

BEMIS CO INC
Form S-3ASR
September 02, 2016

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2016

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BEMIS COMPANY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Missouri

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

43-0178130

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**One Neenah Center, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 669
Neenah, Wisconsin 54957-0669
(920) 527-5000**

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

with a copy to:

**Sheri H. Edison
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Bemis Company, Inc.**

**One Neenah Center, 4th Floor
Neenah, Wisconsin 54957-0669
(920) 727-4100**

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

**Benjamin F. Garmer
Benjamin F. Ridders
Foley & Lardner LLP
777 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5306
(414) 271-2400**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:
From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, 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.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of each class of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered/ Proposed maximum offering price per unit/ Proposed maximum offering price(1) | Amount of registration fee(1) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Debt Securities | | |
| Common Stock, \$0.10 par value per share | | |
| Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share | | |
| Depositary Shares | | |
| Warrants | | |
| Stock Purchase Contracts | | |
| Stock Purchase Units(2) | | |

(1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee. This registration statement also covers delayed delivery contracts that may be issued by Bemis Company, Inc. under which the party purchasing such contracts may be required to purchase debt securities, common stock or preferred stock. Such contracts may be issued together with the specific securities to which they relate. In addition, securities registered hereunder may be sold either separately or as units comprised of more than one type of security registered hereunder.

(2)

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Each stock purchase unit consists of (a) a stock purchase contract under which the holder, upon settlement, will purchase or sell an indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares and (b) common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, other stock purchase contracts or debt obligations of third parties securing the holder's obligation to purchase or sell the securities subject to the stock purchase contract. No separate consideration will be received for the stock purchase contract or the related pledged securities.

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PROSPECTUS

Bemis Company, Inc.

Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Debt Securities, Warrants, Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units

We may offer and sell from time to time securities in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

We may offer and sell the following securities:

common stock;

preferred stock, which may be convertible into our common stock;

depositary shares;

senior or subordinated debt securities, which may be convertible into our common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares;

warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or debt securities; and

stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units.

Each time securities are sold using this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus and possibly other offering material containing specific information about the offering and the terms of the securities being sold, including the offering price. The supplement or other offering material may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any supplement and any other offering material applicable to the specific issue of securities carefully before you invest.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to investors, on a continued or a delayed basis. Each applicable prospectus supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material will provide the specific terms of the plan of distribution.

In addition, selling shareholders to be named in a prospectus supplement may offer and sell from time to time shares of our common stock in such amounts as set forth in such prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise set forth in such prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by any selling shareholders.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BMS."

See "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus supplement or in such other document we refer you to in the accompanying prospectus supplement for a discussion of certain risks that prospective investors should consider before investing in our securities.

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

This prospectus is dated September 2, 2016.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "we," "us," "our," the "Company" and "Bemis" refer to Bemis Company, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, collectively. References to the "common stock" refer to Bemis' common stock, par value \$0.10 per share. References to the "preferred stock" refer to Bemis' preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, utilizing a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell the securities or combinations of the securities described in this prospectus, and one or more of our shareholders may sell our common stock, in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of those securities. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and/or other offering material that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. "Incorporated by reference" means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making offers to sell nor soliciting offers to buy, nor will we make an offer to sell nor solicit an offer to buy, securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus, as well as the information we file or previously filed with the SEC that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, is accurate only as of the dates on their covers. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

CAUTIONARY NOTE FOR FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Certain statements in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, other than purely historical information, including without limitation estimates, projections, outlook, targets, guidance, goals, statements relating to our business plans, strategy, objectives, expected operating results and future financial position, and the assumptions upon which those statements are based, are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements generally are identified by the words "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "believe," "should," "forecast," "project," or "plan" or terms of similar meaning are also generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. We caution that these statements are subject to numerous important risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, which could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. A detailed discussion of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and events to differ materially from such forward-looking statements will be included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and other documents that we file from time to time with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and also may be described in any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. Numerous important factors described in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other

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offering material, could affect these statements and could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations. Unless otherwise specified, the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material are only made as of the date of such document, and unless otherwise specified, we assume no obligation, and disclaim any obligation, to update forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of such document.

BEMIS COMPANY, INC.

