NOBLE CORP Form S-3ASR February 27, 2015 Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 27, 2015

Registration No. 333-

## **UNITED STATES**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549** 

#### FORM S-3

## REGISTRATION STATEMENT

**UNDER** 

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

## NOBLE CORPORATION

# NOBLE HOLDING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

(Exact name of each registrant as specified in its charter)

NOBLE CORPORATION CAYMAN ISLANDS

NOBLE HOLDING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED CAYMAN ISLANDS

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

98-0366361 (I.R.S. employer identification no.)

Suite 3D, Landmark Square 64 Earth Close P.O. Box 31327 George Town, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands, KY1-1206 (345) 938-0293

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices) (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

98-0477694 (I.R.S. employer identification no.)

Suite 3D, Landmark Square 64 Earth Close P.O. Box 31327 George Town, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands, KY1-1206 (345) 938-0293 dress, including zip code, and telepho

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

Alan R. Hay
Noble Corporation
Suite 3D, Landmark Square
64 Earth Close
P.O. Box 31327
George Town, Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands, KY1-1206

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

David L. Emmons John D. Geddes Baker Botts L.L.P. One Shell Plaza 910 Louisiana Street Houston, Texas 77002

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

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

offering. "

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer x (Do not check if smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company "

## **CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Amount to be Registered/Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered

**Price/Amount of Registration Fee(1)** 

Debt Securities Guarantees of Debt Securities Total

(1) There is being registered hereunder such indeterminate amount of debt securities and guarantees of debt securities as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices. In reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrants hereby defer payment of the registration fee required in connection with this Registration Statement.

## **PROSPECTUS**

#### Noble Corporation

#### **Guarantees of Debt Securities**

#### Noble Holding International Limited

#### **Debt Securities**

This prospectus relates to debt securities of Noble Holding International Limited, a Cayman Islands exempted company ( NHIL ). Any of these securities may be sold from time to time in one or more offerings. The debt securities of NHIL will be guaranteed by Noble Corporation, a Cayman Islands company ( Noble-Cayman ). The specific terms of these sales will be provided in supplements to this prospectus.

Each of Noble-Cayman and NHIL is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Noble Corporation plc, a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales ( Noble-UK ) whose ordinary shares are listed on The New York Stock Exchange. Noble-UK will not issue any securities under this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus.

These securities may be offered and sold to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The securities will be offered in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of the offerings.

Investing in these securities involves risks. Please read carefully <u>Risk Factors</u> on page 2 of this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement for a discussion of risks you should consider before investing.

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

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**About This Prospectus** 

As used in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement:

Noble-Cayman, we, our, and us generally mean Noble Corporation, a Cayman Islands exempted company together with its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires, such as in the sections providing description of the securities offered in this prospectus or describing the risk factors relating to the securities offered in this prospectus;

NHIL means Noble Holding International Limited, a Cayman Islands exempted company and a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Noble-Cayman; and

issuer means NHIL.

The issuer is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Noble-UK. Noble-UK will not be an issuer under this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that the issuer has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (referred to as the SEC in this prospectus) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, the issuer may offer and sell different types of the securities as described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that may be offered. Each time securities are sold, a prospectus supplement will be provided and, if applicable, a free writing prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities offered in that offering. The prospectus supplement and, if applicable, any free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus, together with the additional information contained in the documents referred to under the Where You Can Find More Information section of this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus provided in connection with an offering. The issuer has not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. The issuer is not making any offer of securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and free writing prospectus provided in connection with an offering is accurate only as of the respective dates thereof or, in the case of information incorporated by reference, only as of the date of such information, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, an accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. The business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of the issuer may have changed since such dates.

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## Where You Can Find More Information

Noble-Cayman is subject to the informational requirements of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (referred to as the U.S. Exchange Act in this prospectus), and in accordance therewith files annual, quarterly and current reports with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file with the SEC at its 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. The SEC filings of Noble-Cayman are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the worldwide web site maintained by the SEC at <a href="http://www.sec.gov">http://www.sec.gov</a>.

The issuer has filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document of Noble-Cayman or one of its subsidiaries, the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC s public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC s web site.

## **Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference**

The SEC allows information to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus, which means that important information can be disclosed to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that Noble-Cayman previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about Noble-Cayman and the issuer.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed on February 27, 2015; and

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 29, 2015.

All additional documents that Noble-Cayman files with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the U.S. Exchange Act (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, unless specifically incorporated in any prospectus supplement) will be incorporated by reference until the offering or offerings to which this prospectus relates are completed.

Documents incorporated by reference are available from Noble-Cayman without charge, excluding exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You may obtain without charge a copy of documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following address:

Alan R. Hay

Noble Corporation

Suite 3D, Landmark Square

64 Earth Close

P.O. Box 31327

George Town, Grand Cayman

Cayman Islands, KY1-1206

(345) 938-0293

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# **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement include or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (referred to as the U.S. Securities Act in this prospectus), and Section 21E of the U.S. Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical facts included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or an accompanying prospectus supplement regarding rig demand, the offshore drilling market, oil prices, contract backlog, fleet status, our financial position, business strategy, impairments, repayment of debt, timing or number of share repurchases, borrowings under our credit facilities or other instruments, sources of funds, completion, delivery dates and acceptance of our newbuild rigs, future capital expenditures, contract commitments, dayrates, contract commencements, extension or renewals, contract tenders, the outcome of any dispute, litigation, audit or investigation, plans and objectives of management for future operations, foreign currency requirements, results of joint ventures, indemnity and other contract claims, construction and upgrade of rigs, industry conditions, access to financing, impact of competition, governmental regulations and permitting, availability of labor, worldwide economic conditions, taxes and tax rates, indebtedness covenant compliance, dividends and distributable reserves, timing or results of acquisitions or dispositions, and timing for compliance with any new regulations are forward-looking statements. When used in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or in the documents incorporated by reference, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, project, should and similar expressions are intended to be among the s may, plan, that identify forward-looking statements. Although the issuer believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, they cannot assure you that such expectations will prove to be correct. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of the document in which they appear and the issuer undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statement for any reason, except as required by law. The issuer has identified factors that could cause actual plans or results to differ materially from those included in any forward-looking statements. These factors include those referenced or described under Risk Factors in the Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q of Noble-Cayman, and in its other filings with the SEC, among others. Such risks and uncertainties are beyond the ability of the issuer to control, and in many cases, the issuer cannot predict the risks and uncertainties that could cause their actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. You should consider these risks and uncertainties when you are evaluating the issuer and deciding whether to invest in the issuer s securities.

