table of Contents**

**COMMON STOCK, PREFERRED STOCK, WARRANTS**

From time to time, we or one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future, may offer to sell common stock, preferred stock, and warrants to purchase preferred stock or common stock covered by this prospectus independently, or together in any combination that may include other securities set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EGP. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling securityholders may offer.

Each time securities are sold using this prospectus, we or the selling securityholder will provide a supplement to this prospectus or possibly other offering material containing specific information about the offering. The supplement or other offering material may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and any supplement and/or other offering material carefully before you invest.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under **Where You Can Find More Information**.

**Investment in any securities offered by this prospectus involves risk. See **Risk Factors** on page 1 of this prospectus, in our periodic reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in the applicable prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of the securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this Prospectus is May 18, 2009.

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>RISK FACTORS</u></b>	1
<b><u>FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION</u></b>	1
<b><u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u></b>	1
<b><u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u></b>	2
<b><u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u></b>	2
<b><u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u></b>	3
<b><u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u></b>	4
<b><u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u></b>	5
<b><u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS</u></b>	5
<b><u>MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u></b>	8
<b><u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u></b>	22
<b><u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS</u></b>	24
<b><u>LEGAL MATTERS</u></b>	24
<b><u>EXPERTS</u></b>	24
<b><u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u></b>	24
<b><u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u></b>	25

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We and the selling securityholders are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, the related prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein is accurate only as of its respective date or dates or on the date or dates which are specified in these documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

---

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and the other information contained in this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement before acquiring any of such securities.

**FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This prospectus, the prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and other written reports and oral statements made from time to time by the company may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements may include statements with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and business and on the possible impact of this offering on our financial performance. Words such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates and similar expressions as they relate to us or our management, are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Because such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date the statements were made.

Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are: national, regional and local economic climates, changes in financial markets, interest rates, increased or unanticipated competition for our properties, risks associated with acquisitions, maintenance of our REIT status, availability of financing and capital, changes in demand for developed properties, and other risks detailed from time to time in the reports filed with the SEC by us.

Except for ongoing obligations to disclose material information as required by the federal securities laws, we do not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of the filing of this prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

**ABOUT EASTGROUP PROPERTIES, INC.**

We are an equity real estate investment trust, or REIT, focused on the development, acquisition and operation of industrial properties in major Sunbelt markets throughout the United States with an emphasis in the states of Florida, Texas, Arizona and California. Our goal is to maximize shareholder value by being the leading provider of functional, flexible, and quality business distribution space for location sensitive tenants primarily in the 5,000 to 50,000 square foot range. Our strategy for growth is based on ownership of premier distribution facilities generally clustered near major transportation features in supply constrained submarkets. Substantially all of our revenue is generated from renting real estate.

We are a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland. Our principal executive offices are located at 190 East Capitol Street, Suite 400, Jackson, MS 39201-2195, and our telephone number is (601) 354-3555. We also have a web site at [www.eastgroup.net](http://www.eastgroup.net). The information found on, or otherwise accessible through, our web site is not incorporated into, and does not form a part of, this prospectus.

Additional information regarding EastGroup, including our audited financial statements, is contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Please also refer to the section below entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

### **RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 was 1.66, 1.62, 1.56, 1.49, 1.47 and 1.64, respectively.

## **Table of Contents**

For purposes of calculating these ratios, earnings represent income from continuing operations before adjustments for non-controlling interest in consolidated subsidiary and income from equity investee, plus fixed charges, plus distributed income of equity investee, minus capitalized interest, minus preferred stock dividends. Fixed charges represent interest expense and preferred stock dividends from our consolidated statements of operations plus capitalized interest, amortization of mortgage premiums and an estimated interest component of rental expense. The ratios are based solely on historical financial information and no pro forma adjustments have been made thereto.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sales of the securities to which this prospectus relates will be used for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include, without limitation, the repayment of debt and the development and acquisition of additional properties.

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds in the event that securities are sold by a selling securityholder.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description is only a summary of certain terms and provisions of our capital stock. You should refer to our charter and bylaws for the complete provisions thereof.

The total number of shares of capital stock of all classes that we are authorized to issue is 100,000,000. Our charter authorizes the issuance of 70,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.0001 per share and 30,000,000 shares of Excess Stock, par value \$.0001 per share. As of May 15, 2009, 25,207,655 shares of common stock and no shares of Excess Stock were issued and outstanding. Our common stock is currently listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols EGP .

Our Board of Directors is authorized by the charter, to classify and reclassify any of our unissued shares of capital stock, by, among other alternatives, setting, altering or eliminating the designation, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption of, limitations as to dividends and any other restrictions on, our capital stock. The power of the Board of Directors to classify and reclassify any of the shares of capital stock includes the authority to classify or reclassify such shares into a class or classes of preferred stock or other stock.

Pursuant to the provisions of our charter, if a transfer of stock occurs such that any person would own, beneficially or constructively (applying the applicable attribution rules of the Code), more than 9.8% (in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive) of our outstanding equity stock (excluding shares of Excess Stock), then the amount in excess of the 9.8% limit will automatically be converted into shares of Excess Stock, any such transfer will be void from the beginning, and we will have the right to redeem such stock. These restrictions also apply to any transfer of stock that would result in our being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code, or otherwise failing to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. Upon any transfer that results in Excess Stock, such Excess Stock shall be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries designated by us. Upon the satisfaction of certain conditions, the person who would have been the recordholder of the equity stock if the transfer had not resulted in Excess Stock may designate a beneficiary of an interest in the trust. Upon such transfer of an interest in the trust, the corresponding shares of Excess Stock in the trust shall be automatically exchanged for an equal number of shares of equity stock of the same class as such stock had been prior to it becoming Excess Stock and shall be transferred of record to the designated beneficiary. Excess Stock has no voting rights, except as required by law, and any vote cast by a purported transferee in respect of shares of Excess Stock prior to the discovery that shares



of equity stock had been converted into Excess Stock shall be void from the beginning. Excess Stock shall not be entitled to dividends. Any dividend paid prior to our discovery that equity stock has been converted into Excess Stock shall be repaid to us upon demand. In the event of our liquidation, each holder of Excess Stock shall be entitled to receive that portion of our assets that would have been distributed to the holder of equity stock in respect of which such Excess Stock was issued. The trustee of the trust holding Excess

## **Table of Contents**

Stock shall distribute such assets to the beneficiaries of such trust. These restrictions will not prevent the settlement of a transaction entered into through the facilities of any interdealer quotation system or national securities exchange upon which shares of our capital stock are traded. Notwithstanding the prior sentence, certain transactions may be settled by providing shares of Excess Stock.

Our Board of Directors, upon receipt of a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel or other evidence satisfactory to the Board of Directors and upon at least 15 days written notice from a transferee prior to a proposed transfer that, if consummated, would result in the intended transferee beneficially owning (as defined in our charter, and determined after the application of the applicable attribution rules of the Code) equity stock in excess of the 9.8% ownership limit and the satisfaction of such other conditions as the Board may direct, may in its sole and absolute discretion exempt a person from the 9.8% ownership limit. Additionally, our Board of Directors, upon receipt of a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel or other evidence satisfactory to our Board, may in its sole and absolute discretion exempt a person from the limitation on a person constructively owning (as defined in our charter, and determined after the application of the applicable attribution rules of the Code) equity stock in excess of the 9.8% ownership limit if (i) such person does not and represents that it will not directly or constructively own (after the application of the applicable attribution rules of the Code) more than a 9.8% interest in a tenant of ours; (ii) we obtain such representations and undertakings as are reasonably necessary to ascertain this fact; and (iii) such person agrees that any violation or attempted violation of such representations, undertakings and agreements will result in such equity stock in excess of the ownership limit being converted into and exchanged for Excess Stock. Our Board of Directors may from time to time increase or decrease the 9.8% limit, provided that the 9.8% limit may be increased only if five individuals could not beneficially own or constructively own (applying the applicable attribution rules of the Internal Revenue Code) more than 50.0% in value of the shares of equity stock then outstanding.

