

TERAFORCE TECHNOLOGY CORP

Form 424B3

May 02, 2001

PROSPECTUS

TERAFORCE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

41,416,630 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK

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The Selling Stockholders listed on pages 13 through 15 may offer and resell up to 41,416,630 shares of TeraForce Technology Corporation ("TeraForce" or the "Company") common stock under this Prospectus, for each of their own accounts. The number of shares the Selling Stockholders may sell includes shares of common stock that currently are issued and outstanding and shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sales covered by this Prospectus.

The shares of common stock covered by this Prospectus were originally issued in several unrelated private placements to accredited investors. For further information on the Selling Stockholders and each of these transactions see "Selling Stockholders" in this Prospectus.

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq SmallCap Market under the symbol "TERA." On April 27, 2001, the last sale price of our common stock was \$0.43.

INVESTING IN THE COMMON STOCK INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 2.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THE PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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THE DATE OF THIS PROSPECTUS IS APRIL 27, 2001.

ABOUT TERAFORCE

We recently changed our name from Intellect Communications, Inc. to TeraForce Technology Corporation. This change reflects a transition in our strategic direction and underlying business model. Under our new strategy, we intend to leverage our technical expertise in the convergence of telecommunications and computing to develop and commercialize leading edge technologies.

We design, develop, produce, and sell digital signal processor ("DSP") products and also provide high-value product design and development services to telecommunications and networking companies. Our DSP products business designs, produces and sells board-level products that deliver high performance computing capabilities for embedded applications in military/aerospace, industrial and commercial market segments. These products include a variety of multiprocessor boards. Our engineering design services business provides advanced product and system design and development services for a variety of clients.

Our optical networking products business historically has been conducted by our wholly-owned subsidiary, Intellect Network Technologies Company. This business unit manufactured our OmniLynx product line used for optical

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networking. Due to dramatic changes in the market place, we have reassessed this business and determined that the OmniLynx product line's long-term strategic value does not substantially benefit TeraForce as much as our other business opportunities. However, we have identified a new generation of optical networking equipment, referred to as Aegean, which we anticipate developing. We believe this advanced optical networking system can be targeted at metropolitan area networks and can generally be described as a multi-service delivery platform.

More information about our products, markets and operations may be found in our Form 10-K annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, filed on April 2, 2001. Our executive offices are located at 1240 East Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas 75081; telephone (469) 330-4960.

### RISK FACTORS

This prospectus and the documents it incorporates by reference contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements reflect our current view with respect to future events and financial performance. The future events we describe in these risk factors involve risks and uncertainties related to:

- general economic conditions in our product markets;
- our continuing development of our products;
- the market acceptance of our products;
- dependence on our suppliers;
- dependence on channels of distribution;
- competition;
- fluctuations in customer demand for our products;
- access to external sources of capital;
- execution of our margin improvement; and
- management of our corporate expansion.

In this prospectus, the words "anticipate," "believe," "expect," "intend," "plan," "future," and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from

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those that we project in the forward-looking statements as a result of factors that we have set forth throughout this document as well as factors of which we are currently not aware.

Projections including, but not limited to, those regarding our financial results that are contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this Prospectus are forward-looking statements. As such, projections in those documents could differ materially from actual results which could in turn have an adverse effect on your investment in the shares.

Your investment in the shares offered by the Selling Stockholders in this Prospectus involves a high degree of risk and should not be made by you if you cannot afford the loss of your entire investment. In addition to the other

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information in this Prospectus, or incorporated in this Prospectus by reference, you should consider carefully the following risk factors before investing in the common stock offered by the Prospectus:

OUR STOCK PRICE MAY DROP DUE TO MARKET FLUCTUATIONS AND SALES OF LARGE NUMBERS OF OUR SHARES.

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq SmallCap Market. Based on historical trends in the market for our stock and for other similar technology company stocks, we anticipate that the trading price of our common stock may be subject to wide fluctuations in response to:

- quarterly variations in operating results;
- changes in actual earnings or in earnings estimates by analysts;
- our announcements of technological developments;
- our competitors' announcements of technological developments;
- general market conditions; or
- other events largely outside our control.

In addition, extreme price and volume fluctuations in the stock market have particularly affected the market prices of "high technology" stocks. These fluctuations were often disproportionate to or unrelated to the operating performance of these companies. These broad market fluctuations, general economic conditions, or other factors outside our control may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Large numbers of the shares offered under this Prospectus could be sold at the same time. Such sales, or the possibility of such sales, could significantly depress the market price of the common stock.

WE MAY BE DE-LISTED BY NASDAQ.

In January, 2001 we received notice from the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq") that our stock failed to maintain a minimum bid price of at least \$1.00 over the prior 30 day period as required by Nasdaq marketplace rules. Pursuant to the notice we were provided 90 days, or until April 2, 2001, to regain compliance with this rule. Since our common stock did not meet the minimum bid price requirement by April 2, we received notice from Nasdaq that our common stock is subject to de-listing. We have notified the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Listing Panel of our appeal of such determination of de-listing and have requested an oral hearing. The hearing request has stayed the de-listing. However, there can be no assurance of the outcome of the appeal process. If the Company's common stock is de-listed from the Nasdaq SmallCap Market, it may be eligible for inclusion in the OTC Bulletin Board operated by the Nasdaq Stock Market. However, the OTC Bulletin Board generally provides less liquidity and certain institutional investors may not purchase stocks in this market or invest capital in companies that are not listed on a national stock exchange or Nasdaq. Such adverse effects in liquidity and capital raising ability could materially adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

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WE ARE NOT PROFITABLE.