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## **About Noble-Cayman**

Noble-Cayman is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Noble-UK. Noble-UK, which is publicly traded and whose shares are listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NE, is a leading offshore drilling contractor for the oil and gas industry. Noble-Cayman is a holding company, and, through its subsidiaries, it performs contract drilling services with a fleet of offshore drilling units located worldwide.

In November 2013, we completed a series of transactions that effectively changed the place of incorporation of our parent holding company from Switzerland to the United Kingdom.

Noble-Cayman and its predecessors have been engaged in the contract drilling of oil and gas since 1921. Noble-Cayman s principal executive offices are located at Suite 3D, Landmark Square, 64 Earth Close, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, KY1-1206, and its telephone number is (345) 938-0293.

#### **About NHIL**

NHIL is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Noble-Cayman. NHIL performs, through its subsidiaries, worldwide contract drilling services with a fleet of offshore drilling units located worldwide. NHIL was incorporated in the Cayman Islands in 2004. NHIL s principal offices are located at Suite 3D, Landmark Square, 64 Earth Close, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, KY1-1206, and its telephone number is (345) 938-0293.

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## **Risk Factors**

Before you invest in the securities registered under this prospectus, you should carefully consider the Risk Factors included in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and any applicable prospectus supplement, as well as risks described in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and cautionary notes regarding forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference.

If any of these risks were to materialize, our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. In that case, the ability of the issuer to pay interest on, or principal of, any debt securities issued by it, may be reduced, the trading prices of any publicly traded securities of the issuer could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

#### **Use of Proceeds**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges**

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

12 Months Ended December 31,				
2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
1.3x	3.6x	3.1x	2.0x	3.7x

For the purpose of calculating these ratios, earnings is determined by adding total fixed charges (excluding interest capitalized), noncontrolling interest in net income (or reduction for noncontrolling interest in loss) and amortization of interest capitalized to income from continuing operations after eliminating equity in undistributed earnings and adding back losses of companies in which at least 20 percent but less than 50 percent equity is owned. For this purpose, total fixed charges consists of (1) interest on all indebtedness and amortization of debt discount and expense, (2) interest capitalized and (3) an interest factor attributable to rentals.

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## **Description of Debt Securities**

The following description of debt securities, together with the particular terms of the debt securities offered that will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities, sets forth the material terms and provisions of debt securities to be issued by the issuer. The term issuer, as used in this section, means NHIL.

The issuer may issue debt securities in one or more distinct series. The debt securities may be senior obligations issued in one or more series under a senior indenture between the issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as trustee, or subordinated obligations issued in one or more series under a subordinated indenture between the issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as trustee.

The debt securities of NHIL will be guaranteed by Noble-Cayman. The specific terms of these sales will be provided in supplements to this prospectus.

We have summarized material provisions of the indentures below. The forms of the indentures listed above have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement, and you should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you. The following description is qualified in all respects by reference to the actual text of the indentures and the forms of the debt securities.

#### General

A prospectus supplement and a supplemental indenture relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the issuer of debt securities;

the guarantor of the debt securities, if any;

the title of the debt securities of the series and whether the series is senior secured or senior unsecured debt securities or senior or junior subordinated debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series;

the person to whom any interest on a debt security shall be payable, if other than the person in whose name that debt security is registered on the regular record date;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, of the debt securities of the series are payable or the method of that determination or the right to defer any interest payments;

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, or the method of determining the rate or rates;

the date or dates from which interest will accrue and the interest payment dates on which any such interest will be payable or the method by which the dates will be determined;

the regular record date for any interest payable on any interest payment date and the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

the place or places where the principal of and premium, if any, and any interest on the debt securities of the series will be payable, if other than the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York;

the period or periods within which, the date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the issuer s option or otherwise;

the issuer s obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or otherwise or at the option of the holders and the period or periods within which, the

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price or prices at which, the currency or currencies including currency unit or units in which and the terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities will be redeemed, purchased or repaid, in whole or in part;

the denominations in which any debt securities will be issuable, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency in which payment of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on debt securities of the series shall be payable, if other than U.S. dollars;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities;

if the principal amount payable at the stated maturity of debt securities of the series will not be determinable as of any one or more dates before the stated maturity, the amount that will be deemed to be the principal amount as of any date for any purpose, including the principal amount that will be due and payable upon any maturity other than the stated maturity or that will be deemed to be outstanding as of any date (or, in any such case, the manner in which the deemed principal amount is to be determined), and if necessary, the manner of determining the equivalent thereof in U.S. dollars;

if the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on any debt securities is to be payable, at the issuer s election or the election of the holders, in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which such debt securities are stated to be payable, the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on such debt securities shall be payable, and the periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which such election is to be made;

if other than the stated principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable upon declaration of the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities or provable in bankruptcy;

the applicability of, and any addition to or change in, the covenants and definitions then set forth in the applicable indenture or in the terms then set forth in such indenture relating to permitted consolidations, mergers or sales of assets;

any changes or additions to the provisions of the applicable indenture dealing with defeasance, including the addition of additional covenants that may be subject to the issuer s covenant defeasance option;

whether any of the debt securities are to be issuable in permanent global form and, if so, the depositary or depositaries for such global security and the terms and conditions, if any, upon which interests in such debt securities in global form may be exchanged, in whole or in part, for the individual debt securities represented

thereby in definitive registered form, and the form of any legend or legends to be borne by the global security in addition to or in lieu of the legend referred to in the applicable indenture;

the appointment of any trustee, any authenticating or paying agents, transfer agent or registrars;

the terms of any guarantee of the payment of principal, interest and premium, if any, with respect to debt securities of the series and any corresponding changes to the provisions of the applicable indenture;

any addition to or change in the events of default with respect to the debt securities of the series and any change in the right of the trustee or the holders to declare the principal, premium, if any, and interest with respect to the debt securities due and payable;

any applicable subordination provisions for any subordinated debt securities in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in this prospectus;

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if the securities of the series are to be secured, the property covered by the security interest, the priority of the security interest, the method of perfecting the security interest and any escrow arrangements related to the security interest; and

any other terms of the debt securities, including any restrictive covenants.