## **DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK**

*Distributions.* Subject to the preferential rights of any shares of preferred stock currently outstanding or subsequently classified and to the provisions of our charter regarding restrictions on transfer and ownership of shares of common stock, a holder of our common stock is entitled to receive distributions, if, as and when authorized and declared by our Board of Directors, out of our assets that we may legally use for distributions to stockholders and to share ratably in our assets that we may legally distribute to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of, or adequate provision for, all of our known debts and liabilities. We currently pay regular quarterly distributions on our common stock.

*Relationship to Preferred Stock and Other Shares of Common Stock.* The rights of a holder of shares of common stock will be subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of holders of preferred stock that may be issued in the future. Our Board of Directors may cause preferred stock to be issued to obtain additional capital, in connection with acquisitions, to our officers, directors and employees pursuant to benefit plans or otherwise and for other corporate purposes.

A holder of our common stock has no preferences, conversion rights, sinking fund, redemption rights, appraisal rights or preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding restrictions on ownership and transfer, all shares of common stock have equal distribution, liquidation, voting and other rights.

*Voting Rights.* Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding restrictions on transfer and ownership of shares of common stock, a holder of common stock has one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors.

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business, unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter. However, a Maryland corporation may provide in its charter for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our charter provides that such actions need to be approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

## **Table of Contents**

However, any merger, consolidation, share exchange, recapitalization, dissolution, sale of all or substantially all of our assets or any amendment to the provisions of our charter regarding the Board of Directors, indemnification of our directors and officers or amendment of the charter must be approved by at least two-thirds of our Board of Directors. Additionally, no amendment to our charter may be made that would, (i) in the determination of our Board of Directors, cause us not to qualify as a REIT, (ii) amend the provisions of our charter regarding removal of directors, (iii) amend our Bylaws, (iv) amend the provisions of our charter regarding the indemnification of directors and officers, (v) amend our charter, or (vi) impose cumulative voting in the election of directors, in each case, unless approved by the holders of not less than 80% of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a plurality of the outstanding shares of common stock voting can elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares of common stock, if any, will not be able to elect any directors, except as otherwise provided for any series of our preferred stock.

*Stockholder Liability.* Under Maryland law applicable to Maryland corporations, holders of common stock will not be liable as stockholders for our obligations solely as a result of their status as stockholders.

*Transfer Agent.* The registrar and transfer agent for shares of our common stock is Wells Fargo Shareholder Services.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK**

*General.* Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of our stock into other classes or series of stock, including classes or series of preferred stock. Shares of preferred stock may be issued from time to time, in one or more series, as authorized by our Board of Directors. Before issuance of shares of each series, the Board of Directors is required to fix for each such series, subject to the provisions of Maryland law and our charter, the powers, designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights of such series and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including such provisions as may be desired concerning voting, redemption, dividends, dissolution or the distribution of assets, conversion or exchange, and such other matters as may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee thereof. The Board of Directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions which could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction which holders of some, or a majority of, shares of common stock might believe to be in their best interests, or in which holders of some, or a majority of, shares of common stock might receive a premium for their shares of common stock over the then market price of such shares. The shares of preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any shares of preferred stock offered thereby will contain the specific terms, including:

- (i) The title and stated value of such shares of preferred stock;
- (ii) The number of such shares of preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of such shares of preferred stock;
- (iii) The voting rights of such shares of preferred stock;
- (iv) The dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to such shares of preferred stock;
- (v) The date from which dividends on such shares of preferred stock will accumulate, if applicable;

- (vi) The procedures for any auction or remarketing, if any, for such shares of preferred stock;
- (vii) The provision for a sinking fund, if any, for such shares of preferred stock;
- (viii) The provisions for redemption, if applicable, of such shares of preferred stock;
- (ix) Any listing of the shares of preferred stock on any securities exchange;

**Table of Contents**

- (x) The terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the shares of preferred stock will be convertible into shares of our common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);
- (xi) A discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to such shares of preferred stock;
- (xii) The relative ranking and preferences of such shares of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- (xiii) Any limitations on issuance of any series of shares of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with such series of shares of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- (xiv) Any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer of such shares of preferred stock, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and
- (xv) Any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of such shares of preferred stock.

The registrar and transfer agent for the shares of preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The description of the provisions of the shares of preferred stock set forth in this prospectus and in the related prospectus supplement is only a summary, does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by, reference to the definitive Articles Supplementary to our Charter relating to such series of shares of preferred stock. You should read these documents carefully to fully understand the terms of the shares of preferred stock. In connection with any offering of shares of preferred stock, Articles Supplementary will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants for the purchase of shares of preferred stock or shares of common stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreements will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, where applicable, the following: (1) the title of such warrants; (2) the aggregate number of such warrants; (3) the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued; (4) the designation, terms and number of shares of our preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of such warrants; (5) the designation and terms of the offered securities, if any, with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such offered security; (6) the date, if any, on and after which such warrants and the related preferred stock or common stock will be separately transferable, including any limitations on ownership and transfer of such warrants as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; (7) the price at which each share of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased; (8) the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire; (9) the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants which may be exercised at any one time; (10) information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; (11) a discussion of certain federal income tax consequences; and (12) any other terms of such warrants, including

terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

**CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

The following paragraphs summarize certain material provisions of Maryland law applicable to Maryland corporations. The summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by

## **Table of Contents**

reference to Maryland law, our charter, including any articles supplementary, and bylaws. You should read these documents carefully to fully understand the terms of Maryland law, our charter and our bylaws.

Maryland, the state of our incorporation, has certain anti-takeover statutes, including the business combination provisions and control share acquisition provisions, which may also have the effect of making it difficult to gain control of us or to change existing management. To date, we have not opted out of the business combination provisions or the control share acquisition provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law (the MGCL ).

## **Business Combinations**

Under Maryland law, business combinations between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares; or

an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder under the statute if the Board of Directors approved in advance the transaction by which he otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, the Board of Directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the Board.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the Board of Directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholders with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the Board of Directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

## **Control Share Acquisitions**

Maryland law provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror, by officers or by directors who are employees of the corporation are excluded from shares



entitled to vote on the matter. Control shares are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-fifth or more but less than one-third,

one-third or more but less than a majority, or

a majority or more of all voting power.

## **Table of Contents**

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel the Board of Directors of the corporation to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the corporation may redeem for fair value any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved. The right of the corporation to redeem control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations. Fair value is determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of the shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply (i) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction, or (ii) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

## **Certain Elective Provisions of Maryland Law**

Maryland law provides, among other things, that the board of directors has broad discretion in adopting stockholders rights plans and has the sole power to fix the record date, time and place for special meetings of the stockholders. Furthermore, Maryland corporations that:

- have three independent directors who are not officers or employees of the entity or related to an acquiring person; and

- are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act,

may elect in their charter or bylaws or by resolution of the board of directors to be subject to all or part of a special subtitle which provides that:

- the corporation will have a staggered board of directors;

- any director may be removed only for cause and by the vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors generally, even if a lesser proportion is provided in the charter or bylaws;

- the number of directors may only be set by the board of directors, even if the procedure is contrary to the charter or bylaws;

vacancies may only be filled by the remaining directors, even if the procedure is contrary to the charter or bylaws; and

the secretary of the corporation is required to call a special meeting of stockholders only on the written request of the stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting, even if the procedure is contrary to the charter or bylaws.