We have incurred losses from continuing operations in 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, and 1996 of \$29,572,000, \$28,535,000, \$42,735,000, \$19,743,000 and

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\$42,983,000, respectively. Negative cash flows from operations in the same periods were, respectively, \$22,442,000, \$19,145,000, \$22,929,000, \$24,852,000 and \$23,050,000. We funded the negative cash flows by proceeds from borrowing under credit facilities and sales of common stock in 2000, from borrowings under credit facilities, sales of preferred stock and common stock during 1999, 1998 and 1997 and by proceeds from issuance of convertible debentures in 1996. It is uncertain when, if ever, we will report operating income or positive cash flow from operations. If cash needs exceed available resources, there also can be no assurance that additional capital will be available through public or private equity or debt financing.

OUR ABILITY TO BECOME PROFITABLE DEPENDS ON INCREASED SALES OF OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

Our ability to become profitable will depend, in part, on the sales volume of our products and services. Increasing the sales volume will depend on our ability to:

- continue to develop our DSP products;
- expand our engineering design services business;
- increase our sales and marketing activities;
- increase our manufacturing activities;
- effectively compete against current and future competitors; and
- effectively and efficiently complete the transition from optical networking equipment manufacturing of OmniLynx to our other business enterprises.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully increase the sales volumes of our products and/or services to achieve profitability. We also cannot assure that profitability and positive cash flow will be achieved when expected. If our sales plans are not achieved, operating losses and negative cash flows exceed our estimates, or capital requirements in connection with the design, development, and commercialization of our principal products are higher than estimated, we will need to raise additional capital. See page 5 regarding additional funding.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PREDICT SALES IN THE FUTURE AND A NUMBER OF FACTORS MAY CAUSE OUR PERIODIC RESULTS TO FLUCTUATE.

We are not able to accurately predict our sales in future quarters. In any quarter, a number of factors could affect our sales volumes and our ability to fill orders. Our periodic results have varied in the past. In the future, we expect our periodic operating results to vary significantly depending on, but not limited to, a number of factors, including:

- the market acceptance of our current and new products;
- engineering and development requirements;
- the size, timing and recognition of revenue from significant orders;
- increased competition;
- new product introductions or enhancements by competitors;
- the proportion of revenue derived from distributors, value added resellers and other sales channels;

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- changes in our pricing policies or those of our competitors;

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- the financial stability of major customers;
- delays in the introduction of our products or product enhancements;
- customer order deferrals in anticipation of upgrades and new products;
- customer concerns about our financial condition;
- the costs and possible supply constraints of components we use to build our products;
- changes in regulation of our product markets;
- the timing and nature of expenses; and
- general economic conditions.

Our expense levels are based, in part, on our expectations of future projects, orders and sales, and we may be unable to adjust spending in a timely manner to compensate for any sales shortfall. If sales are below expectations, operating results are likely to be materially adversely affected. Net income may be disproportionately affected by a reduction in sales because a significant portion of our expenses do not vary with revenues. We may also choose to reduce prices or increase spending in response to competition or to pursue new market opportunities. If new competitors, technological advances by existing competitors or other competitive factors require us to invest significantly greater resources in engineering and development efforts, spending could materially adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

Because our marketing strategy targets relatively large potential customers, we anticipate that a small number of large orders may comprise a significant portion of our future product sales and a small number of clients may comprise a larger portion of our billable services. None of our significant customers have entered into long-term supply or services agreements requiring them to purchase a minimum amount of our products or services. Historically, sales to a relatively small number of customers have accounted for a significant portion of our total revenues. We cannot assure that our principal customers will continue to purchase our products or services at current levels, if at all. Also, we cannot assure that we will be able to replace such purchases with sales to other customers. Any significant deferral of purchases of our products or services or the reduction, delay or cancellation of orders from one or more significant customers could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

WE MAY NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE FUTURE AND THESE FUNDS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE TO US OR SUCH FUNDS MAY AFFECT CURRENT RIGHTS.

If our sales plans are not achieved, if operating losses and negative cash flows exceed our estimates, or if capital requirements of the design, development, and commercialization of our principal products are higher than estimated, we will need to raise additional capital. Although we believe we could raise additional capital through public or private equity or debt financing, if necessary, we cannot assure that such financing will be available, or available on acceptable terms. Further, we could seek commercial banking facilities to provide working capital for our business segments; however, there can be no assurances that such facilities will be available. If we are unable to acquire such additional funds, we may be required to curtail certain operations

or sell assets.

Our Aegean product line of optical networking products will require strategic contributors having significantly greater capital resources and/or additional capital from outside investors in order to commence full scale development activities. Without such contributors or sufficient investment, the first stage of the development process cannot be initiated. Further, we do not expect to complete this stage or produce revenue for the foreseeable future.

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If we are successful in raising additional funds through the issuance of equity or debt securities, our common stockholders could be affected. The issuance of additional equity securities or convertible debt could dilute your percentage ownership in the Company. Furthermore, such securities issued may have rights, preferences and privileges senior to those of our common stock.