None of the indentures limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued. Each indenture allows debt securities to be issued up to the principal amount that may be authorized by the issuer and may be in any currency or currency unit designated by the issuer.

The debt securities may be issued as discounted debt securities bearing no interest (or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates) to be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount.

U.S. federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to any of these discounted debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Debt securities of a series may be issued in registered, bearer, coupon or global form.

In the future we or one or more of our subsidiaries may also issue debt securities other than the debt securities described in this prospectus. There is no requirement that any other debt securities that we or our subsidiaries issue be issued under the indentures described in this prospectus. Any other debt securities that we or our subsidiaries issue may be issued under other indentures or instruments containing provisions that differ from those included in the indentures or that are applicable to one or more issues of debt securities described in this prospectus.

#### Guarantee

The debt securities of NHIL will be guaranteed by Noble-Cayman. The specific terms and provisions of each guarantee will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### **Subordination**

Under each subordinated indenture, payment of the principal of and interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities will generally be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all the issuer s senior indebtedness. Each subordinated indenture provides that no payment of principal, interest and any premium on subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

of any insolvency, bankruptcy or similar proceeding involving the issuer or its respective property, or

of any event of default in the payment of any principal of, or premium or interest on, any senior indebtedness of the issuer, when due or payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise unless and until such payment default has been cured or waived or otherwise ceased to exist.

The subordinated indentures will not limit the amount of senior indebtedness that the issuers may incur.

Senior indebtedness is defined with respect to an issuer to include (i) all notes or other unsecured evidences of indebtedness, including guarantees given by the issuer, for money borrowed by the issuer, not expressed to be

subordinate or junior in right of payment to any other indebtedness of the issuer, and (ii) any modifications, refunding, deferrals, renewals or extensions of any such notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in exchange for such indebtedness.

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## Consolidation, Amalgamation, Conveyance, Transfer or Lease

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement with respect to any series of debt securities, each indenture will provide that the issuer will not, in any transaction or series of transactions, consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into any person, or sell, lease, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets to any person, other than a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, unless:

either (i) the issuer shall be the continuing corporation or (ii) the person formed by such consolidation or amalgamation or into which the issuer is merged, or to which such sale, lease, conveyance, transfer or other disposition shall be made, shall expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on and additional amounts with respect to all the debt securities and the performance of the issuer s covenants and obligations under the indenture and the debt securities;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction or series of transactions, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing or would result from the transaction; and

the issuer delivers to the applicable trustee an officer s certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the transaction and the supplemental indenture comply with the indenture.

## **Modification of Indentures**

Under each indenture, the rights and obligations of the issuer and the rights of the holders may be modified with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modification. No modification of the principal or interest payment terms, and no modification reducing the percentage required for modifications, will be effective against any holder without its consent.

The issuer under an indenture generally may amend the indenture or the debt securities issued under the indenture with the written consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities affected by the amendment. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of (i) any series may also waive the issuer s compliance in a particular instance with any provision of the applicable indenture with respect to such series of debt securities and (ii) all series may waive the issuer s compliance in a particular instance with any provision of the applicable indenture with respect to all series of debt securities issued thereunder. The issuer under an indenture must obtain the consent of each holder of debt securities affected by a particular amendment or waiver, however, if such amendment or waiver, among other things:

changes the stated maturity of such debt securities, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any such debt securities;

reduces the principal amount of or the interest rate applicable to any such debt securities;

changes any place of payment for any such debt securities;

changes the currency in which the principal, premium, or interest of any such debt securities may be repaid;

impairs the right of the holder of any such debt securities to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment due in respect of any such debt securities on or after stated maturity;

reduces the amount of such debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver; or

waives any default in the payment of principal of, or premium or interest on, any such debt securities due under the indenture.

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Notwithstanding the foregoing, the issuer under an indenture may amend either the indenture or any series of debt securities issued under the indenture without the consent of any holder thereof, among other things:

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

to comply with the indenture s provisions with respect to successor corporations;

to comply with any requirements of the SEC to effect or maintain qualification under the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended;

to make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder of such debt securities in any material respect; or

to issue additional debt securities as permitted by the indenture.

## **Events of Default**

Event of Default when used in an indenture will mean any of the following:

failure to pay the principal of or any premium on any debt security when due;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment when due for 60 days;

failure to pay interest on any debt security for 30 days;

failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture that continues for 90 days after being given written notice from the trustee or the issuer and the trustee receive notice from the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of such outstanding debt securities as provided in the indenture;

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, as the case may be;

failure to keep any applicable full and unconditional guarantee in place; or

any other Event of Default included in any indenture or supplemental indenture.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities issued under an indenture does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default (except in the payment of principal or interest) if it considers such withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders.

If an Event of Default for any series of debt securities issued under an indenture occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series affected by such Event of Default, or of all series of debt securities if the Event of Default is a result of failure to perform any covenant in the indenture, may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If an Event of Default occurs that is a result of certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, as the case may be, the principal amount of the outstanding securities of all series issued under an indenture ipso facto shall become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder. If any of the above happens, subject to certain conditions, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series can void the declaration.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series issued under an indenture may waive any past default with respect to such debt securities under the indenture and its consequences, except:

in the case of the payment of the principal of, or premium (if any) or interest on, such debt securities; or

except as described in this prospectus under the caption Modification of Indentures.