To date, we have not made any of the elections described above, although, independent of these elections, our charter and bylaws contain provisions that special meetings of stockholders are only required to be held upon the request of a majority of the stockholders, that directors may be removed only for cause and by the vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast and that vacancies may be filled only by our Board of Directors.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Board of Directors**

Our bylaws provide that the number of our directors may be established by the Board of Directors but may not be fewer than three (unless there is no stock outstanding, in which case it may not be fewer than one) nor more than 15. Any vacancy may be filled by the stockholders at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Any vacancy may also be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, except that a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors must be filled by a majority of the entire Board of Directors.

Our charter provides that a director may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the combined voting power of all shares of capital stock entitled to be cast in the election of directors voting together as a single class. This provision, when coupled with the provision in our bylaws authorizing the Board of Directors to fill vacant directorships, may preclude stockholders from removing incumbent directors, except for cause and by a substantial affirmative vote, and filling the vacancies created by the removal with their own nominees.

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (i) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (ii) by the Board of Directors or (iii) by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of the bylaws. With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors at a special meeting may be made only (i) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (ii) by the Board of Directors or (iii) provided that the Board of Directors has determined that directors will be elected at the meeting, by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of the bylaws.

### **Power to Issue Additional Shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock**

Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to issue stock of any class, whether now or hereafter authorized. We believe that the power to issue additional shares of common or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of common or preferred stock and thereafter to issue the classified or reclassified shares provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. These actions can be taken without stockholder approval, unless stockholder approval is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although we have no present intention of doing so, we could issue a class or series of stock that could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of the Company that might involve a premium price for holders of common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

### **Consideration of All Relevant Factors**

In addition, as permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter includes a provision that requires our Board of Directors, in their evaluation of any potential business combination or any actual or proposed transaction that could result in a change of control, to consider all relevant factors, including, the economic effect on our stockholders, the social and economic effect on our employees, suppliers, customers and creditors and the communities in which we have offices or other operations.

## **MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

### **Introductory Notes**

The following discussion describes the material federal income tax considerations relating to our taxation as a REIT, and the ownership and disposition of the securities offered under this prospectus. A prospectus supplement will contain information about additional federal income tax considerations, if any, relating to a particular offering.

The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations and does not provide a detailed discussion of any state, local or foreign tax considerations, nor does it discuss all of the aspects of federal income taxation that may be relevant to a prospective stockholder in light of his or her particular circumstances or to

## **Table of Contents**

stockholders (including insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, financial institutions or broker-dealers, foreign corporations, persons holding common stock as part of a hedging or conversion transaction or a straddle, and persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States) who are subject to special treatment under the federal income tax laws. Unless otherwise noted, this discussion only addresses stockholders that hold shares of our stock as capital assets within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP has provided an opinion to the effect that this discussion, to the extent that it contains descriptions of applicable federal income tax law, is correct in all material respects and fairly summarizes in all material respects the federal income tax laws referred to herein. This opinion, however, does not purport to address the actual tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our capital stock to any particular holder. The opinion and the information in this section are based on the Code, current, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, the legislative history of the Code, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service, and court decisions. The reference to Internal Revenue Service interpretations and practices includes Internal Revenue Service practices and policies as endorsed in private letter rulings, which are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service except with respect to the taxpayer that receives the ruling. In each case, these sources are relied upon as they exist on the date of this prospectus. No assurance can be given that future legislation, regulations, administrative interpretations and court decisions will not significantly change current law, or adversely affect existing interpretations of existing law, on which the opinion and information in this section are based. Any change of this kind could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. Moreover, opinions of counsel merely represent counsel's best judgment with respect to the probable outcome on the merits and are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or the courts. Accordingly, even if there is no change in applicable law, no assurance can be provided that such opinion, or the statements made in the following discussion, will not be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

EACH PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR IS ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH HIS OR HER OWN TAX ADVISOR TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF HIS OR HER PERSONAL TAX SITUATION ON THE ANTICIPATED TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE OWNERSHIP AND SALE OF THE SECURITIES OFFERED UNDER THIS PROSPECTUS. THIS INCLUDES THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE OWNERSHIP AND SALE OF THE SECURITIES OFFERED UNDER THIS PROSPECTUS AND THE POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.

## **Taxation of Our Company as a REIT**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Code, commencing with our initial taxable year. Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, the various qualification tests and organizational requirements imposed under the Code, as discussed below. We believe that we are organized and have operated in such a manner as to qualify under the Code for taxation as a REIT since the effective date of our election, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner. No assurances, however, can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. See Failure to Qualify below.

The following is a general summary of the material Code provisions that govern the federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its stockholders. These provisions of the Code are highly technical and complex. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the applicable Code provisions, the regulations promulgated thereunder ( Treasury Regulations ), and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof.

Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP has provided to us an opinion to the effect that we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT, effective for each of our taxable years ended December 31, 1997 through December 31, 2008, and our current and proposed organization and

method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT for taxable year 2009 and thereafter. It must be emphasized that this opinion is conditioned upon certain assumptions and representations made by us to Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP as to factual matters relating to our organization and operation and that of our subsidiaries. In addition, this opinion is based upon our factual representations concerning our business and properties as described in the reports filed by us under the federal securities laws.

**Table of Contents**

Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, the various requirements under the Code described in this prospectus with regard to, among other things, the sources of our gross income, the composition of our assets, our distribution levels, and our diversity of stock ownership. While we intend to operate so that we continue to qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given that we satisfy all of the tests for REIT qualification or will continue to do so.

If we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal corporate income taxes on net income that we currently distribute to stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation (at the corporate and stockholder levels) that generally results from investment in a corporation.

Notwithstanding our REIT election, however, we will be subject to federal income tax in the following circumstances. First, we will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains. (However, we can elect to pass through any of our taxes paid on undistributed net capital gains income to our stockholders on a pro rata basis.) Second, under certain circumstances, we may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on any items of tax preference and alternative minimum tax adjustments. Third, if we have (i) net income (including certain foreign currency gains recognized subsequent to July 30, 2008) from the sale or other disposition of foreclosure property (which is, in general, property acquired by foreclosure or otherwise on default of a loan secured by the property) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or (ii) other nonqualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate rate on such income. Fourth, if we have net income (including certain foreign currency gains recognized subsequent to July 30, 2008) from prohibited transactions (which are, in general, certain sales or other dispositions of property (other than foreclosure property) held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business), such income will be subject to a 100% tax. Fifth, if we should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test (as discussed below), and have nonetheless maintained our qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements have been met, we will be subject to a 100% tax equal to the gross income attributable to the greater of either (i) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount qualifying under the 75% test for the taxable year or (ii) the amount by which 90% of our gross income (95% in the case of a failure occurring for our tax year beginning January 1, 2005 and thereafter) exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 95% test for the taxable year, multiplied in either case by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability. Sixth, if we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year; (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year (for this purpose such term includes capital gains which we elect to retain but which we report as distributed to our stockholders; see Annual Distribution Requirements below); and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior years, we would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. Seventh, if we acquire any asset from a C corporation (i.e., a corporation generally subject to full corporate level tax) in a transaction in which the basis of the asset in our hands is determined by reference to the basis of the asset (or any other property) in the hands of the C corporation, and we recognize gain on the disposition of such asset during the 10 year period beginning on the date on which such asset was acquired by us, then, to the extent of such property's built in gain (the excess of the fair market value of such property at the time of acquisition by us over the adjusted basis of such property at such time), such gain generally will be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate rate then applicable. Eighth, we will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on amounts received (or on certain expenses deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary) if arrangements among us, our tenants and a taxable REIT subsidiary are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties. Ninth, effective for taxable years beginning on and after October 22, 2004, if we fail to satisfy the 5% or the 10% assets tests, and the failure qualifies under the Non De Minimis Exception, as described below under Asset Tests, or if we fail to satisfy the other asset tests, then we will have to pay an excise tax equal to the greater of (i) \$50,000; or (ii) an amount determined by multiplying the net income generated during a specified period by the assets that caused the failure by the highest federal income tax applicable to corporations. Tenth, effective for taxable years beginning on and after