Bemis is a global manufacturer of packaging products. The majority of our products are sold to customers in the food industry. Other customers include companies in the following types of businesses: chemical, agribusiness, medical, pharmaceutical, personal care, electronics, construction and other consumer goods. Our business activities are organized around our two reportable business segments, U.S. Packaging (67 percent of 2015 net sales) and Global Packaging (33 percent of 2015 net sales).

U.S. Packaging

The U.S. Packaging segment represents all food, consumer, and industrial products packaging-related manufacturing operations located in the United States. This segment manufactures multilayer polymer, blown and cast film structures to produce packaging sold for food and personal care product applications as well as non-food applications. Markets for these products include processed and fresh meat, dairy, liquids, frozen foods, cereals, snacks, cheese, coffee, condiments, candy, pet food, bakery, lawn and garden, tissue, fresh produce, personal care and hygiene, disposable diapers and agribusiness.

Global Packaging

The Global Packaging segment includes all packaging-related manufacturing operations located outside of the United States as well as global medical device and pharmaceutical packaging-related manufacturing operations. This segment manufactures multilayer polymer, blown and cast film structures to produce packaging sold for a variety of food, medical, pharmaceutical, personal care, electronics and industrial applications. Additional products include injection molded plastic and folding carton packaging. Markets for these products include processed and fresh meat, dairy, liquids, snacks, cheese, coffee, condiments, candy, bakery, tissue, fresh produce, personal care and hygiene, disposable diapers, agribusiness, pharmaceutical and medical devices.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Neenah Center, 4th Floor, Neenah, Wisconsin 54957, and our telephone number is 920-527-5000.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table shows our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods presented:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | | Six Months Ended |
|--|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | June 30, 2016 |
| | 4.2x | 4.2x | 4.9x | 6.5x | 7.4x | 6.0x |

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For the purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes and income or loss from equity investees, losses recognized in pre-tax income for less than 50% owned persons, distributed income of equity investees and capitalized interest amortization, plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expensed and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness and an estimate of interest within rental expense. Interest inherent in rent expense is an amount representative of the interest factor in rentals (for this purpose, the interest factor is assumed to be one-third of rental expense). Interest associated with uncertain tax liabilities has been excluded from fixed charges as the benefits (generally reflecting statute of limitations lapses) would reduce fixed charges.

We did not have any preferred stock outstanding and we did not pay or accrue any preferred stock dividends during the periods presented above.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

We are authorized to issue up to 502,000,000 shares of capital stock, 500,000,000 of which are shares of common stock, par value \$0.10 per share, and 2,000,000 of which are shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of July 27, 2016, there were 94,710,925 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding. Shares of our common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BMS."

The following description of our capital stock summarizes general terms and provisions that apply to our capital stock. Since this is only a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. The summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our restated articles of incorporation and our by-laws, as amended, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Common Stock

All of the outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the rights of the holders of shares of preferred stock that may be issued and outstanding, none of which are currently outstanding, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive:

dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends; and

in the event of dissolution of Bemis, to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and satisfaction of the liquidation preferences, if any, of then outstanding shares of preferred stock, as provided in our restated articles of incorporation.

Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters presented to a vote at a shareholders meeting, including the election of directors. Holders of common stock have no cumulative voting rights or preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any additional shares of common stock or other securities and there are no conversion rights or redemption or sinking fund provisions with respect to the common stock. Additional authorized shares of common stock may be issued without shareholder approval. Bemis common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "BMS." The transfer agent for the common stock is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services. Its address is 1110 Centre Pointe Curve Suite 101, Mendota Heights, MN 55120.

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Preferred Stock

General

We may issue preferred stock in one or more series. We may also "reopen" a previously issued series of preferred stock and issue additional preferred stock of that series. In addition, we may issue preferred stock together with other preferred stock, debt securities and common stock in the form of units as described below under "Description of the Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units." This section summarizes terms of the preferred stock that apply generally to all series. The description of most of the financial and other specific terms of a series will be in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. Those terms may vary from the terms described here.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the preferred stock and any related depositary shares. As you read this section, please remember that the specific terms of a series of preferred stock and any related depositary shares as described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material will supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If there are differences between the applicable prospectus supplement and this prospectus, the prospectus supplement will control. Thus, the statements we make in this section may not apply to a series of preferred stock or any related depositary shares.