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Other than its duties in case of a default, a trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under any indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders, unless the holders offer the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to it. If they provide this indemnity or security, the holders of a majority in principal amount of any series of debt securities issued under an indenture may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding or any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any power conferred upon the trustee, for such series of debt securities.

#### **Covenants**

Under each indenture, the issuer will, among other things:

pay the principal of, and interest and any premium on, any debt securities issued under the indenture when due;

maintain a place of payment;

deliver a report to the trustee at the end of each fiscal year reviewing the issuer s obligations under the indenture; and

deposit sufficient funds with any paying agent on or before the due date for any principal, interest or premium.

## **Payment and Transfer**

Principal of and interest and any premium on fully registered securities will be paid at designated places. Payment will be made by check mailed to the persons in whose names the debt securities issued under an indenture are registered on days specified in the indenture or any prospectus supplement. Debt securities payments in other forms will be paid at a place designated by the issuer and specified in a prospectus supplement.

Fully registered securities may be transferred or exchanged at the corporate trust office of the trustee or at any other office or agency maintained by us for such purposes, without the payment of any service charge except for any tax or governmental charge.

## **Book-Entry Procedures**

We will issue the debt securities in the form of one or more global securities in fully registered form initially in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company (or DTC), or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The global securities will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and may not be transferred except as a whole by DTC to a nominee of DTC or by a nominee of DTC to DTC or another nominee of DTC or by DTC or any nominee to a successor of DTC or a nominee of such successor.

DTC has advised us as follows:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the U.S. Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among direct participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry changes in direct participants accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

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DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by The New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.

Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

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

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

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

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the global securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co. s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited on the record date (identified in the listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

All payments on the global securities will be made to Cede & Co., as holder of record, or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC s practice is to credit direct participants—accounts upon DTC—s receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from us or the trustee on payment dates in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC—s records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in—street name,—and will be the responsibility of such participant and not of DTC, us or the trustee, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) shall be the responsibility of us or the trustee. Disbursement of such payments to direct participants shall be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners shall be the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its service as securities depositary with respect to the debt securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to the issuer or the trustee. In addition, we may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depositary). Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depositary is not obtained, note certificates in fully registered form are required to be printed and delivered to beneficial owners of the global securities representing such debt securities.

None of the issuer, the trustee or any underwriter of any debt securities will have any responsibility or obligation to direct or indirect participants, or the persons for whom they act as nominees, with respect to the accuracy of the records of DTC, its nominee or any participant with respect to any ownership interest in the debt securities, or payments to, or the providing of notice to participants or beneficial owners.

So long as the debt securities are in DTC s book-entry system, secondary market trading activity in the debt securities will settle in immediately available funds. All payments on the debt securities issued as global securities will be made by us in immediately available funds.

#### **Defeasance**

The issuer under an indenture will be discharged from its obligations on the debt securities of any series issued under the indenture at any time if sufficient cash or government securities are deposited with the trustee under the indenture to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any other sums due to the stated maturity date or a redemption date of the debt securities of the series. If this happens, the holders of the debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture except for registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities.

The debt securities of any series may also provide for legal defeasance. Legal defeasance is permitted only if the issuer has received from, or there has been published by, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service a ruling to the effect that legal defeasance will not cause holders of the debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Under U.S. federal income tax law as of the date of this prospectus, a discharge may be treated as an exchange of the related debt securities. Each holder might be required to recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the holder s cost or other tax basis for the debt securities and the value of the holder s interest in the trust. Holders might be required to include as income a different amount than would be includable without the discharge. Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers as to the consequences of a discharge, including the applicability and effect of tax laws other than the U.S. federal income tax law.

### The Trustee

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. will act as the initial trustee, conversion agent, paying agent, transfer agent and registrar with respect to debt securities under each indenture. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. also performs certain other services for, and transacts other banking business with us in the normal course of business. The address of the trustee is 750 N. Saint Paul Place, Suite 1750, Dallas, Texas 75201.

## **Governing Law**

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, each indenture and the debt securities of each series will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

# **Notices**

Notices to holders of debt securities will be given by mail to the addresses of such holders as they appear in the security register.

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#### **Plan of Distribution**

Noble-Cayman and NHIL may sell the securities offered in this prospectus in and outside the United States (a) through agents; (b) through underwriters or dealers; (c) directly to one or more purchasers; or (d) through a combination of any of these methods. The applicable prospectus supplement will include the following information:

the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, and the respective amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities;

the net proceeds to the issuer from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers; and

## By Agents

Offered securities may be sold through agents designated by the issuer. In the prospectus supplement, the issuer will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities and will describe any commissions payable by the issuer to the agent. Unless the issuer informs you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the agents will agree to use their reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. The issuer may sell securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the U.S. Securities Act with respect to those securities. The terms of any such sales will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## By Underwriters or Dealers

any commissions paid to agents.

If underwriters are used in the sale, the offered securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The underwriter may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as an underwriter. Unless the issuer informs you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

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

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If the issuer uses dealers in the sale of securities, it will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the U.S. Securities Act, with respect to any sale of those securities. The issuer will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

#### **Direct Sales**

Offered securities may also be sold directly by the issuer. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

### **Delayed Delivery Contracts**

If the prospectus supplement so indicates, the issuer may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts.

These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

## **General Information**

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the offered securities may be underwriters as defined in the U.S. Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions received by them from the issuer or guarantor and any profit on the resale of the offered securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the U.S. Securities Act. Any underwriters or agents will be identified and their compensation described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Noble-Cayman or NHIL may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the U.S. Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, Noble-Cayman, NHIL or other subsidiaries of Noble-UK in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus statement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities if any are purchased.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the place and time of delivery for the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered.

#### **Legal Matters**

Except as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the debt securities under United States laws will be passed upon for Noble-Cayman or NHIL, as applicable, by Baker Botts L.L.P., Houston, Texas, and the validity of the debt securities under Cayman Islands law will be passed upon for Noble-Cayman or NHIL, as applicable, by Maples and Calder, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, and Maples and Calder is not passing on any

matters other than those governed by Cayman Islands law.