October 22, 2004, if we fail to satisfy any REIT requirements other than the income test or asset test requirements, described below under **Income Tests** and **Asset Tests**, respectively, and would qualify for a reasonable cause exception, then we will have to pay a penalty equal to \$50,000 for each such failure.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Requirements for Qualification**

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association (i) which is managed by one or more trustees or directors; (ii) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest; (iii) which would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for Sections 856 through 859 of the Code; (iv) which is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to certain provisions of the Code; (v) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons; (vi) of which not more than 50% in value of the outstanding capital stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of each taxable year after applying certain attribution rules; (vii) that makes an election to be treated as a REIT for the current taxable year or has made an election for a previous taxable year which has not been revoked; and (viii) which meets certain other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets. The Code provides that conditions (i) through (iv), inclusive, must be met during the entire taxable year and that condition (v) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. Condition (vi) must be met during the last half of each taxable year other than the first taxable year for which an election to become a REIT is made. For purposes of determining stock ownership under condition (vi), a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes generally is considered an individual. However, a trust that is a qualified trust under Section 401(a) of the Code generally is not considered an individual, and beneficiaries of a qualified trust are treated as holding shares of a REIT in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of condition (vi). Conditions (v) and (vi) do not apply until after the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT. We have issued sufficient common stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy requirements (v) and (vi). In addition, our charter contains restrictions regarding the transfer of our shares intended to assist us in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in (v) and (vi) above. See [Description of Capital Stock](#) above. These restrictions, however, may not ensure that we will be able to satisfy these share ownership requirements. If we fail to satisfy these share ownership requirements and do not qualify for certain statutory relief provisions, we will fail to qualify as a REIT.

In addition, a corporation may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. Our taxable year is the calendar year.

To qualify as a REIT, we cannot have at the end of any taxable year any undistributed earnings and profits that are attributable to a non-REIT taxable year. We believe that we have complied with this requirement.

For our tax years beginning prior to January 1, 1998, pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, to be taxed as a REIT, we were required to maintain certain records and request on an annual basis certain information from our stockholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of our outstanding shares. We have complied with such requirements. For our tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1998, these records and informational requirements are no longer a condition to REIT qualification. Instead, a monetary penalty will be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. If we comply with these regulatory rules, and we do not know, or exercising reasonable diligence would not have known, whether we failed to meet requirement (vi) above, we will be treated as having met the requirement.

### **Qualified REIT Subsidiaries**

If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a qualified REIT subsidiary, the separate existence of that subsidiary will be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Generally, a qualified REIT subsidiary is a corporation, other than a taxable REIT subsidiary, all of the capital stock of which is owned by the REIT. All assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the qualified REIT subsidiary will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself. A qualified REIT subsidiary of ours will not be subject to federal corporate

income taxation, although it may be subject to state and local taxation in some states.

**Taxable REIT Subsidiaries**

A taxable REIT subsidiary is a corporation in which we directly or indirectly own stock and that elects with us to be treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary under Section 856(1) of the Code. In addition, if one of our taxable

## **Table of Contents**

REIT subsidiaries owns, directly or indirectly, securities representing more than 35% of the vote or value of a subsidiary corporation, that subsidiary will automatically be treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours. A taxable REIT subsidiary is a corporation subject to federal income tax, and state and local income tax where applicable, as a regular C corporation. No more than 20% (or 25% for tax years beginning after July 30, 2008) of our assets may consist of the securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries.

Generally, a taxable REIT subsidiary can perform impermissible tenant services without causing us to receive impermissible tenant services income under the REIT income tests. However, several provisions regarding the arrangements between a REIT and its taxable REIT subsidiaries ensure that a taxable REIT subsidiary will be subject to an appropriate level of federal income taxation. For example, a taxable REIT subsidiary is limited in its ability to deduct interest payments made to us. In addition, we will be obligated to pay a 100% penalty tax on some payments that we receive or on certain expenses deducted by the taxable REIT subsidiary if the economic arrangements among us, our tenants and the taxable REIT subsidiary are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties.

We have established a wholly owned taxable REIT subsidiary, EastGroup TRS, Inc., for the purpose of developing and selling certain real property and we may establish other taxable REIT subsidiaries in the future.

## **Income Tests**

In order for us to maintain qualification as a REIT, two percentage tests relating to the source of our gross income must be satisfied annually. First, at least 75% of our gross income (excluding (i) gross income from prohibited transactions and, (ii) real estate foreign exchange gain recognized after July 30, 2008) for each taxable year must be derived directly or indirectly from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property (including rents from real property and, in certain circumstances, interest) or from certain types of temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income (excluding (i) gross income from prohibited transactions and, (ii) passive foreign exchange gain recognized after July 30, 2008) for each taxable year must be derived from such real property investments described above, dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or other securities that are not dealer property, or from any combination of the foregoing. The exclusions for real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain do not apply to certain foreign currency gain derived from engaging in substantial and regular trading or dealing in securities.

Gross income from certain transactions entered into by us after October 22, 2004 but before July 30, 2008 to hedge indebtedness we incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets and that were properly and timely identified as hedging transactions was not included in gross income for purposes of the 95% income test, but was taken into account as nonqualifying income for purposes of the 75% income test. To the extent that we hedged with other types of financial instruments, or in other situations, it is not entirely clear how the income from those transactions will be treated for purposes of the income tests. For hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, income and gain from hedging transactions will be excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. A hedging transaction means either (1) any transaction entered into in the normal course of our trade or business primarily to manage the risk of interest rate, price changes, or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets or (2) for transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, any transaction entered into primarily to manage the risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income test (or any property which generates such income or gain). We will be required to clearly identify any such hedging transaction before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into and to satisfy other identification requirements. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

Rents received by us will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the above gross income tests only if several conditions are met. First, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, amounts received or accrued generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

Second, rents received from a tenant will not qualify as rents from real property if we, or a direct or indirect owner of 10% or more of our stock, actually or constructively owns 10% or more of such tenant. We may, however,

## **Table of Contents**

lease our properties to a taxable REIT subsidiary and rents received from that subsidiary will not be disqualified from being rents from real property by reason of our ownership interest in the subsidiary if at least 90% of the property in question is leased to unrelated tenants and the rent paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary is substantially comparable to the rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space. However, if we own more than 50% of the vote or value of the taxable REIT subsidiary, and the rent payable is increased pursuant to a lease renegotiation, then the increase in rent will not be treated as qualifying rent.

Third, if rent attributable to personal property that is leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as rents from real property. Under prior law, this 15% test was based on the relative adjusted tax basis of both the real and personal property. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, the test is based on the relative fair market value of the real and personal property.

Generally, for rents to qualify as rents from real property for the purposes of the gross income tests, we are only allowed to provide services that are both usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of real property and not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant. Income received from any other service will be treated as impermissible tenant service income unless the service is provided through an independent contractor that bears the expenses of providing the services and from whom we derive no revenue or through a taxable REIT subsidiary, subject to specified limitations. The amount of impermissible tenant service income we receive is deemed to be the greater of the amount actually received by us or 150% of our direct cost of providing the service. If the impermissible tenant service income exceeds 1% of our total income from a property, then all of the income from that property will fail to qualify as rents from real property. If the total amount of impermissible tenant service income from a property does not exceed 1% of our total income from that property, the income will not cause the rent paid by tenants of that property to fail to qualify as rents from real property, but the impermissible tenant service income itself will not qualify as rents from real property.