Reference to a series of preferred stock means all of the shares of preferred stock issued as part of the same series under a certificate of designation, preferences and rights forming part of our restated articles of incorporation. Reference to the applicable prospectus supplement means the prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the preferred stock and any related depositary shares. The terms used in the applicable prospectus supplement will have the meanings described in this prospectus, unless otherwise specified.

Our authorized capital stock includes 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The preferred stock will be governed by Missouri law. We do not have any preferred stock outstanding as of the date of this prospectus. The prospectus supplement with respect to any offered preferred stock will describe any preferred stock that may be outstanding as of the date of the prospectus supplement.

Preferred Stock Issued in Separate Series

The authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock are available for issuance from time to time at the discretion of our board of directors without the need for shareholder approval. Our board of directors is authorized to divide the preferred stock into series and, with respect to each series, to determine the designations, the powers, preferences and rights and the qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series, including:

dividend rights;

conversion or exchange rights;

voting rights;

redemption rights and terms;

liquidation preferences;

sinking fund provisions;

the serial designation of the series; and

the number of shares constituting the series.

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In addition, as described below under "Description of Depositary Shares," we may, at our option, instead of offering whole individual shares of any series of preferred stock, offer fractional shares of such series. In connection with the offering of fractional shares, we may offer depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts, each representing a fraction of a share or some multiple of shares of the particular series of preferred stock issued and deposited with a depositary. The fraction of a share or multiple of shares of preferred stock which each depositary share represents will be stated in the prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock offered through depositary shares.

The rights of holders of preferred stock may be adversely affected by the rights of holders of preferred stock that may be issued in the future. Our board of directors may cause shares of preferred stock to be issued in public or private transactions for any proper corporate purpose. Examples of proper corporate purposes include issuances to obtain additional financing for acquisitions and issuances to officers, directors and employees under their respective benefit plans. Our issuance of shares of preferred stock may have the effect of discouraging or making more difficult an acquisition.

Preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable when issued, which means that our holders will have paid their purchase price in full and that we may not ask them to surrender additional funds. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, holders of preferred stock will not have preemptive or subscription rights to acquire more stock of Bemis.

The transfer agent, registrar, dividend disbursing agent and redemption agent for shares of each series of preferred stock will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to that series.

Rank

Shares of each series of preferred stock will rank senior to our common stock with respect to dividends and distributions of assets. However, we will generally be able to pay dividends and distributions of assets to holders of our preferred stock only if we have satisfied our obligations on our indebtedness then due and payable.

Dividends

Holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive cash dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors, from funds legally available for the payment of dividends. The rates and dates of payment of dividends for each series of preferred stock will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. Dividends will be payable to holders of record of preferred stock as they appear on our books on the record dates fixed by our board of directors. Dividends on any series of preferred stock will be cumulative, as set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Redemption

If specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, a series of preferred stock may be redeemable at any time, in whole or in part, at our option or the holder's, and may be redeemed mandatorily.

Any restriction on the repurchase or redemption by us of our preferred stock while there is an arrearage in the payment of dividends will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

Any partial redemptions of preferred stock will be made in a way that our board of directors decides is equitable.

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Unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, dividends will cease to accrue after the redemption date on shares of preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of holders of these shares, including voting rights, will terminate except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to any series of preferred stock that is convertible, exercisable or exchangeable will state the terms on which shares of that series are convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of common stock, another series of preferred stock or other securities or debt or equity securities of third parties.

Liquidation Preference

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Bemis, holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive distributions upon liquidation in the amount described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends. These distributions will be made before any distribution is made on our common stock. If the liquidation amounts payable relating to the preferred stock of any series and any other parity securities ranking on a parity regarding liquidation rights are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of that series and the other parity securities will share in any distribution of our available assets on a ratable basis in proportion to the full liquidation preferences of each security. Holders of our preferred stock will not be entitled to any other amounts from us after they have received their full liquidation preference and accrued and unpaid dividends.