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# **Experts**

The consolidated financial statements and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management s Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Noble Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

# Noble Corporation

## Guarantees

# Noble Holding International Limited

**Debt Securities** 

# **PROSPECTUS**

## **PART II**

## INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

### ITEM 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following is a statement of the expenses (other than underwriting compensation) to be incurred by us in connection with a distribution of the securities registered under this registration statement.

# **\$ MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL** Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS OF **OUR COMMON STOCK** The following is a general discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to the ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock applicable to non-U.S. holders who acquire such shares in this offering and hold such shares as a capital asset (generally, property held for investment). For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of our common stock (other than an entity or arrangement that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is not, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, any of the following: a citizen or resident of the United States; a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust if (a) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (b) such trust has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ), Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial opinions, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service, and other applicable authorities, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect). This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular non-U.S. holder in light of that non-U.S. holder s individual circumstances, nor does it address any aspects of U.S. federal estate and gift, state, local, or non-U.S. taxes. This discussion may not apply, in whole or in part, to particular non-U.S. holders in light of their individual circumstances or to holders subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws (including, for example, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, brokers or dealers in securities, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, non-U.S. holders that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment, and certain

If a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our

U.S. expatriates).

common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership.

Partners of a partnership holding our common stock should consult their tax advisor as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to them.

THIS SUMMARY IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION **ONLY AND IS NOT** INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF ALL TAX **CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS RELATING TO THE OWNERSHIP AND** DISPOSITION OF OUR COMMON STOCK. PROSPECTIVE HOLDERS OF **OUR COMMON STOCK** SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE TAX **CONSEQUENCES TO THEM** (INCLUDING THE APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX LAWS) OF THE **OWNERSHIP AND** DISPOSITION OF OUR COMMON STOCK.

#### **Dividends**

In general, any distribution we make to a non-U.S. holder with respect to its shares of our common stock that constitutes a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% of the gross amount, unless the non-U.S. holder is eligible for a reduced rate of withholding tax under an applicable income tax treaty and the non-U.S. holder provides proper certification of its eligibility for such

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reduced rate. A distribution will constitute a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any distribution not constituting a dividend will be treated first as reducing the adjusted basis in the non-U.S. holder s shares of our common stock and, to the extent it exceeds the adjusted basis in the non-U.S. holder s shares of our common stock, as gain from the sale or exchange of such stock.

Dividends we pay to a non-U.S. holder that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment) will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax, as described above, if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. Instead, such dividends generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis, in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a United States person, as defined under the Code. Dividends received by a foreign corporation that are effectively connected with its conduct of trade or business within the United States may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty).

### Gain on Sale or Other Disposition of Common Stock

In general, a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of the non-U.S. holder s shares of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business carried on by the non-U.S. holder within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of such non-U.S. holder);

the non-U.S. holder is an individual and is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and certain other conditions are met; or

we are or have been a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding such disposition or such non-U.S. holder s holding period of our common stock. Gain that is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States (or so treated) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax, net of certain deductions, at regular U.S. federal income tax rates. If the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, the branch profits tax described above also may apply to such effectively connected gain. An individual non-U.S. holder who is subject to U.S. federal income tax because the non-U.S. holder was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the year of sale or other disposition of our common stock will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from such sale or other disposition, which may be offset by United States source capital losses. We believe we are not, and do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Backup Withholding, Information Reporting and Other Reporting Requirements

We must report annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to

each non-U.S. holder the amount of dividends paid to, and the tax withheld with respect to, each non-U.S. holder. These reporting requirements apply regardless of whether withholding was reduced or eliminated by an applicable tax treaty. Copies of this information reporting may also be made available under the provisions of a specific tax treaty or agreement with the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides or is established.

A non-U.S. holder will generally be subject to backup withholding for dividends on our common stock paid to such holder unless such holder certifies under penalties of perjury that, among other things, it is a non-U.S. holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a U.S. person as defined under the Code), or such holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

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Information reporting and backup withholding generally are not required with respect to the amount of any proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder outside the United States through a foreign office of a foreign broker that does not have certain specified connections to the United States. However, if a non-U.S. holders sells or otherwise disposes its shares of our common stock through a U.S. broker or the U.S. offices of a foreign broker, the broker will generally be required to report the amount of proceeds paid to the non-U.S. holder to the Internal Revenue Service and also backup withhold on that amount unless such non-U.S. holder provides appropriate certification to the broker of its status as a non-U.S. person or otherwise establishes an exemption (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a U.S. person as defined under the Code). Information reporting will also apply if a non-U.S. holder sells its shares of our common stock through a foreign broker deriving more than a specified percentage of its income from U.S. sources or having certain other connections to the United States, unless such broker has documentary evidence in its records that such non-U.S. holder is a non-U.S. person and certain other conditions are met, or such non-U.S. holder otherwise establishes an exemption (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a U.S. person as defined under the Code).

Backup withholding is not an additional income tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder generally can be credited against the non-U.S. holder s U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, or refunded, provided that the required information is furnished

to the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the information reporting and backup withholding rules to them.

# Additional Withholding Requirements

Recent legislation generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments made after December 31, 2012 to certain foreign entities of dividends and the gross proceeds of dispositions of U.S. property that can produce dividends, unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements have been satisfied. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation to their investment our common stock.

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#### UNDERWRITING

Under the terms of an underwriting agreement, which we will file as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, Barclays Capital Inc., as the underwriter in this offering, has agreed to purchase from us shares of our common stock.

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriter s obligation to purchase shares of our common stock depends on the satisfaction of the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement including:

the obligation to purchase all of the shares of our common stock offered hereby (other than those shares of our common stock covered by the underwriter s option to purchase additional shares as described below), if any of the shares are purchased;

the representations and warranties made by us to the underwriter are true;

there is no material change in our business or in the financial markets; and

we deliver customary closing documents to the underwriter. **Commissions and Expenses** 

The following table summarizes the underwriting discounts and commissions we will pay to the underwriter. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriter s option to purchase

additional shares. The underwriting fee is the difference between the initial price to the public and the amount the underwriter pays to us for the shares.