Our investment in commercial and industrial properties generally gives rise to rental income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We do not receive any rent that is based on the income or profits of any person. In addition, we do not own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of any tenant (other than, perhaps, a tenant that is a taxable REIT subsidiary where other requirements are satisfied). Furthermore, we believe that any personal property rented in connection with our facilities is well within the 15% restriction. Moreover, we do not provide services, other than within the 1% de minimis exception described above, to our tenants that are not customarily furnished or rendered in connection with the rental of property, other than through an independent contractor or a taxable REIT subsidiary. Finally, we anticipate that income on our other investments will not result in our failing the 75% or 95% gross income test for any year.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year beginning after October 22, 2004, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code. These relief provisions generally will be available if our failure to meet such tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and if we timely file a schedule describing each item of our gross income in accordance with Treasury Regulations.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances we would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above in Taxation of Our Company as a REIT, even if the relief provisions were to apply, we would incur a 100% tax on the gross income attributable to the greater of (i) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test and (ii) the amount by which 90% (95% in the case of a failure occurring during a taxable year beginning after October 22, 2004), in each case, of our gross income exceeds the amount of qualifying income under the 95% gross income test, multiplied in either case by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

**Asset Tests**

At the close of each quarter of our taxable year, we must satisfy six tests relating to the nature of our assets.

1. At least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items (which beginning for tax years after July 30, 2008 includes certain foreign currency) and government securities. Our real estate assets include, for this purpose, our allocable share of real estate assets held by the partnerships in which

**Table of Contents**

we own an interest, and the noncorporate subsidiaries of these partnerships, as well as stock or debt instruments held for less than one year purchased with the proceeds of an offering of our shares or a public offering of our long-term debt.

2. Not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities, other than those in the 75% asset class.
3. The value of any one nongovernment issuer's securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.
4. We may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities.
5. We may not own more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer.
6. Not more than 20% (or 25% for tax years beginning after July 30, 2008) of our total assets may be represented by the securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries.

For purposes of these asset tests, the securities of qualified REIT subsidiaries are not taken into account, and any assets owned by our qualified REIT subsidiaries are treated as owned directly by us.

For purposes of these asset tests, the term "securities" does not include stock in another REIT, equity or debt securities of a qualified REIT subsidiary or taxable REIT subsidiary, mortgage loans that constitute real estate assets or equity interests in a partnership or any entity that is disregarded for federal income tax purposes. For purposes of the 10% value test, debt instruments issued by a partnership are not classified as "securities" to the extent of our interest as a partner in such partnership (based on our proportionate share of the partnership's equity interests and certain debt securities) or if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income, excluding income from prohibited transactions, is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. For purposes of the 10% value test, the term "securities" also does not include securities issued by another REIT, certain "straight debt" securities (for example, qualifying debt securities of a corporation of which we own no equity interest), loans to individuals or estates, and accrued obligations to pay rent.

With respect to each issuer in which we currently own an interest that does not qualify as a REIT, a qualified REIT subsidiary or a taxable REIT subsidiary, we believe that our pro rata share of the value of the securities, including unsecured debt, of any such issuer does not exceed 5% of the total value of our assets and that we comply with the 10% voting securities limitation and 10% value limitation (taking into account the "straight debt" exceptions with respect to certain issuers). In addition, we believe that our securities of taxable REIT subsidiaries do not exceed 20% (or, beginning with tax years after July 30, 2008, 25%) of the value of our total assets. With respect to our compliance with each of these asset tests, however, we cannot provide any assurance that the Internal Revenue Service might not disagree with our determination.

We will monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will manage our portfolio in order to comply at all times with such tests. If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT status if one of the following exceptions applies:

we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the preceding calendar quarter, and the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more nonqualifying assets; or

we eliminate any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.



Moreover, if we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter during a taxable year beginning after October 22, 2004, we will not lose our REIT status if one of the following additional exceptions applies:

*De Minimis Exception.* The failure is due to a violation of the 5% or 10% asset tests referenced above and is de minimis (for this purpose, a de minimis failure is one that arises from our ownership of assets the total value of which does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the total value of our assets at the end of the quarter in which the failure occurred and \$10 million), and we either dispose of the assets that caused the failure or otherwise satisfy the asset tests within 6 months of the last day of the quarter in which we identify the failure; or

## **Table of Contents**

*Non De Minimis Exception.* All of the following requirements are satisfied: (i) the failure does not qualify for the De Minimis Exception, (ii) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (iii) we file a schedule in accordance with Treasury Regulations providing a description of each asset that caused the failure, (iv) we either dispose of the assets that caused the failure or otherwise satisfy the asset tests within 6 months of the last day of the quarter in which we identify the failure, and (v) we pay an excise tax as described in Taxation of Our Company as a REIT.

## **Annual Distribution Requirements**

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends (other than capital gain dividends) to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to (i) the sum of (a) 90% of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain) and (b) 90% of the net income (after tax), if any, from foreclosure property, minus (ii) the sum of certain items of noncash income over 5% of our REIT taxable income. Such distributions generally must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate. Dividends may be paid in the following year in two circumstances. First, dividends may be declared in the following year if the dividends are declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if made before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. Second, if we declare a dividend in October, November or December of any year with a record date in one of these months and pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following year, we will be treated as having paid the dividend on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared. To the extent that we do not distribute all of our net capital gain or distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we will be subject to tax on the nondistributed amount at regular capital gains and ordinary corporate tax rates. Furthermore, if we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year; (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year; and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed.

We may elect to retain and pay tax on our net long-term capital gains and require our stockholders to include their proportionate share of such undistributed net capital gains in their income. If we make such election, our stockholders would receive a tax credit attributable to their share of the capital gains tax paid by us, and would receive an increase in the basis of their shares in us in an amount equal to the stockholder's share of the undistributed net long-term capital gain reduced by the amount of the credit. Further, any undistributed net long-term capital gains that are included in the income of our stockholders pursuant to this rule will be treated as distributed for purposes of the 4% excise tax.

We have made and intend to continue to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements. It is possible, however, that we, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash or liquid assets to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and the inclusion of such income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our taxable income, or if the amount of nondeductible expenses such as principal amortization or capital expenditures exceeds the amount of noncash deductions. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, we may arrange for short term, or possibly long term, borrowing to permit the payment of required dividends. If the amount of nondeductible expenses exceeds noncash deductions, we may refinance our indebtedness to reduce principal payments and may borrow funds for capital expenditures. In addition, pursuant to recently issued Revenue Procedure 2009-15, we are permitted to make taxable distributions of our shares (in lieu of cash) if (1) such distribution is declared with respect to a taxable year ending on or before December 31, 2009; (2) each of our stockholders is permitted to elect to receive the stockholder's entire entitlement under the declaration in either money or shares of equivalent value subject to a limitation on the amount of money to be distributed in the aggregate to all stockholders; provided that (i) the amount of money to be distributed is not less than 10% of the aggregate distribution so declared, and (ii) if too many stockholders elect to receive money, each stockholder electing to receive money will

receive a pro rata amount of money corresponding to the stockholder's respective entitlement under the declaration, but in no event will any stockholder electing to receive money receive less than 10% of its entitlement in money under the declaration; and (3) the calculation of the number of shares to be received by any stockholder will be determined, as close as practicable to the payment date, based upon a formula utilizing

## **Table of Contents**

market prices that is designed to equate in value the number of shares to be received with the amount of money that could be received instead.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to stockholders in a later year that may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends; however, we will be required to pay interest to the Internal Revenue Service based upon the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