Voting Rights

The holders of preferred stock of each series will have no voting rights, except:

as stated in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the certificate of designation, preferences and rights establishing the series; or

as required by applicable law.

Missouri Statutory Provisions

Missouri law contains certain provisions which may have an anti-takeover effect and otherwise discourage third parties from effecting transactions with us, including control share acquisition and business combination statutes.

Business Combination Statute

Missouri law contains a "business combination statute" which restricts certain "business combinations" between us and an "interested shareholder," or affiliates of an interested shareholder, for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person becomes an interested shareholder, unless either such business combination or the acquisition of stock that resulted in a person's interested shareholder status was approved by our board of directors on or before the date the interested shareholder obtained such status.

The statute provides that, after the expiration of such five-year period, business combinations with an interested shareholder are prohibited unless:

either such transaction or the interested shareholder's acquisition of stock resulting in interested shareholder status is approved by our board of directors before the date the interested shareholder obtains such status;

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the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting stock, other than the interested shareholder, approve the business combination; or

the business combination satisfies certain detailed fairness and procedural requirements.

A "business combination" for this purpose includes a merger or consolidation, some sales, leases, exchanges, pledges, mortgages and similar dispositions of corporate assets or stock and any reclassifications or recapitalizations that increase the proportionate voting power of the interested shareholder. An "interested shareholder" for this purpose generally means any person who, together with his or her affiliates and associates, owns or controls 20% or more of the outstanding shares of the corporation's voting stock.

A Missouri corporation may opt out of coverage by the business combination statute by including a provision to that effect in its governing corporate documents. We have not done so.

The business combination statute may make it more difficult for a 20% or more beneficial owner to effect other transactions with us and may encourage persons that seek to acquire us to negotiate with our board of directors prior to acquiring a 20% interest. It is possible that such a provision could make it more difficult to accomplish a transaction which shareholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

Control Share Acquisition Statute

Missouri also has a "control share acquisition statute." This statute may limit the rights of a shareholder to vote some or all of his or her shares. A shareholder whose acquisition of shares results in that shareholder having voting power, when added to the shares previously held by him or her, to exercise or direct the exercise of more than a specified percentage of our outstanding stock (beginning at 20%), will lose the right to vote some or all of his shares in excess of such percentage unless the shareholders approve the acquisition of such shares.

In order for the shareholders to grant approval, the acquiring shareholder must meet certain disclosure requirements specified in the statute. In addition, a majority of the outstanding voting shares, as determined before the acquisition, must approve the acquisition. Furthermore, a majority of the outstanding voting shares, as determined after the acquisition, but excluding shares held by (i) the acquiring shareholder, (ii) employee directors or (iii) officers appointed by the board of directors, must approve the acquisition. If the acquisition is approved, the statute grants certain rights to dissenting shareholders.

Not all acquisitions of shares constitute control share acquisitions. The following acquisitions generally do not constitute control share acquisitions:

good faith gifts;

transfers in accordance with wills or the laws of descent and distribution;

purchases made in connection with an issuance by us;

purchases by any compensation or benefit plan;

the conversion of debt securities;

purchases from holders of shares representing two-thirds of our voting power, provided such holders act simultaneously and the transaction is not pursuant to or in connection with a tender offer;

acquisitions pursuant to the satisfaction of a pledge or other security interest created in good faith;

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mergers involving us which satisfy the other requirements of the General and Business Corporation Law of Missouri;

transactions with a person who owned a majority of our voting power within the prior year; or

purchases from a person who previously satisfied the requirements of the control share statute, so long as the acquiring person does not have voting power after the ownership in a different ownership range than the selling shareholder prior to the sale.

A Missouri corporation may opt out of coverage of the control share acquisition statute by including a provision to that effect in its governing corporate documents. We have not done so.

Take-Over Bid Disclosure Statute

Missouri's "take-over bid disclosure statute" requires that, under some circumstances, before making a tender offer that would result in the offeror acquiring control of us, the offeror must file certain disclosure materials with the Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Securities.

Supermajority Voting Requirement for Certain Business Transactions

In addition to the business combination and control share acquisition statutes described above, Missouri law also requires us to obtain the approval of holders of at least two-thirds of our outstanding voting shares before we can undertake certain business transactions, including certain mergers or consolidations or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets.