WE HAVE REFOCUSSED OUR BUSINESS STRATEGY, AND OUR NEW STRATEGY MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

Historically, our strategy and the bulk of our business focused on the development and marketing of our OmniLynx optical networking equipment. Our new focus is on expanding our DSP products and engineering design services businesses while seeking strategic contributors and investors to develop and expand our Aegean business. Therefore, we must rely upon our DSP and engineering design segments of the Company for the bulk of our revenue until Aegean has sufficient contributors or investors to produce its new line of optical networking equipment, should that ever occur. In such an event, we believe that a lag in the amount of time between Aegean's initiation of production and its profitability could be significant. If sufficient contributors or investors are not found, then the Company must continue to rely upon DSP products and engineering design services unless we refocus our business model.

It is too early to know whether the refocusing of our business strategy will help us achieve long-term success. Companies that implement major changes in their business strategy can face challenging risks and unexpected difficulties. If the assumptions underlying our new business model are not valid or if we are unable to implement our business plan, our business will suffer.

THE COMPANY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVE COMMERCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF ITS NEW PRODUCTS.

We intend to continue the development of additional products, such as the Aegean line of optical networking products, that are consistent with our new business strategy. The development of these products, from laboratory prototype to customer trials, and subsequently to general availability involves a number of steps, including:

- completion of product development;
- the qualification and multiple sourcing of critical components;
- validation of manufacturing methods and processes;
- extensive quality assurance and reliability testing, and staffing of testing infrastructure;
- validation of embedded software;
- establishment of systems integration and systems test validation requirements; and

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- identification and qualification of component suppliers.

Each of these steps in turn presents serious risks of failure, rework or delay, any one of which could decrease the speed and scope of product introduction and marketplace acceptance of the product. In addition, unexpected intellectual property disputes, failure of critical design elements, and a host of other execution risks may delay or even prevent the introduction of these products. If we do not develop and successfully introduce these products in a timely manner, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be harmed.

Additionally, the markets for the Company's new product lines may be undeveloped. The commercial acceptance of these types of products may be uncertain. We cannot assure you that the sales and marketing efforts for these products will be successful. If the markets for these products do not develop or the products are not accepted by the market, our business, financial condition and results of operations would suffer.

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OUR ABILITY TO GROW AND REMAIN COMPETITIVE DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO FORESEE AND RESPOND TO RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE WITH NEW PRODUCTS AND KEY PRODUCT ENHANCEMENTS.

Rapid technological change, evolving industry standards and frequent new product introductions and enhancements shape and can quickly change our current and planned product markets. New technologies or the emergence of new industry standards can render existing products or products under development obsolete or unmarketable. Our ability to grow and remain competitive depends, in large part, on our ability to anticipate changes in our product markets and to successfully develop and introduce new products on a timely basis. New product development often requires long-term forecasting of market trends, development and implementation of new technologies and processes, and a substantial capital commitment. Development and customer acceptance of new products and services is inherently uncertain, and we cannot assure that we will complete developments or contracts on a timely basis or that products will be commercially successful. We compete or will be competing with established companies with greater financial resources and more developed channels of distribution. Any failure to anticipate or respond in a cost-effective and timely basis to technological developments, changes in industry standards or customer requirements, or any significant delays in product development or introduction, could materially adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

PRODUCT PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS COULD LIMIT SALES PROSPECTS.

The production of new products and services with high technology content involves occasional problems as the technology and manufacturing methods mature. If significant reliability, quality or network monitoring problems develop, including those due to faulty components, a number of negative effects on our business could result, including:

- costs associated with reworking the manufacturing processes;
- high service and warranty expenses;
- high inventory obsolescence expense;
- high levels of product returns;
- delays in collecting accounts receivable;
- reduced orders from existing customers; and

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- declining interest from potential customers.

Although we maintain accruals for product warranties, actual costs could exceed these amounts. From time to time, there will be interruptions or delays in the activation of products at a customer's site. These interruptions or delays may result from product performance problems or from aspects of the installation and activation activities, some of which are outside our control. If the Company experiences significant interruptions or delays that cannot be promptly resolved, confidence in our products could be undermined, which could have a material adverse effect on operations.

COMPETITION FROM LARGER, BETTER ESTABLISHED ENTITIES IS INTENSE.

Competition in the engineering design services, DSP products business and the converging voice and data communications industry is intense, and we believe that competition will increase substantially with the development of multimedia communications products, rapid technological changes, industry consolidations, new industry entrants, and potential regulatory changes. Many of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories, significantly greater financial, technical and marketing resources, greater name recognition, and a larger installed customer base than we have. In addition, many of these competitors may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging

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technologies and changes in customer requirements, and to devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than we can. Our current or potential competitors may develop products and services comparable or superior to ours or adapt more quickly than we can to new technologies, evolving industry trends, or changing customer requirements. Increased competition as to any of our products or services could result in price reductions, reduced margins, and loss of our market share, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

THE COMPANY HAS A LIMITED CUSTOMER BASE.

We rely on a limited number of customers for a substantial portion of our revenues. If one or more significant customers are lost, or their need for our products and services were to decrease, our revenues and net income could decline.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES BUSINESS DEPENDS ON MANY FACTORS THAT ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

In order to be successful with our engineering design services, we must overcome several factors that are beyond our control. Among these is the fact that the receipt of future contract awards is uncertain. As the telecommunications industry has recently experienced extreme volatility, many companies, including those we provide services to, have decreased their demand for certain services and some have even laid off portions of their workforce. Depending upon external conditions, a client may either cancel a project, put it on hold or extend its schedule. Also, future economic conditions, price and availability of labor, equipment and materials, applicable law, or labor disruptions may impact the demand or supply of such services. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to predict whether and when TeraForce will receive a contract award. Additionally, such contract awards generally represent large amounts of revenue and the loss of individual awards could seriously hurt our revenue and operating results.