#### No ExerciseFull Exercise

Per share \$ \$ Total \$ \$

The underwriter has advised us that the underwriter proposes to offer the shares of our common stock directly to the public at the public offering price on the cover of this prospectus supplement and to selected dealers at such offering price less a selling concession not in excess of \$ per share. After the offering, the underwriter may change the offering price and other selling terms. Sales of shares made outside of the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriter.

The expenses of the offering that are payable by us are estimated to be \$ (excluding underwriting discounts and commissions).

#### Option to Purchase Additional Shares

We have granted the underwriter an option exercisable for 30 days after the date of the underwriting agreement, to purchase, from time to time, in whole or in part, up to an aggregate of shares at the public offering price less underwriting discounts and commissions.

#### **Lock-Up Agreements**

We and all of our directors and executive officers have agreed that, subject to certain exceptions, without the prior written consent of the underwriter, we and they will not directly or indirectly (1) offer for sale, sell, pledge, or otherwise dispose of (or enter into any transaction or device that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition by any

person at any time in the future of)
any shares of our common stock
(including, without limitation,
shares of our common stock that
may be deemed to be beneficially
owned by us or them in
accordance with the rules and
regulations of the SEC and shares
of our common stock that may be
issued upon exercise of any
options or warrants) or securities
convertible into or exercisable or
exchangeable for our

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common stock, (2) enter into any swap or other derivatives transaction that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common stock, (3) make any demand for or exercise any right or file or cause to be filed a registration statement (other than filing any registration statement on Form S-8), including any amendments thereto, with respect to the registration of any shares of our common stock or securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into our common stock or any of our other securities, or (4) publicly disclose the intention to do any of the foregoing (other than in the case of a disclosure regarding an intended business combination) for a period of 90 days, in the case of us, and 60 days, in the case of our directors and executive officers, after the date of this prospectus supplement.

The foregoing restrictions do not apply to us with respect to: (1) the shares of common stock to be issued and sold in this offering, (2) shares of common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable into shares of common stock, in each case, to be issued after the expiration of the 90-day restricted period as consideration in connection with agreements entered into in connection with one or more business combination transactions and (3) up to an aggregate number of shares of common stock equal to 10% of the shares of common stock to be issued in this offering or securities convertible into or exchangeable into for the number of shares of common stock equal to 10% of the shares of common stock to be issued in this offering that may be issued as consideration in connection with the consummation before the expiration of the 90-day restricted period in one or more business combination transactions.

The foregoing restrictions with respect to our directors and officers do not apply to: (1) the sale or other disposition after May 15, 2010 of up to an aggregate of 107,881 shares of common stock underlying stock options held by certain of our officers the terms of which provide that such stock options expire prior to July 1, 2010, (2) sales or other dispositions of shares of any class of the our capital stock, in each case that are made exclusively between and among immediate family members, or any trust for the direct or indirect benefit of the director or officer and/or a member of their immediate family, (3) bona fide gifts, (4) the transfer by will or intestate succession to the legal representatives or an immediate family member, (5) the sale pursuant to any contract, instruction or plan in effect on the date hereof that satisfies all of the requirements of Rule 10b5-1(c)(1)(i)(B) (a 10b5-1Plan ), (6) the establishment of any 10b5-1 Plan provided that no sales of common stock or securities convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for common stock, shall be made pursuant to a 10b5-1 Plan prior to the expiration of the 60-day restricted period if such 10b5-1 Plan was established after the date of this prospectus supplement, and (7) the disposition pursuant to a pledge or security interest in effect on the date hereof of common stock or securities convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for, common stock as security for a margin account or other extension of credit pursuant to the terms of such account or other extension of credit; provided that in the case of immediately preceding clauses (2), (3) or (4) above, the underwriter shall have received a signed copy of a lock-up agreement from each donee or transferee (other than in the case of charitable gifts to not-for-profit organizations), as the case may be, any such transfer shall not involve a disposition for value and the undersigned is not required to, or does not otherwise voluntarily

effect during the 60-day restricted period any public filing or report regarding such transfers, including, but not limited, to pursuant to the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

The 90-day restricted period applicable to us (but not the 60-day restricted period applicable to our directors and executive officers) described in the preceding paragraph will be extended if:

during the last 17 days of the 90-day restricted period we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs; or

prior to the expiration of the 90-day restricted period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the 90-day period;

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in which case the restrictions described in the preceding paragraph will continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the announcement of the material news or material event, unless such extension is waived in writing by the underwriter.

The underwriter, in its sole discretion, may release the common stock and other securities subject to lock-up agreements described above in whole or in part at any time with or without notice. When determining whether or not to release the common stock and other securities from lock-up agreements, the underwriter will consider, among other factors, the holder s reasons for requesting the release, the number of shares of common stock and other securities for which the release is being requested and market conditions at the time.

#### Indemnification

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments that the underwriter may be required to make for these liabilities.

#### Stabilization and Covering Transactions

The underwriter may engage in stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the common stock, in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act:

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying

security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

These stabilizing transactions and covering transactions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (which is the exchange on which our common stock is currently listed) or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

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

#### **Passive Market Making**

In connection with the offering, the underwriter and selling group members may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the period before the commencement of offers or sales of our common stock and extending through the completion of distribution. A passive market maker must display its bids at a price not in

excess of the highest independent bid of the security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker s bid that bid must be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

#### **Electronic Distribution**

A prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the Internet sites or through other online services maintained by the underwriter and/or selling group members participating in this offering, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms

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online and, depending upon the underwriter or selling group member, prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriter may agree with us to allocate a specific number of shares for sale to online brokerage account holders. Any such allocation for online distributions will be made by the underwriter on the same basis as other allocations.