Certain Charter Provisions

Business Combination Provisions in Restated Articles of Incorporation

Certain business combinations involving Bemis and interested shareholders require the affirmative vote of the holders of 80% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock unless (i) a majority of the continuing directors (as defined in our restated articles of incorporation) have approved the proposed business combination, or (ii) various conditions intended to ensure the adequacy of the consideration offered by the party seeking the combination are satisfied.

Blank Check Preferred Stock

As described above under " Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Issued in Separate Series," our restated articles of incorporation permit our board of directors to issue preferred stock without the need for shareholder approval. Our board of directors is authorized to divide the preferred stock into series and, with respect to each series, to determine the designations, the powers, preferences and rights and the qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series. As a result, the impact of any future issuance of preferred stock on holders of our common stock cannot be known.

Each of these provisions could delay, deter or prevent a merger, consolidation, tender offer, or other business combination or change of control involving the Company that some or a majority of our shareholders might consider to be in their best interests.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock rather than a full share of preferred stock. In that event, depositary receipts may be issued for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction of a share of a particular class or series of preferred stock, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

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Any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between Bemis Company, Inc. and the depositary. The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to a series of depositary shares will set forth the name and address of the depositary for the depositary shares and summarize the material provisions of the deposit agreement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by such depositary share, including dividend and liquidation rights and any right to convert or exchange the preferred stock into other securities.

We will describe the particular terms of any depositary shares we offer in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. You should review the documents pursuant to which the depositary shares will be issued, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the debt securities sets forth the material terms and provisions of the debt securities to which any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material may relate. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material and the extent, if any, to which the provisions described in this prospectus may apply to the offered debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the offered debt securities. As used in this section, the terms "we," "us," "our," "Bemis" and the "Company" refer to Bemis Company, Inc., a Missouri corporation, and not any of its subsidiaries, unless the context requires. In this section, references to "holders" mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the applicable trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories. Owners of beneficial interests in the debt securities should read the section below entitled " Book-Entry, Delivery and Settlement."

Debt Securities May Be Senior or Subordinated

We may issue senior or subordinated debt securities. Neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will be secured by any of our property or assets or the property or assets of our subsidiaries. Thus, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will be issued under our senior debt indenture described below and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt from time to time outstanding.

The subordinated debt securities will be issued under our subordinated debt indenture described below and will be subordinate in right of payment to all of our "senior indebtedness," as defined in the subordinated debt indenture. None of the indentures limit our ability to incur additional unsecured indebtedness.

When we refer to "debt securities" in this prospectus, we mean both the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities.

The Senior Debt Indenture and Subordinated Debt Indenture

The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities are each governed by a document called an indenture, the senior debt indenture, in the case of the senior debt securities, and the subordinated debt indenture, in the case of the subordinated debt securities. Each indenture is a contract between Bemis and U.S. Bank National Association, which acts as trustee. The indentures are

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substantially identical, except for the provisions relating to subordination, which are included only in the subordinated debt indenture.

Reference to the indenture or the trustee with respect to any debt securities means the indenture under which those debt securities are issued and the trustee under that indenture.

The trustee has two main roles:

The trustee can enforce the rights of holders against us if we default on our obligations under the terms of the indenture or the debt securities. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on behalf of holders, described below under " Events of Default."

The trustee performs administrative duties for us, such as sending interest payments and notices to holders, and transferring a holder's debt securities to a new buyer if a holder sells.

The indenture and its associated documents contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section. The indenture and the debt securities are governed by New York law. Since this is only a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to each indenture, each of which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

General

We may issue as many distinct series of debt securities under any of the indentures as we wish. The provisions of the senior debt indenture and the subordinated debt indenture allow us not only to issue debt securities with terms different from those previously issued under the applicable indenture, but also to "reopen" a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series provided that the additional notes are deemed part of the same "issue" as the previously issued notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We may issue debt securities in amounts that exceed the total amount specified on the cover of the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to offered debt securities at any time without consent or notification to the holders of such debt securities. In addition, we may offer debt securities, together in the form of units with other debt securities, preferred stock or common stock, as described below under "Description of the Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units."