The cost of engineering design service personnel is high which reduces our



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gross margin. Gross margin represents the difference between the amount of revenue from the sales of these services and our cost of providing them. We must pay high salaries to professional services personnel to attract and retain them. This results in a lower gross margin than the gross margin of our DSP products.

The uncertainty of contract award timing can present difficulties in matching our workforce size with contract needs. In some cases, we maintain and bear the cost of a ready workforce that is larger than called for under existing contracts in anticipation of future workforce needs under expected contract awards. If an expected contract award is delayed or not received, we would incur costs that could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

WE DEPEND ON KEY MEMBERS OF OUR MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING STAFF, AND WE MUST RETAIN AND RECRUIT QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO BE COMPETITIVE.

Our success depends in large part on the continued service of key creative, technical, marketing, sales and management personnel and our ability to attract, motivate and retain highly qualified employees. Because of the multifaceted nature of interactive media, key personnel often require a unique combination of creative and technical talents. Such personnel are in short supply, and the competition for their services is intense. Recruitment of such personnel can be a lengthy process. We have at-will employment arrangements with management and other personnel, meaning they may terminate their employment at any time. The loss of key personnel or failure to attract additional qualified employees could materially adversely affect our business, the results of operations and new product development efforts.

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WE MAY BE UNABLE TO SECURE NECESSARY COMPONENTS AND SUPPORT BECAUSE WE DEPEND UPON A LIMITED NUMBER OF THIRD-PARTY MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.

Certain components used in our products are only available from a single source or a limited number of vendors. Some of the sole source and limited source vendors are companies who, from time to time, allocate parts to telecommunications and computing equipment manufacturers due to market demand for components and equipment. Especially in recent times in a worldwide telecommunications market expansion, many component suppliers have placed critical components on worldwide allocation. Many of our competitors are much larger and may be able to obtain priority allocations from these shared vendors, thereby limiting or making unreliable our sources of supply for these components. If we are unable to obtain sufficient supply from alternative sources, reduced supplies and higher prices of components will significantly limit our ability to meet scheduled product deliveries to our customers, which would seriously harm our business and results of operations.

WE RELY ON PATENTS AND OTHER PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. THE LOSS OF, OR A DISPUTE REGARDING, PROPRIETARY INFORMATION OR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to maintain trade secret protection, obtain patents and operate without infringing the proprietary rights of third parties or having third parties circumvent our intellectual property rights. While we have applied in certain cases for patent protection for our intellectual property rights, these patent applications may be denied. We cannot assure that the patents we have obtained or applied for will provide us with any competitive advantages or will not be challenged by any third parties. Third parties may be able to circumvent our patents and potentially independently develop similar products, duplicate our products, or design around our patented products.

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We have received notice that we may be infringing on certain intellectual property rights of others and have asked legal counsel to evaluate these claims. We may have to obtain licenses from third parties to avoid infringing patents or other proprietary rights and cannot assure that any licenses required under any such patents or proprietary rights would be made available, if at all, on acceptable terms. Failure to obtain these licenses could delay product introductions, or prohibit our development, manufacture or sale of products requiring such licenses. In addition, we could incur substantial costs in defending or prosecuting lawsuits to protect our patents or other proprietary rights. Intellectual property plaintiffs could obtain injunctive or other equitable relief which could effectively block our ability to sell our products in the United States and abroad, and could obtain an award of substantial damages. Either result could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

Much of our know-how and technology may not be patentable. To protect our rights, we require many employees, consultants, advisors and collaborators to enter into confidentiality agreements. We cannot assure that these agreements will provide meaningful protection of our trade secrets, know-how or other proprietary information in the event of any unauthorized use or disclosure. Furthermore, independent development by competitors of competing technologies could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, especially if we do not obtain patent protection or if our patent protection is narrowly defined.

### NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS AFFECT OUR BUSINESS AND OUR PRODUCTS.

While most of our operations are not directly regulated, some of our customers are telecommunications service providers who are heavily regulated at both the federal and state levels. Such regulation may limit the number of potential customers for our services or impede our ability to offer competitive services to the market, or otherwise materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition. At the same time, recent deregulation of the telecommunications

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industry may facilitate the entrance of new competitors or industry consolidation. This could subject us to additional competitors, increased pricing pressures, decreased demand for our products or services, increased cost of doing business or other factors that could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

### WE MAY BE SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.

In connection with the sale of former operations in November 1995, our subsidiary Intellect Communications Systems Limited agreed to indemnify Savage Sports Corporation ("Savage Sports"), the purchaser of Savage Arms, Inc. (a manufacturer of fire arms) for potential losses associated with product liability, environmental matters, employee matters and other similar items. Certain of these indemnity obligations survive indefinitely. A finding of liability against Intellect Communications Systems Limited could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition. Furthermore, we could incur substantial costs (including the diversion of the attention of management) in defending lawsuits relating to these indemnity obligations.

One of the liabilities assumed in the 1995 sale involves a firearms product liability lawsuit which one defendant, Western Auto Supply Co., settled for \$5 million and, in turn, has asserted a third-party claim against Savage Arms, Inc. for indemnification in the amount of the settlement plus attorneys' fees and related costs (the "Taylor litigation"). Savage Arms has asserted defenses

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to the claims and we believe additional defenses may be available. Based on the information available to date, it is impossible to predict the outcome of this litigation or to assess the probability of any verdict. An adverse outcome in the Taylor litigation would materially adversely affect our financial condition and the results of operation.