Other than this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format, the information on the underwriter s or any selling group member s website and any information contained in any other website maintained by the underwriter or any selling group member is not part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or the underwriter or any selling group member in its capacity as underwriter or selling group member and should not be relied upon by investors.

#### **Stamp Taxes**

If you purchase shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you may be required to pay stamp taxes and other charges under the laws and practices of the country of purchase, in addition to the offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

#### Relationships

From time to time the underwriter and its affiliates have provided and may in the future, directly or indirectly, provide investment banking or financial advisory

services to us, for which they have received or will receive customary fees and expense reimbursements.

#### **Selling Restrictions**

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of securities described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may not be made to the public in that relevant member state other than:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriter; or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus

Directive, provided that no such offer of securities shall require us or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the securities, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

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We have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of securities through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriter with a view to the final placement of the securities as contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompany prospectus. Accordingly, no purchaser of the securities, other than the underwriter, is authorized to make any further offer of the securities on behalf of us or the underwriter.

#### United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the accompany prospectus are only being distributed to, and are only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive ( Qualified Investors ) that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order ) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom they may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons ). This prospectus supplement, the accompany prospectus and their contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on these documents or any of their contents.

#### Australia

No prospectus, prospectus supplement or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia ( Corporations Act )) in

relation to the common stock has been or will be lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission ( ASIC ). This document has not been lodged with ASIC and is only directed to certain categories of exempt persons. Accordingly, if you receive this document in Australia:

- (a) you confirm and warrant that you are either:
- (i) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act;
- (ii) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(c) or (d) of the Corporations Act and that you have provided an accountant s certificate to us which complies with the requirements of section 708(8)(c)(i) or (ii) of the Corporations Act and related regulations before the offer has been made;
- (iii) a person associated with the company under section 708(12) of the Corporations Act; or
- (iv) a professional investor within the meaning of section 708(11)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act, and to the extent that you are unable to confirm or warrant that you are an exempt sophisticated investor, associated person or professional investor under the Corporations Act any offer made to you under this document is void and incapable of acceptance; and
  - (b) you warrant and agree that you will not offer any of the shares of common stock for resale in Australia within 12

months of those shares of common stock being issued unless any such resale offer is exempt from the requirement to issue a disclosure document under section 708 of the Corporations Act.

Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relates to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. They must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The Dubai Financial

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Services Authority has not approved this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The shares of common stock which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompany prospectus may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the common stock offered should conduct their own due diligence on the common stock. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus you should consult an authorized financial advisor. For the avoidance of doubt, the shares of common stock are not interests in a Fund or a Collective Investment Scheme within the meaning of either the Collective Investment Law (DIFC Law No. 1 of 2006) or the Collective Investment Rules Module of the Dubai Financial Services Authority Rulebook.

#### Hong Kong

The shares of common stock may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made under that Ordinance or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares of common stock may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of the issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of

which are likely to be read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the shares of common stock which are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) or any rules made under that Ordinance.

#### India

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been and will not be registered as a prospectus with the Registrar of Companies in India or with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any other material relating to these securities, are for information purposes only and may not be circulated or distributed, directly or indirectly, to the public or any members of the public in India and in any event to not more than 50 persons in India. Further, persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus come are required to inform themselves about and to observe any such restrictions. Each prospective investor is advised to consult its advisors about the particular consequences to it of an investment in these securities. Each prospective investor is also advised that any investment in the shares of common stock by it is subject to the regulations prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India and the Foreign Exchange Management Act and any regulations framed thereunder.

#### Japan

No securities registration statement (SRS) has been filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended) (FIEL) in relation to the shares of

common stock. The shares of common stock are being offered in a private placement to qualified institutional investors (tekikaku-kikan-toshika) under Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance concerning Definitions provided in Article 2 of the FIEL (the Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 14, as amended) ( QIIs ), under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 i of the FIEL. Any QII acquiring the shares of common stock in this offer may not transfer or resell those shares except to other QIIs.

#### Korea

The shares of common stock may not be offered, sold and delivered directly or indirectly, or offered or sold to any person for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea except pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of Korea, including the Korea Securities and Exchange Act and the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and the decrees and regulations thereunder. The shares of common stock

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have not been registered with the Financial Services Commission of Korea for public offering in Korea. Furthermore, the shares of common stock may not be resold to Korean residents unless the purchaser of the shares of common stock complies with all applicable regulatory requirements (including but not limited to government approval requirements under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and its subordinate decrees and regulations) in connection with the purchase of the shares of common stock.

#### Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares of common stock may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the shares of common stock be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Future Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275 (1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. Where the shares of common stock are subscribed and purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
- (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) whose sole whole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares of common stock under Section 275 of the SFA, except:
  - (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA;
  - (ii) (in the case of a corporation) where the transfer arises from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) of the SFA, or (in the case of a trust) where the transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that such rights or interests are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets;

(iii) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

(iv) where the transfer is by operation of law.

By accepting this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the recipient hereof represents and warrants that he is entitled to receive it in accordance with the restrictions set forth above and agrees to be bound by limitations contained herein. Any failure to comply with these limitations may constitute a violation of law.

Switzerland

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as any other material relating to the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a and/or 1156 of the Swiss Code of

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Obligations. The shares will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and, therefore, the documents relating to the shares, including, but not limited to, this document, do not claim to comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules of SIX Swiss Exchange and corresponding prospectus schemes annexed to the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange.

The shares are being offered in Switzerland by way of a private placement, i.e., to a small number of selected investors only, without any public offer and only to investors who do not purchase the shares with the intention to distribute them to the public. The investors will be individually approached by the issuer from time to time.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying as prospectus well as any other material relating to the shares is personal and confidential and do not constitute an offer to any other person. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used by those investors to whom they have been handed out in connection with the offering described herein and may neither directly nor indirectly be distributed or made available to other persons without express consent of the issuer. They may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in (or from) Switzerland.

By accepting this prospectus supplement, the recipient represents and warrants that such recipient is entitled to receive it in accordance with the restrictions set forth above and agrees to be bound by the limitations contained herein. Any failure to comply with these limitations may constitute a violation of law.