This section summarizes the material terms of the debt securities that are common to all series, although the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material which describes the terms of each series of debt securities may also describe differences from the material terms summarized here.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the provisions of the indenture, including definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. In this summary, we describe the meaning of only some of the more important terms. For convenience, we also include references in parentheses to certain sections of the indenture. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the indenture in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, such sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference here or in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. You must look to the indenture for the most complete description of what we describe in summary form in this prospectus.

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This summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of a series described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. Those terms may vary from the terms described in this prospectus. The applicable prospectus supplement relating to each series of debt securities will be attached to the front of this prospectus. There may also be a further prospectus supplement, known as a pricing supplement, which contains the precise terms of debt securities you are offered. In addition, we may also incorporate additional information concerning the debt securities by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which may be offered and sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. (Section 301) The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the original issue discount securities will describe the material U.S. federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to them. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to any particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to any debt securities will also describe the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

The debt securities will be our direct, unsecured obligations. The indentures do not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. The indentures permit us to issue debt securities from time to time, and debt securities issued under the indentures will be issued as part of a series that have been established by us under either of the indentures. (Section 301) Unless a prospectus supplement relating to debt securities states otherwise, the indentures and the terms of the debt securities will not contain any covenants designed to afford holders of any debt securities protection in a highly leveraged or other transaction involving us that may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

In addition, the specific financial, legal and other terms particular to a series of debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement (Section 301) and, if applicable, a pricing supplement relating to the series. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the following terms of the series:

the title of the series of the securities;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the series of the securities;

the person to whom interest on a security is payable, if other than the holder on the regular record date;

the date or dates on which the principal or installments of principal (and premium, if any) of the series of securities is or are payable and any rights to extend such date or dates;

the rate or rates at which the series of the securities shall bear interest, if any, or the formula pursuant to which such rate or rates shall be determined;

the date or dates from which such interest shall accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable, the regular record dates for the interest payment dates and the circumstances, if any, in which we may defer interest payments;

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the series of securities is payable;

if applicable, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the series of securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part;

our obligation, if any, to redeem or purchase securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at

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which and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series shall be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation;

if other than denominations of \$2,000 or any amount in excess thereof which is an integral multiple of \$1,000, the denominations in which the series of securities shall be issuable;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on any of the series of securities shall be payable if other than the currency of the United States and the manner of determining the U.S. dollar equivalent of the principal amount thereof;

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

any other event or events of default applicable with respect to the series of securities;

if less than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the series of securities which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

whether the series of securities shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the depository or its nominee with respect to the series of securities and the circumstances under which the global security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depository or the nominee;

if principal of or any premium or interest on the series of securities is denominated or payable in a currency or currencies other than the currency of the United States of America, the applicability of the provisions described under " Defeasance" below; and

any other terms of the series.

Additional Mechanics

Form, Exchange and Transfer

Unless we specify otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued:

only in fully registered form;

without interest coupons; and

in denominations that are even multiples of \$1,000. (Section 302)

Holders may have their debt securities exchanged for more debt securities of smaller denominations of not less than \$1,000 or exchanged for fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. (Section 305)

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Holders may exchange or transfer debt securities at the office of the trustee. They may also replace lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities at that office. The trustee acts as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders and transferring debt securities. We may change this appointment to another entity or perform it ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also perform transfers. The trustee's agent may require an indemnity before replacing any debt securities. (Sections 305, 306)

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange debt securities, but holders may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange

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or transfer. The transfer or exchange will only be made if the security registrar is satisfied with the holder's proof of ownership. (Sections 305, 306)

If we designate additional transfer agents, they will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may cancel the designation of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts. However, no designation or rescission relieves the Company of its obligation to maintain an office in each place of payment for securities of any series. (Section 1002)

If the debt securities are redeemable, we may block the transfer or exchange of debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of debt securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security being partially redeemed. (Section 305)

The rules for an exchange described above apply to an exchange of debt securities for other debt securities of the same series and kind. If a debt security is convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into or for a different kind of security, such as one that we have not issued, or for other property, the rules governing that type of conversion, exercise or exchange will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities.