## **Prohibited Transaction Rules**

A REIT will incur a 100% penalty tax on the net income derived from a sale or other disposition of property, other than foreclosure property, that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business (a prohibited transaction). We believe that none of our assets is held for sale to customers and that a sale of any of our assets would not be in the ordinary course of its business. Whether a REIT holds an asset primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends, however, on the facts and circumstances in effect from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. Although we will attempt to ensure that none of our sales of property will constitute a prohibited transaction, we cannot assure investors that none of such sales will be so treated. Under a safe harbor provision in the Internal Revenue Code, however, income from certain sales of real property held by the REIT will not be treated as income from a prohibited transaction if the following requirements are met:

the REIT has held the property for not less than four years (or, for sales made after July 30, 2008, two years);

the aggregate expenditures made by the REIT, during the four year period (or, for sales made after July 30, 2008, two-year period) preceding the date of the sale that are includable in the basis of the property do not exceed 30% of the net selling price of the property;

either (1) during the year in question, the REIT did not make more than seven sales of property other than foreclosure property or sales to which Section 1033 of the Code applies, (2) the aggregate adjusted bases of all such property sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 10% of the aggregate bases of all the assets of the REIT at the beginning of the year or (3) for sales made after July 30, 2008, the aggregate fair market value of all such property sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 10% of the aggregate fair market value of all of the assets of the REIT at the beginning of the year;

in the case of property not acquired through foreclosure or lease termination, the REIT has held the property for at least four years (or, for sales made after July 30, 2008, two years) for the production of rental income; and

if the REIT has made more than seven sales of non-foreclosure property during the taxable year, substantially all of the marketing and development expenditures with respect to the property were made through an independent contractor from whom the REIT derives no income.

## **Failure to Qualify**

Effective for taxable years beginning after October 22, 2004, if we fail to qualify as a REIT and such failure is not an asset test or income test failure, we generally will be eligible for a relief provision if the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 with respect to such failure.

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and no relief provisions apply, we will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify will not be deductible by us, nor will such distributions be required to be made. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to stockholders will be taxable as ordinary income, and, subject to certain limitations in the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years

## **Table of Contents**

following the year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to such statutory relief.

### **Tax Aspects of Our Investments in Partnerships**

Many of our investments are held through subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies. This structure may involve special tax considerations. These tax considerations include the following:

1. the status of each subsidiary partnership and limited liability company taxed as a partnership (as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation) for income tax purposes; and
2. the taking of actions by any of the subsidiary partnerships or limited liability companies that could adversely affect our qualification as a REIT.

We believe that each of the subsidiary partnerships and each of the limited liability companies that are not disregarded entities for federal income tax purposes will be treated for tax purposes as partnerships (and not as associations taxable as corporations). If any of the partnerships were to be treated as a corporation, it would be subject to an entity level tax on its income. In such a situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change, which could preclude us from satisfying the asset tests and possibly the income tests, and in turn prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. In addition, if any of the partnerships were treated as a corporation, it is likely that we would hold more than 10% of the voting power or value of the entity and would fail to qualify as a REIT. See Asset Tests.

A REIT that is a partner in a partnership will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and will be deemed to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's income. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of each subsidiary partnership and limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes is treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the asset and income tests. We have sufficient control over all of the subsidiaries that are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes to protect our REIT status and intend to operate them in a manner that is consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT.

### **Taxation of Stockholders**

*Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders.* As used in the remainder of this discussion, the term U.S. Stockholder means a beneficial owner of equity stock that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

1. a citizen or resident, as defined in Section 7701(b) of the Code, of the United States;
2. a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state or the District of Columbia;
3. an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
4. in general, a trust subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons.

If an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships that hold our stock, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax

consequences of the ownership and disposition of our stock.

As long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions made to our taxable U.S. Stockholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (and not designated as capital gain dividends or retained capital gains) will be taken into account by them as ordinary income, and corporate stockholders will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction as to such amounts. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a stockholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of such stockholder's stock,

**Table of Contents**

but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares (but not below zero) as a return of capital. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a stockholder's stock, they will be included in income as long-term capital gain (or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less). In addition, any dividend declared by us in October, November or December of any year payable to a stockholder of record on a specific date in any such month shall be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that the dividend is actually paid by us during January of the following calendar year. For purposes of determining what portion of a distribution is attributable to current or accumulated earnings and profits, earnings and profits will first be allocated to distributions made to holders of the shares of preferred stock. Stockholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any net operating losses or capital losses of ours.

Distributions that we properly designate as capital gain dividends will be taxable to stockholders as gains (to the extent that they do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year) from the sale or disposition of a capital asset held for greater than one year. If we designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, a U.S. Stockholder will receive an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the stockholder as capital gain. However, stockholders that are corporations may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Noncorporate taxpayers are generally taxed at a maximum rate of 15% on net long-term capital gain (generally, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) attributable to gains realized on the sale of property held for greater than one year. However, a portion of capital gain dividends received by noncorporate taxpayers may be subject to tax at a 25% rate to the extent attributable to certain gains realized on the sale of real property.

Distributions we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a stockholder of shares of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income, and, as a result, stockholders generally will not be able to apply any passive losses against such income or gain. Distributions we make (to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital) generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation. Gain arising from the sale or other disposition of our stock (or distributions treated as such) will not be treated as investment income under certain circumstances.

Upon any taxable sale or other disposition of our stock, a U.S. Stockholder will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between

the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on such disposition; and

the U.S. Stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such stock for tax purposes.

Gain or loss will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Stockholder held the stock for more than one year. Noncorporate U.S. Stockholders are generally taxable at a current maximum rate of 15% on long-term capital gain. The Internal Revenue Service has the authority to prescribe, but has not yet prescribed, regulations that would apply a capital gain tax rate of 25% to the portion of capital gain realized by a noncorporate U.S. Stockholder on the sale of REIT stock that corresponds to the REIT's unrecaptured Section 1250 gain. U.S. Stockholders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors with respect to their capital gain tax liability. A corporate U.S. Stockholder will be subject to tax at a maximum rate of 35% on capital gain from the sale of our stock regardless of its holding period.

In general, any loss upon a sale or exchange of our stock by a U.S. Stockholder who has held such stock for six months or less (after applying certain holding period rules) will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions (actually made or deemed made in accordance with the discussion above) from us required to be treated as long-term capital gain.



The maximum individual tax rate for long-term capital gains and for certain qualified dividends is currently 15% through taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2010. Absent legislative action, in 2011 the maximum tax rate on long term capital gains will return to 20% and the maximum rate on dividends will be 39.6%. Because we are not generally subject to federal income tax on the portion of our REIT taxable income or capital gains distributed to our stockholders, our dividends will generally not be eligible for the 15% tax rate on qualified

**Table of Contents**

dividends. As a result, our ordinary REIT dividends will continue to be taxed at the higher tax rates applicable to ordinary income. However, the 15% tax rate for long-term capital gains and dividends will generally apply to:

1. your long-term capital gains, if any, recognized on the disposition of our shares;
2. our distributions designated as long-term capital gain dividends (except to the extent attributable to unrecaptured Section 1250 gain, in which case such distributions would continue to be subject to a 25% tax rate);
3. our dividends attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations, such as taxable REIT subsidiaries; and
4. our dividends to the extent attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax (e.g., to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income).

*Economic Accrual of Redemption Premium on Preferred Stock.* For federal income tax purposes, if a corporation issues preferred stock that may be redeemed at a price that is more than a de minimis amount higher than its issue price, the difference may be treated as a redemption premium that is taxable to the holder on an annual economic accrual basis. If a U.S. Stockholder recognizes income as a result of redemption premium on the preferred stock, the holder's tax basis in the preferred stock will increase by the amount included in the holder's gross income.

*Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders.* Provided that a tax-exempt stockholder has not held its stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Code and such stock is not otherwise used in a trade or business, the dividend income from us will not be unrelated business taxable income, referred to as UBTI, to a tax-exempt stockholder. Similarly, income from the sale of stock will not constitute UBTI unless the tax-exempt stockholder has held its stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Code or has used the stock in a trade or business. However, for a tax-exempt stockholder that is a social club, voluntary employee benefit association, supplemental unemployment benefit trust, or qualified group legal services plan exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, or a single parent title-holding corporation exempt under Section 501(c)(2) of the Code the income of which is payable to any of the aforementioned tax-exempt organizations, income from an investment in us will constitute UBTI unless the organization properly sets aside or reserves such amounts for purposes specified in the Code. These tax exempt stockholders should consult their own tax advisors concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

A qualified trust (defined to be any trust described in Section 401(a) of the Code and exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of the Code) that holds more than 10% of the value of the shares of a REIT may be required, under certain circumstances, to treat a portion of distributions from the REIT as UBTI. This requirement will apply for a taxable year only if (i) the REIT satisfies the requirement that not more than 50% of the value of its shares be held by five or fewer individuals (the five or fewer requirement) only by relying on a special look through rule under which shares held by qualified trust stockholders are treated as held by the beneficiaries of such trusts in proportion to their actuarial interests therein; and (ii) the REIT is predominantly held by qualified trusts. A REIT is predominantly held by qualified trusts if either (i) a single qualified trust holds more than 25% of the value of the REIT shares, or (ii) one or more qualified trusts, each owning more than 10% of the value of the REIT shares, hold in the aggregate more than 50% of the value of the REIT shares. If the foregoing requirements are met, the percentage of any REIT dividend treated as UBTI to a qualified trust that owns more than 10% of the value of the REIT shares is equal to the ratio of (i) the UBTI earned by the REIT (computed as if the REIT were a qualified trust and therefore subject to tax on its UBTI) to (ii) the total gross income (less certain associated expenses) of the REIT for the year in which the dividends are paid. A de minimis exception applies where the ratio set forth in the preceding sentence is less than 5% for any year.

The provisions requiring qualified trusts to treat a portion of REIT distributions as UBTI will not apply if the REIT is able to satisfy the five or fewer requirement without relying on the look through rule. The restrictions on ownership of stock in our charter should prevent application of the foregoing provisions to qualified trusts purchasing our stock, absent a waiver of the restrictions by the board of directors.

**Table of Contents**

*Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders.* The rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations and other foreign stockholders (collectively, Non-U.S. Stockholders ) are complex, and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a limited summary of such rules. The discussion does not consider any specific facts or circumstances that may apply to a particular Non-U.S. Stockholder. Prospective Non-U.S. Stockholders should consult with their own tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. federal, state and local income tax laws with regard to an investment in our common stock, including any reporting requirements.

Distributions that are not attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of U.S. real property interests and not designated by us as capital gain dividends or retained capital gains will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. Such distributions ordinarily will be subject to a withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces such rate. However, if income from the investment in our stock is treated as effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Stockholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the Non-U.S. Stockholder generally will be subject to a tax at graduated rates in the same manner as U.S. Stockholders are taxed with respect to such dividends (and may also be subject to a branch profits tax of up to 30% if the stockholder is a foreign corporation). We expect to withhold U.S. federal income tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Stockholder that are not designated as capital gain dividends, unless (i) a lower treaty rate applies and the Non-U.S. Stockholder files an IRS Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate with us or (ii) the Non-U.S. Stockholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income treated as effectively connected to a U.S. trade or business. Such forms shall be filed every three years unless the information on the form changes before that date.

Unless our stock is considered a U.S. real property interest, as described below, distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a stockholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the stockholder's stock, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a Non-U.S. Stockholder's shares, they will give rise to tax liability if the Non-U.S. Stockholder would otherwise be subject to tax on any gain from the sale or disposition of his or her stock, as described below. If it cannot be determined at the time that such a distribution is made whether or not such distribution will be in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the Non-U.S. Stockholder may seek a refund of such amounts from the Internal Revenue Service if it is subsequently determined that such distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our stock is considered a U.S. real property interest, distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will be subject to a 10% withholding tax and may be subject to additional taxation under FIRPTA, as described below. The 10% withholding tax will not apply, however, to distributions already subject to 30% withholding.

Distributions that are attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of U.S. real property interests will be taxed to a Non-U.S. Stockholder under the provisions of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ( FIRPTA ). Subject to the discussion in the next paragraph, under FIRPTA, these distributions would be taxed to a Non-U.S. Stockholder as if such gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business. Thus, Non-U.S. Stockholders would be taxed on such distributions at the normal capital gain rates applicable to U.S. Stockholders (subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals). Also, distributions subject to FIRPTA may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a corporate Non-U.S. Stockholder not entitled to treaty relief or exemption. If the foregoing rules applied, we would be required by applicable Treasury Regulations to withhold 35% of any distribution that could be designated by us as a capital gain dividend. This amount is creditable against the Non-U.S. Stockholder's FIRPTA tax liability.

However, for any taxable year beginning after October 22, 2004, a Non-U.S. Stockholder that owns no more than 5% of our common stock at all times during the one year period preceding the distribution will not be subject to 35% FIRPTA withholding with respect to distributions that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real

property interests, provided that our common stock continues to be regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States. Instead, any distributions made to such Non-U.S. Stockholder will be subject to the general withholding rules discussed above in Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders, which generally impose a withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of each distribution (unless reduced by treaty).

## **Table of Contents**

Gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Stockholder upon the sale or exchange of our stock generally would not be subject to U.S. taxation unless:

the investment in our stock is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Stockholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the Non-U.S. Stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. Stockholders with respect to any gain;

the Non-U.S. Stockholder is a non-resident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, in which case the non-resident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gains for the taxable year; or

our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest within the meaning of FIRPTA, as described below.

Our stock will not constitute a U.S. real property interest if we are a domestically-controlled REIT. We will be a domestically-controlled REIT if, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of our stock is held directly or indirectly by Non-U.S. Stockholders.

We believe that, currently, we are a domestically controlled REIT and, therefore, that the sale of our stock would not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. Because our stock is publicly traded, however, we cannot guarantee that we are or will continue to be a domestically-controlled REIT.

Even if we do not qualify as a domestically-controlled REIT at the time a Non-U.S. Stockholder sells our stock, gain arising from the sale still would not be subject to FIRPTA tax if:

the class or series of shares sold is considered regularly traded under applicable Treasury Regulations on an established securities market, such as the NYSE, located in the United States; and

the selling Non-U.S. Stockholder owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less in value of the outstanding class or series of stock being sold throughout the five-year period ending on the date of the sale or exchange.

If gain on the sale or exchange of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the Non-U.S. Stockholder would be subject to regular U.S. federal income tax with respect to any gain in the same manner as a taxable U.S. Stockholder, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals.

## **Backup Withholding Tax and Information Reporting**

*U.S. Stockholders.* In general, information-reporting requirements will apply to certain U.S. Stockholders with regard to payments of dividends on our stock and payments of the proceeds of the sale of our stock, unless an exception applies.

The payor will be required to withhold tax on such payments at the rate of 28% through 2010 (absent legislative action, 31% in 2011 and thereafter) if (i) the payee fails to furnish a taxpayer identification number, or TIN, to the payor or to establish an exemption from backup withholding, (ii) the Internal Revenue Service notifies the payor that the TIN furnished by the payor is incorrect (iii) there has been a notified payee under-reporting with respect to interest, dividends or original issue discount described in Section 3406(c) of the Code, or (iv) there has been a failure of the payee to certify under the penalty of perjury that the payee is not subject to backup withholding under the Code.