In June 2000 Savage Sports filed suit against the Company in Superior Court in Hampton County, Massachusetts seeking reimbursement from the Company of various amounts related to a settlement of various product liability claims between Savage Arms, Inc. and Emhart Industries, Inc. In January 2001 the Company and Savage Sports entered into a settlement agreement disposing of this litigation. Pursuant to the agreement the Company agreed to pay Savage Sports approximately \$1.1 million over two years, including approximately \$600,000 upon the signing of the agreement. The Company also agreed to contribute towards the annual cost of product liability insurance which covers any future claims and agreed to indemnify Savage Arms from any claims and losses relating to the Taylor litigation and similar suits to the extent not covered by the available insurance coverage.

A shareholders class action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas purported to have been filed on behalf of all persons and entities who purchased common stock during the period between February 24, 1998 and November 17, 1998. The named defendants include Intellect Network Technologies Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, and certain former and present officers and directors of the Company. The complaint alleges that the defendants violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by making false and misleading statements concerning reported financial results during the period, primarily relating to revenue recognition, asset impairment and capitalization issues. The plaintiffs seek monetary damages, interest, costs and expenses. The Company intends to defend the suit vigorously in all aspects.

OUR CHARTER, BY-LAWS AND THE DELAWARE CORPORATE LAWS DISCOURAGE, DELAY OR PREVENT A CHANGE IN CONTROL OF THE COMPANY.

Certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation, By-laws and Delaware law could discourage potential acquisition proposals, delay or prevent a change in control of the Company and limit the

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price that certain investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of common stock. These provisions include:

- a classified Board of Directors;
- provisions that the Board of Directors have exclusive authority to amend or change the By-laws;
- the ability of the Board of Directors to authorize the issuance, without further stockholder approval, of preferred stock with rights and privileges which could be senior to the common stock;
- eliminating the stockholders' ability to take action without a meeting;
- eliminating the ability of stockholders to call special meetings without the required consent of the Board of Directors; and
- establishment of certain advance notice procedures for nomination of candidates for election as directors and for stockholder proposals to be considered at stockholders' meetings.

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We are also subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Laws which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any of a broad range of business combinations with any "interested stockholder" for a period of three years following the date that such stockholder became an "interested stockholder."

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed on Form S-3 a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to the shares of common stock offered in this offering. This Prospectus, which is a part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, or the exhibits which are part of the registration statement, parts of which are omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us and about the shares to be sold in this offering, please refer to the registration statement and the exhibits which are part of the registration statement. Statements contained in this Prospectus as to the contents of any contract or any other document are not necessarily complete. Each statement in this Prospectus regarding the contents of the referenced contract or other document is qualified in all respects by our reference to the copy filed with the registration statement.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the public reference facilities of the SEC in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Illinois and New York, New York. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. TeraForce common stock is traded on the Nasdaq SmallCap Market under the symbol "TERA."

### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we have filed with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this Prospectus and any later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any additional documents we file with the SEC until this offering of common stock is terminated. This Prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC. The documents that we incorporate by reference are:

- (1) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, filed on April 2, 2001.

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- (2) Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on January 2, 2001.
- (3) Our Form 8-Ks filed on January 5, February 1, March 5, and April 10, 2001.
- (4) The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-4 declared effective on October 30, 1997 (File No. 333-39063) and our Form 8-K filed on December 5, 1997.
- (5) All documents we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Prospectus and before the termination of the offering of the common stock registered under this registration statement.

To the extent that prior filings listed in numbers (1) - (4) above conflict

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with this Prospectus, those prior filings are modified by this Prospectus and included herein only as modified. To the extent that statements in this Prospectus or in the prior filings listed in numbers (1) - (4) above conflict with statements in future filings referenced in number (5) above, this Prospectus and the prior filings are modified by the future filings listed in number (5) above.

For information on the consolidated financial statements see "Experts" in this Prospectus.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

ROBERT P. CAPPS  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
TERAFORCE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION  
1240 EAST CAMPBELL ROAD  
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75081  
(469) 330-4960

### USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common stock offered in this Prospectus.

### SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

All of the shares offered by this Prospectus are being offered by the Selling Stockholders for their own respective accounts. In each case, the issuance of TeraForce common stock to each of the Selling Stockholders was undertaken pursuant to exemptions from registration under the Securities Act.

Except as otherwise indicated, the table below sets forth the number of shares of TeraForce common stock beneficially owned by each of the Selling Stockholders as of April 10, 2001, the number of shares of common stock to be offered by each Selling Stockholder under this Prospectus, and the number of shares of common stock to be beneficially owned by each Selling Stockholder if all of the shares of common stock offered hereby are sold as described herein.