Payment and Paying Agents

We will pay interest to the person registered in the trustee's records at the close of business on the applicable record date, even if that person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. Except as otherwise may be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, the record date will be the last day of the calendar month preceding an interest due date if such interest due date is the fifteenth day of the calendar month and will be the fifteenth day of the calendar month preceding an interest due date if such interest due date is the first day of the calendar month. (Section 307) Holders buying and selling debt securities must work out between them how to compensate for the fact that we will pay all the interest for an interest period to the one who is the registered holder on the regular record date. The most common manner is to adjust the sale price of the securities to pro-rate interest fairly between buyer and seller. This prorated interest amount is called accrued interest.

We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on the debt securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee. That office is currently located at 111 Fillmore Avenue E., St. Paul, MN 55107. Holders must make arrangements to have their payments picked up at or wired from that office. We may also choose to pay interest by mailing checks.

BOOK-ENTRY AND OTHER INDIRECT HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR BANKS, BROKERS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOW THEY WILL RECEIVE PAYMENTS.

We may also arrange for additional payment offices and may cancel or change these offices, including our use of the trustee's corporate trust office. These offices are called paying agents. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent or choose one of our subsidiaries to do so. We must promptly notify the trustee of any changes in the paying agents for any particular series of debt securities. (Section 1002)

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Notices

We and the trustee will send notices regarding the debt securities only to holders, using their addresses as listed in the trustee's records. (Section 106) With respect to who is a legal "holder" for this purpose, see " Book-Entry, Delivery and Settlement."

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money paid by us to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to holders will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, holders may look only to us for payment and not to the trustee or any other paying agent. (Section 1003)

Special Situations

Mergers and Similar Events

We are generally permitted to consolidate or merge with another company or firm. We are also permitted to sell or lease substantially all of our assets to another company or firm. However, when we merge out of existence or sell or lease substantially all of our assets, we may not take any of these actions unless all the following conditions are met:

the entity formed by such consolidation or merger or acquiring such assets or leases may not be organized under a foreign country's laws; that is, it must be organized under the laws of a state of the United States or the District of Columbia or under Federal law, and it must agree to be legally responsible for the debt securities;

after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the indentures, and no event that, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default, will have occurred and be continuing unless the merger or other transactions would cure the default; and

we must have delivered certain certificates and opinions to the trustee. (Section 801)

If the conditions described above are satisfied with respect to any series of debt securities, we will not need to obtain the approval of the holders of those debt securities in order to merge or consolidate or to sell substantially all of our assets. Also, these conditions will apply only if we wish to merge or consolidate with another entity or sell substantially all of our assets to another entity. We will not need to satisfy these conditions if we enter into other types of transactions, including any transaction in which we acquire the stock or assets of another entity, any transaction that involves a change of control but in which we do not merge or consolidate, any transaction in which we sell less than substantially all of our assets and any merger or consolidation in which we are the surviving corporation. (Section 801) It is possible that this type of transaction may result in a reduction in our credit rating, may reduce our operating results or may impair our financial condition. Holders of our debt securities, however, will have no approval right with respect to any transaction of this type.

Modification and Waiver of the Debt Securities

We may modify or amend the indentures without the consent of the holders of any of our outstanding debt securities for various enumerated purposes, including the naming, by a supplemental indenture, of a trustee other than U.S. Bank National Association, for a series of debt securities. We may modify or amend the indentures with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment. However, no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each affected debt security:

modify the terms of payment of principal, premium or interest; or

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reduce the stated percentage of holders of debt securities necessary to modify or amend the indentures or waive our compliance with certain provisions of the indentures and certain defaults thereunder; or

modify the subordination provisions of the subordinated debt indenture in a manner adverse to such holders.