# **Transfer Agent** The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Fulton Financial Advisors, the investment management and trust services subsidiary division of our subsidiary, Fulton Bank, N.A. S-27

# VALIDITY OF COMMON STOCK

The validity of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by Barley Snyder LLC. In addition, Barley Snyder LLC and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, special counsel to Fulton Financial, will pass on certain legal matters in connection with the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

#### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Fulton Financial Corporation as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report 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.

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**PROSPECTUS** 

Fulton
Financial
Corporation

**Common Stock** 

**Preferred Stock** 

Subordinated Notes

Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

**Warrants** 

**Guarantees** 

Fulton Capital Trust II

Fulton Capital Trust III

Fulton Capital Trust IV

**Capital Securities** 

We will provide the specific terms of the offering of any of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. When we offer securities, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement or other offering materials describing the terms of the specific issue of securities, including the offering price of the securities. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials carefully before you invest in our securities.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of the underwriters will be stated in the prospectus supplements and other offering material. We may also sell securities directly to investors.

We, or any selling shareholder, may offer and sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of the securities will also be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Fulton Financial Corporation s common stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the ticker symbol FULT. Any common stock that we sell pursuant to any supplement to this prospectus will be listed for quotation on the Nasdaq Global Select Market upon official notice of issuance.

These securities are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any of our bank or non-bank subsidiaries, and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

These securities involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, referred to as the SEC, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of the disclosures in this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 22, 2008.

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#### ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the SEC as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Under the rules and regulations of the SEC relating to automatic shelf registration statements, we may, over time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, or in any applicable prospectus supplement, in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain documents which you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we may offer. Therefore, you should carefully review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated below, under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer for sale at a future time. Each time we make an offer for the sale of the securities described in this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the documents incorporated and deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the additional information described helow

Unless the context otherwise indicates, all references in this prospectus to we, us, our, or similar references, shall mean Fulton Financial Corporation and

each of the registrant trusts.

However, such references do not refer to any of the other subsidiaries of Fulton Financial Corporation unless the context indicates otherwise.

# WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Fulton Financial Corporation, referred to as Fulton Financial, files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, also referred to as the Exchange Act. You may read and copy this information at prescribed rates at the following location of the SEC:

Public Reference Room

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You can also obtain additional information about the operation of the SEC s Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers like us who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <a href="https://www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>.

The common stock of Fulton
Financial trades on the Nasdaq
Global Select Market under the
ticker symbol FULT. You can also
inspect information about Fulton
Financial by visiting the Nasdaq
Global Select Market web site at
www.nasdaq.com or our web site
at www.fult.com. Information
contained in our web site does not
constitute part of this prospectus.

We have not included separate financial statements of any of the co-registrant statutory trusts in this prospectus and we will not prepare separate financial statements of any of these trusts in the future.

We do not consider that such financial statements would be

material to holders of the capital securities of a particular trust because Fulton Financial will fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee, on a subordinated basis, payments on those capital securities to the extent described in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and each of the trusts is a special purpose entity, has no operating history or independent operations, is not engaged in, and does not propose to engage in, any activity other than holding as its assets Fulton Financial s junior subordinated debt securities, issuing, in the future, its capital securities to investors and common securities to Fulton Financial and engaging in incidental activities to these specified limited activities. Fulton Financial does not expect that any of these trusts will file reports, proxy statements and other information under the Exchange Act with the SEC.

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#### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

We are incorporating information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to documents filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except as discussed below.

The following documents that we have filed with the SEC are incorporated into this prospectus by reference (other than information that pursuant to SEC rules is deemed not to be filed):

Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed February 29, 2008, for the year ended December 31, 2007;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed May 12, 2008, for the quarter ended March 31, 2008;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed August 11, 2008, for the quarter ended June 30, 2008;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed November 10, 2008, for the quarter ended September 30, 2008;

Amendment to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q/A, filed November 19, 2008, for the quarter ended September 30, 2008;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed: January 18, 2008, March 20, 2008, April 21, 2008, April 28, 2008, May 29, 2008, June 20, 2008, September 16, 2008 (but only with respect to Film No. 081074558), September 18, 2008, November 6, 2008, November 14, 2008, December 10, 2008, December 15, 2008, December 16, 2008 and December 22, 2008;

Amendment to Current Report on Form 8-K/A, filed March 18, 2008; and

Proxy Statement, filed March 20, 2008. All future filings that we make with the SEC, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and proxy statements, prior to the termination of the offering of these securities shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and into any supplements to this prospectus (other than information that pursuant to SEC rules is deemed not to be filed). Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that any statement contained in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement modified or superseded in this way will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference contains information about us and our financial condition and performance and is an important part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus

supplement.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from us, or from the SEC, through the SEC s Internet web site at the address specified in Where You Can Find More Information. Documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are available without charge, excluding all exhibits, unless we have specifically incorporated an exhibit into this document by reference. You may obtain documents incorporated by reference in this document by requesting them by writing or telephoning us at:

Fulton Financial Corporation

One Penn Square, P.O. Box 4887

Lancaster, PA 17604

Attention: Corporate Secretary

(717) 291-2411

You should rely only on the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about us that is different from, or in addition to, those included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If anyone does give you any additional

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or different information, you should not rely on it. The information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this document unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

# DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

We may issue from time to time, in one or more offerings, the following securities:

common stock;

preferred stock;

subordinated notes;

junior subordinated debt securities;

warrants;

capital securities; or

guarantees.

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement a description of the common stock, preferred stock, subordinated notes, junior subordinated debt securities, warrants, capital securities or guarantees that may be offered under this prospectus. The terms of the offering of securities, the initial offering price and the net proceeds to us will be contained in the prospectus supplement, and other offering material, relating to such offering.

**EXPERTS** 

The consolidated financial statements of Fulton Financial Corporation as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007 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.

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\$230,000,000

Common Stock

Prospectus Supplement

, 2010

**Barclays Capital**