NAME OF SELLING STOCKHOLDER	NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY OWNED AS OF APRIL 10, 2000 (1)	NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OFFERED HEREBY	NUMBER OF OF COMMON BENEFIC OWNED A OFFERIN
St. James Capital Partners, L.P.....	2,142,619 (2)	3,478,610 (4)	
SJMB, L.P.....	9,757,381 (3)	16,021,390 (4)	
The Coastal Corporation Second Pension Trust.....	15,219,243	15,219,243 (5)	

NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY	NUMBER OF SHARES	NUMBER OF OF COMMON BENEFIC
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NAME OF SELLING STOCKHOLDER	OWNED AS OF APRIL 10, 2000(1)	OF COMMON STOCK OFFERED HEREBY	OWNED A OFFERIN
2000 PRIVATE PLACEMENT STOCKHOLDERS(6)			
Allan Peterson.....	15,000	15,000	
Anne K. Dahlson.....	10,000	10,000	
Balkir Zihnali.....	10,000	10,000	
Bank Morgan Stanley AG.....	200,000	200,000	
Bret Clum.....	10,000	10,000	
Bruce R. McMaken.....	7,000	7,000	
Bryan King & Mason King Livestock Partnership.....	5,000	5,000	
Charles C. Taylor.....	5,000	5,000	
David D. May.....	10,000	10,000	
Diane Goodwin.....	12,000	12,000	
Doug Launius.....	20,000	20,000	
Duck Partners, L.P.....	40,000	40,000	
Emily Harris Todd & Christopher Neal Todd.....	30,000	30,000	
EOS Partners (Offshore), L.P.....	3,000	3,000	
EOS Partners SBIC II, L.P.....	219,000	219,000	
EOS Partners, L.P.....	18,000	18,000	
Erench R. Ozada.....	200,000	200,000	
Eric Erdinch Ozada.....	20,000	20,000	
Eugene McCarron.....	5,000	5,000	
Eurasian Capital Partners Fund, L.P.....	40,000	40,000	
Europa International, Inc.....	20,000	20,000	
Forest Convertible Fund, L.P.....	5,750	5,750	
Forest Performance Fund.....	12,500	12,500	
Geronimo Partners, L.P.....	150,000	150,000	
Graham Partners, L.P.....	20,000	20,000	
Gryphon Partners, L.P.....	250,000	250,000	
John N. Giannukos.....	20,000	20,000	
John S. Lemak.....	10,000	10,000	
Joyce E. Heinzerling.....	5,000	5,000	
Kenneth E. Higgins, Jr.....	4,000	4,000	
Kingdon Partners.....	60,000	60,000	
Lighthouse Invest. Fund, L.P.....	112,000	112,000	
Lighthouse Partners USA L.P.....	290,000	290,000	
LKCM Investment Partnership.....	85,000	85,000	
Mark & Cynthia Gulis.....	15,000	15,000	
Mary Kathryn Norman.....	15,000	15,000	
Michael J. Gaido.....	30,000	30,000	
HBK Master Fund, Ltd.....	95,000	95,000	
Nelson McCarter.....	12,000	12,000	
Paula L. Santoski.....	30,000	30,000	
Pharos Fund Limited.....	754,000	754,000	
Richard A. Englander.....	20,000	20,000	
Ridgecrest Partners QP, Ltd.....	55,000	55,000	
Ridgecrest Partners, L.P.....	50,000	50,000	
Ridgecrest Partners, Ltd.....	15,000	15,000	
Robert Garrison.....	60,000	60,000	

NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY	NUMBER OF SHARES	NUMBER OF OF COMMON BENEFIC
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NAME OF SELLING STOCKHOLDER	OWNED AS OF APRIL 10, 2000 (1)	OF COMMON STOCK OFFERED HEREBY	OWNED A OFFERIN
Robert L. Swisher, Jr.....	15,000	15,000	
Sanford Prater.....	10,000	10,000	
Stuart Kensinger.....	2,000	2,000	
Thomas O. Meadows.....	5,000	5,000	
Valor Capital Management L.P.....	20,000	20,000	
Warren W. Garden.....	5,000	5,000	
Zurich HFR Master Hedge Fund, Ltd.....	1,750	1,750	
Jesse B. Shelmire.....	195,570	195,570 (7)	
Scott R. Griffith.....	195,570	195,570 (7)	
Griffith Shelmire Partners.....	69,026	69,026 (7)	
Lancaster Investment Partners, L.P.....	50,000	50,000	
OTHER SELLING STOCKHOLDERS			
Wingate Capital.....	103,000	103,000 (8)	
Fisher Capital.....	189,200	189,200 (8)	
CCG Investment Fund.....	3,900	3,900 (8)	
CCG Capital.....	3,900	3,900 (8)	
Grayson & Associates.....	70,063	70,063 (8)	
Oscar S. Wyatt, Jr.....	560,394	500,000 (9)	60
Morton A. Cohn.....	200,000	200,000 (10)	
Don A. Sanders.....	75,000	75,000 (11)	
Susan Sanders Keller.....	11,250	11,250 (11)	
Bret D. Sanders.....	11,250	11,250 (11)	
Brad D. Sanders.....	11,250	11,250 (11)	
Laura K. Sanders.....	11,250	11,250 (11)	
George Ball.....	15,000	15,000 (11)	
Christine M. Sanders.....	30,000	30,000 (11)	
Donald V. Weir.....	30,000	30,000 (11)	
Katherine U. Sanders.....	60,000	60,000 (11)	
Lakefront Partners, Ltd.....	60,000	60,000 (11)	
Steve Scott.....	75,000	75,000 (11)	
Fayez Sarofim.....	150,000	150,000 (11)	
AJC, Inc.....	450,000	450,000 (12)	
Robert Marvin.....	100,000	100,000	
Louis Falleta.....	171,000	171,000	
Crown Texas Realty Inc. Profit Sharing Plan...	100,000	100,000	
Bonnie Ligon Dickens.....	300,000	300,000	
Tim W. Lowell.....	10,000	10,000	
Fred Roesch & Melissa Roesch.....	50,000	50,000	
Richard E. Bean.....	263,158	263,158	

(1) Beneficial ownership is determined under SEC rules and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities and includes any securities the person has the right to acquire within 60 days of April 10, 2001 through the conversion or exercise of any security or other right.