Some holders, including corporations, may be exempt from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a holder will be allowed as a credit against the holder's U.S. federal income tax and may entitle the holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

*Non-U.S. Stockholders.* Generally, information reporting will apply to payments of dividends on our stock, interest, including original issue discount, and backup withholding as described above for a U.S. Stockholder, unless the payee certifies that it is not a U.S. person or otherwise establishes an exemption.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of our stock to or through the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding as described above for U.S. Stockholders

## **Table of Contents**

unless the Non-U.S. Stockholder satisfies the requirements necessary to be an exempt Non-U.S. Stockholder or otherwise qualifies for an exemption. The proceeds of a disposition by a Non-U.S. Stockholder of our stock to or through a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, if the broker is a U.S. person, a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. tax purposes, a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for specified periods is from activities that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, a foreign partnership if partners who hold more than 50% of the interests in the partnership are U.S. persons, or a foreign partnership that is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., then information reporting generally will apply as though the payment was made through a U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker.

Applicable Treasury Regulations provide presumptions regarding the status of holders when payments to the holders cannot be reliably associated with appropriate documentation provided to the payor. Under these Treasury Regulations, some holders are required to provide new certifications with respect to payments made after December 31, 2000. Because the application of these Treasury Regulations varies depending on the stockholder's particular circumstances, you are advised to consult your tax advisor regarding the information reporting requirements applicable to you.

## **State and Local Taxes**

We and our stockholders may be subject to state or local taxation in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which we or they transact business or reside (although U.S. Stockholders who are individuals generally should not be required to file state income tax returns outside of their state of residence with respect to our operations and distributions). The state and local tax treatment of us and our stockholders may not conform to the federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective stockholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in our stock.

## **Sunset of Tax Provisions and Possible Legislative or Other Actions Affecting Tax Considerations**

Several of the tax considerations described herein are subject to a sunset provision. The sunset provision generally provides that for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010, certain provisions that are currently in the Code will revert back to a prior version of those provisions. These provisions include provisions related to qualified dividend income, the application of the reduced 15% rate to long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income and other tax rates described herein. The impact of this reversion generally is not discussed herein. Consequently, prospective security holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of sunset provisions on an investment in our stock.

In addition, prospective investors should recognize that the present U.S. federal income tax treatment of an investment in our stock may be modified by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time, and that any such action may affect investments and commitments previously made. The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Department, resulting in revisions of Treasury Regulations and revised interpretations of established concepts as well as statutory changes. Revisions in U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in our stock.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The securities being offered by this prospectus may be sold by us or by a selling securityholder:

through agents;



to or through underwriters;

through broker-dealers (acting as agent or principal);

directly by us or a selling securityholder to purchasers, through a specific bidding or auction process or otherwise;

**Table of Contents**

through a combination of any such methods of sale; or

through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement.

The distribution of securities may be effected, from time to time, in one or more transactions, including: (a) block transactions (which may involve crosses) and transactions on the New York Stock Exchange or any other organized market where the securities may be traded; (b) purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to a prospectus supplement; (c) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (d) sales at the market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for securities; and (e) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers. The securities may be sold at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices relating to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The consideration may be cash or another form negotiated by the parties. Agents, underwriters or broker-dealers may be paid compensation for offering and selling the securities. That compensation may be in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions to be received from us or from the purchasers of the securities. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and compensation received by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. If such dealers or agents were deemed to be underwriters, they may be subject to statutory liabilities under the Securities Act.

Agents may, from time to time, solicit offers to purchase the securities. If required, we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and set forth any compensation payable to the agent. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any agent selling the securities covered by this prospectus may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, of the securities.

If underwriters are used in an offering, securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold, from time to time, in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or under delayed delivery contracts or other contractual commitments. Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. If an underwriter or underwriters are used in the sale of securities, an underwriting agreement will be executed with the underwriter or underwriters at the time an agreement for the sale is reached. The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriter or underwriters, with respect to a particular underwritten offering of securities, and will set forth the terms of the transactions, including compensation of the underwriters and dealers and the public offering price, if applicable. The prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement will be used by the underwriters to resell the securities.

If a dealer is used in the sale of the securities, we, a selling securityholder, or an underwriter will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. To the extent required, we will set forth in the prospectus supplement the name of the dealer and the terms of the transactions.

We or a selling securityholder may directly solicit offers to purchase the securities and we or a selling securityholder may make sales of securities directly to institutional investors or others. These persons may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale of the securities. To the extent required, the prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any such sales, including the terms of any bidding or auction process, if used.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under agreements which may be entered into with us to indemnification by us against specified liabilities, including liabilities incurred under the Securities Act, or to contribution by us to payments they may be required to make in respect of such liabilities. If required, the prospectus supplement will describe the terms and conditions of such indemnification or contribution. Some of the agents, underwriters or dealers, or their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

## **Table of Contents**

Under the securities laws of some states, the securities offered by this prospectus may be sold in those states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

Any person participating in the distribution of common stock registered under the registration statement that includes this prospectus will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act, and the applicable SEC rules and regulations, including, among others, Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of our common stock by any such person. Furthermore, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of our common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to our common stock. These restrictions may affect the marketability of our common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to our common stock.

Certain persons participating in an offering may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the offered securities. If any such activities will occur, they will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS**

Selling securityholders are persons or entities that, directly or indirectly, have acquired or will from time to time acquire common stock, preferred stock, or warrants, as applicable, from us. Such selling securityholders may be parties to registration rights agreements with us, or we otherwise may have agreed or will agree to register their securities for resale. The initial purchasers of our securities, as well as their transferees, pledgees, donees or successors, all of whom we refer to as selling securityholders, may from time to time offer and sell the securities pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

The selling securityholders may offer for sale all or some portion of the securities that they hold. To the extent that any of the selling securityholders are broker or dealers, they are deemed to be, under interpretations of the SEC, underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the name of each of the selling securityholders and the number and classes of our securities beneficially owned by such selling securityholders that are covered by such prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also disclose whether any of the selling securityholders has held any position or office with, has been employed by or otherwise has had a material relationship with us during the three years prior to the date of the prospectus supplement.

### **LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, Buffalo, New York who may rely upon an opinion of DLA Piper LLP (US), Baltimore, Maryland as to certain Maryland law matters.

### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of EastGroup Properties, Inc., as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to the securities offered hereunder. As permitted by the SEC's rules and regulations, this prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement. For further information

**Table of Contents**

regarding our company and our equity stock, please refer to the registration statement and the contracts, agreements and other documents filed as exhibits to the registration statement. Additionally, we file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC.

You may read and copy all or any portion of the registration statement or any other materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC 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 on the public reference room. Our SEC filings, including the registration statement, are also available to you on the SEC's web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). We also have a web site ([www.eastgroup.net](http://www.eastgroup.net)) through which you may access our SEC filings. In addition, you may view our SEC filings at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., which is located at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Our SEC filings are available at the NYSE because our common stock is listed and traded on the NYSE under the symbol EGP.

The information found on, or otherwise accessible through, our web site is not incorporated into, and does not form a part of, this prospectus.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information contained in documents that we file with them. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act prior to the completion of this offering:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;

the information specifically incorporated by reference into our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 from our definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on April 28, 2009;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009;

our current reports on Form 8-K filed January 7, 2009 and May 18, 2009; and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-B, filed on June 5, 1997, and all amendments and reports updating that description.

You may request a free copy of these filings (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents) by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

EastGroup Properties, Inc.  
Attention: Chief Financial Officer  
190 East Capitol Street, Suite 400  
Jackson, MS 39201-2195  
(601) 354-3555

**Table of Contents**