(2) Does not include shares beneficially owned by SJMB, L.P. Does not include warrants to purchase 1,335,991 shares of common stock at \$0.75 per share, which vest October 15, 2001. Includes shares beneficially owned by Falcon Seaboard Investment Co. L.P.

(3) Does not include shares beneficially owned by St. James Capital Partners, L.P. Does not include warrants to purchase 6,264,009 shares of common stock

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at \$0.75 per share, which vest October 15, 2001.

- (4) Pursuant to an Agreement for Purchase and Sale between the Company and SJCP, L.P. ("SJCP") dated February 12, 1998, as partially assigned to SJMB, L.P. ("SJMB") as of April 2, 1998 (the "Credit Agreement"), each of SJCP and SJMB loaned money to the Company. In return for this loan, the Company issued a warrant to SJCP for the purchase of 300,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$7.50 per share and issued to SJMB a warrant for the purchase of 1,200,000 shares of common stock at \$7.50 per share. Pursuant to the Credit Agreement, in connection with an extension of the maturity date of the loan, in January 1999 the Company issued warrants to SJCP and SJMB for the purchase of 110,000 shares and 425,000 shares of common stock, respectively. On August 27, 1999, the Company registered the resale of shares from the exercise of the warrants as well as additional numbers of shares resulting from the application of anti-dilution provisions in the warrants. On November 30, 2000, the Company entered into a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release with SJCP, SJMB, and other related parties (the "Settlement Agreement") in connection with the application of anti-dilution provisions in the existing warrants. In connection with the Settlement Agreement, SJCP and SJMB surrendered their existing warrants held by SJCP and SJMB in exchange for replacement warrants issued by the Company to purchase its common stock at an exercise price of \$0.75 per share as follows: (a) to SJCP (i) 860,500 shares expiring on June 30, 2002, (ii) 2,119 shares expiring on June 30, 2002, (iii) 1,280,000 shares exercisable beginning on April 15, 2001 and expiring on September 30, 2002, and (iv) 1,335,991 shares exercisable no earlier than October 15, 2001 and expiring on September 30, 2002; and (b) to SJMB (i) 3,427,001 shares expiring on June 30, 2002, (ii) 10,380 shares expiring on June 30, 2002, (iii) 6,320,000 shares exercisable beginning on April 15, 2001 and expiring on September 30, 2002, and (iv) 6,264,009 shares exercisable no earlier than October 15, 2001 and expiring on September 30, 2002. The resale of all the shares covered by this Prospectus for SJCP and SJMB is hereby registered pursuant to registration rights provisions in the Settlement Agreement.
- (5) The Coastal Corporation Second Pension Trust ("Coastal") currently holds 8,701,935 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase an additional 6,517,308 shares of common stock. Of its common stock holdings, 5,000,000 shares are attributable to a December 1999 private placement transaction (as more fully described below), 2,777,778 shares are attributable to an August 13, 1999 exchange of convertible debt to common stock, and 924,157 shares were paid as Series A Preferred Stock dividends. In the December 1999 private placement the Company issued to Coastal 5,000,000 shares of common stock and warrants for the purchase of 5,000,000 shares of common stock. These warrants have an exercise price of \$0.75 per share and expire December 16, 2002. Further, the Company reset the exercise price of two existing warrants for the purchase of 450,000 shares and 1,067,308 shares, having expiration dates of August 26, 2002 and August 12, 2004, respectively, to \$0.75 per share. The resale of all the shares covered by this Prospectus for Coastal is hereby registered pursuant to registration rights provisions contained in various registration rights agreements between the Company and Coastal.
- (6) In January and March 2000 the Company issued in two separate private placement transactions common stock to certain accredited investors. Stonegate Securities, Inc. ("Stonegate") served as placement agent for the transactions. In the January 2000 transaction, the Company also issued currently exercisable warrants to purchase common stock. The shares offered by the 2000 Private Placement Stockholders include common stock and shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants.
- (7) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable warrants



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issued to certain affiliates of Stonegate in connection with the services by Stonegate as placement agent in the March 2000 private placement by the Company.

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- (8) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable warrants. Each of Wingate Capital, Fisher Capital, NP Partners, Olympus Securities, Ltd., CCG Investment Fund and CCG Capital are entities managed and controlled by Citadel Investment Group, L.L.C. or its affiliates (collectively "Citadel"). The warrants were originally issued to the Citadel group in connection with a private placement of the Company's Series E Preferred Stock issued effective March 5, 1999. In April 2001, each of NP Partners and Olympus Securities, Ltd. transferred the warrants held by them to Wingate Capital and Fisher Capital, respectively.
- (9) Includes currently exercisable warrants to purchase 50,000 shares at \$2.00 per share expiring on May 8, 2002, 300,000 shares at \$1.50 per share expiring on March 8, 2002, and 150,000 shares at \$2.998 per share expiring on December 31, 2003.
- (10) Includes 50,000 shares of common stock. Also includes currently exercisable warrants to purchase 150,000 shares at \$2.998 per share expiring on December 31, 2003 issued in connection with a private placement by the Company in December 1998.
- (11) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable warrants to purchase common stock at \$2.998 per share expiring on December 31, 2003, issued in connection with private placement transactions of common stock in December 1998 and January 1999.
- (12) Represents shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable warrants to purchase 300,000 shares at \$2.00 per share expiring on December 31, 2002 and 150,000 shares at \$2.00 per share expiring on March 31, 2004, all of which were issued pursuant to an Advisory Service Agreement between AJC, Inc. and the Company.

Since the date on which the Selling Stockholders provided the information regarding their holdings of common stock, the Selling Stockholders may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of all or a portion of their common stock in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Additional information concerning the listed Selling Stockholders may be set forth from time to time in Prospectus supplements to this Prospectus. See "Plan of Distribution."

### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The common stock is offered on behalf of the Selling Stockholders. The common stock may be sold or distributed from time to time by the Selling Stockholders, or by donees or transferees of, or other successors in interest to, the Selling Stockholders, directly to one or more purchasers or through brokers, dealers or underwriters who may act solely as agents or may acquire common stock as principals, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices, at negotiated prices, or at fixed prices, which may be changed. The sale of TeraForce common stock may occur in one or more of the following methods:

- (i) ordinary brokers' transactions;
- (ii) transactions involving cross or block trades or otherwise on the Nasdaq National Market, Nasdaq SmallCap Market or if applicable, the OTC Bulletin Board;

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- (iii) purchases by brokers, dealers or underwriters as principal and resale by such purchasers for their own accounts pursuant to this Prospectus;
- (iv) "at the market" to or through market makers or into an existing market for the common stock;
- (v) in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers or sales effected through agents;
- (vi) through transactions in options, swaps or other derivatives (whether exchange-listed or otherwise);
- (vii) in privately negotiated transactions; or

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- (viii) any combination of the foregoing.

From time to time, one or more of the Selling Stockholders may pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in some or all of their shares, and the pledges, secured parties or persons to whom such securities have been hypothecated shall, upon foreclosure in the event of default, be deemed to be Selling Stockholders hereunder.

From time to time one or more of the Selling Stockholders may transfer, pledge, donate or assign such Selling Stockholders' shares to lenders or others and each of such persons will be deemed to be a Selling Stockholder for purposes of this Prospectus. The number of Selling Stockholders' shares beneficially owned by those Selling Stockholders who so transfer, pledge, donate or assign Selling Stockholders' shares will decrease as and when they take such actions. The plan of distribution for Selling Stockholders' shares sold hereunder will otherwise remain unchanged, except that the transferees, pledges, donees or other successors will be Selling Stockholders hereunder.

Brokers, dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the common stock as agents may receive compensation in the form of commissions, discounts or concessions from the Selling Stockholders and/or purchasers of the common stock for whom such broker-dealers may act as agent, or to whom they may sell as principal, or both (which compensation as to a particular broker-dealer may be less than or in excess of customary commissions). The Selling Stockholders and any broker-dealers who act in connection with the sale of common stock covered by this Prospectus may be deemed to be "Underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any commissions they receive and proceeds of any sale of common stock may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Neither TeraForce nor any Selling Stockholders can presently estimate the amount of such compensation. We know of no existing arrangements between any Selling Stockholders, any other stockholder, broker, dealer, underwriter or agent relating to the sale or distribution of the common stock.

We will pay substantially all of the expenses incident to the registration, offering and sale of the common stock to the public other than commissions or discounts of underwriters, broker-dealers or agents. We have also agreed to indemnify certain of the Selling Stockholders and certain related persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of TeraForce, TeraForce has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore,

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unenforceable.

We have advised the Selling Stockholders that during such time as they may be engaged in a distribution of the common stock included herein they are required to comply with Regulation M promulgated under the Exchange Act. With certain exceptions, Regulation M precludes any Selling Stockholder, any affiliated purchasers, and any broker-dealer or other person who participates in such distribution from bidding for or purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of the distribution until the entire distribution is complete. Regulation M also prohibits any bids or purchases made in order to stabilize the price of a security in connection with the distribution of that security. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the common stock.

Because it is possible that a significant number of shares of the common stock could be sold at the same time hereunder, such sales, or the possibility thereof, may have a significant depressive effect on the market price of TeraForce common stock.

This offering will terminate on the earlier of (a) the date on which the shares are eligible for resale without restriction pursuant to Rule 144(k) under the Securities Act or (b) the date on which all shares offered hereby have been sold by the Selling Stockholders.

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### LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders hereby will be passed upon by Bisk & Fitch, L.L.P., Houston, Texas.

### EXPERTS

The financial statements of the Company as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000, incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and elsewhere in the Registration Statement have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP independent certified public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included herein in reference upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said reports.

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### PROSPECTUS

NO DEALER, SALES REPRESENTATIVE OR ANY OTHER PERSON HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS OFFERING OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS, AND, IF GIVEN OR MADE, SUCH INFORMATION OR REPRESENTATIONS MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY TERAFORCE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION (THE "COMPANY") OR ANY OTHER PERSON. THIS PROSPECTUS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY ANY SECURITIES OTHER THAN THE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK TO WHICH IT RELATES OR AN OFFER TO, OR A SOLICITATION OF, ANY PERSON IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE SUCH AN OFFER OR SOLICITATION WOULD BE UNLAWFUL. NEITHER THE DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS NOR ANY SALE MADE HEREUNDER SHALL, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CREATE ANY IMPLICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY OR THAT INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS CORRECT AS OF ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

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