Restrictions on Secured Debt

The indentures provide that neither we nor certain of our subsidiaries, which are referred to as Restricted Subsidiaries, may incur or otherwise create any new secured debt, which is debt secured by:

a lien on certain significant manufacturing facilities (which are referred to in the indentures as Principal Properties); or

shares of stock or debt of a Restricted Subsidiary. (Section 1007)

The restriction on creating new secured debt, however, does not apply if the outstanding debt securities are secured equally and ratably with the new secured debt. (Section 1007)

The restriction on incurring or otherwise creating any new secured debt does not apply to the following ("Permitted Liens"):

liens on any Principal Property acquired, constructed or improved by us or any Restricted Subsidiary after the date of the respective indenture (June 5, 1995 in the case of the senior debt indenture or July 10, 2009 in the case of the subordinated debt indenture), which liens are created or assumed contemporaneously with, or within 180 days of, such acquisition, construction or improvement, and which are created to secure or provide for the payment of all or any part of the cost of such acquisition, construction or improvement;

liens on property, shares of capital stock or debt existing at the time of the acquisition of such property, including shares of capital stock or debt of a corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary;

liens in favor of us or any Restricted Subsidiary;

liens in favor of the United States of America or any State, or in favor of any department, agency or instrumentality or political division, or in favor of any other country or any political subdivision of a foreign country, the purpose of which is to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments;

liens imposed by law, for example mechanics', workmen's, repairmen's or other similar liens arising in the ordinary course of business;

pledges or deposits under workmen's compensation or similar legislation or in certain other circumstances;

liens in connection with legal proceedings;

liens for taxes or assessments;

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liens consisting of restrictions on the use of real property that do not interfere materially with the property's use in the ordinary course of business; or

any extension, renewal or replacement, in whole or in part, of any lien existing on the date of the respective indenture, or otherwise referred to in the previous bullet points. (Section 1007)

In addition, we or any Restricted Subsidiary may incur or otherwise create secured debt without equally and ratably securing the debt securities if, when such secured debt is incurred or created, the

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total amount of all outstanding secured debt (excluding Permitted Liens) plus Attributable Debt (as defined in the indentures) relating to sale and lease-back transactions does not exceed 10% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets (as defined in the indentures). (Section 1007)

Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

The indentures provide that neither we nor any of our Restricted Subsidiaries may enter into any sale and lease-back transaction involving any Principal Property, unless either:

we or the Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled to incur debt secured by a Permitted Lien on such property, or

within 180 days, we apply to the retirement of our Funded Debt (defined as debt that matures at or is extendible or renewable at the option of the obligor to a date more than twelve months after the date of the creation of such debt) an amount not less than the greater of:

the net proceeds of the sale of the Principal Property sold and leased back pursuant to the arrangement; or

the fair market value of the Principal Property so sold and leased back.

The restriction on sale and lease-back transactions does not apply to the following:

a sale and lease-back transaction between us and a Restricted Subsidiary or between Restricted Subsidiaries, or that involves the taking back of a lease for a period of less than three years; or

if, at the time of the sale and lease-back transaction, after giving effect to the transaction, the total discounted net amount of rent required to be paid during the remaining term of any lease relating to sale and lease-back transactions (other than transactions permitted by the previous bullet point) plus all outstanding secured debt (excluding Permitted Liens) does not exceed 10% of our Consolidated Net Tangible Assets (as defined in the indentures). (Section 1008)

Subordination Provisions

Contractual provisions in the subordinated debt indenture may prohibit us from making payments on subordinated debt securities. Subordinated debt securities are subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner stated in the subordinated debt indenture or any supplement thereto to all of our senior indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated debt indenture, including all debt securities we have issued and will issue under the senior debt indenture.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, the subordinated indenture defines the term "senior indebtedness" with respect to each respective series of subordinated debt securities, to mean the principal, premium, if any, and interest on all indebtedness and obligations of, or guaranteed or assumed by Bemis, whether outstanding on the date of the issuance of subordinated debt securities or thereafter created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed and all amendments, modifications, renewals, extensions, deferrals and refundings of any such indebtedness unless the instrument creating such indebtedness or obligations provides that they are subordinated or are not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, senior indebtedness will not include: (A) any obligation of Bemis to any of its subsidiaries; (B) any liability for Federal, state, local or other taxes owed or owing by Bemis or its subsidiaries; (C) any accounts payable or other liability to trade creditors (including guarantees thereof or instruments evidencing such liabilities); or (D) any obligations with respect to any capital stock of Bemis.

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Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, Bemis may not pay principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any subordinated debt securities or defease, purchase, redeem or otherwise retire such securities if:

a default in the payment of any principal, or premium, if any, or interest on any senior indebtedness, occurs and is continuing or any other amount owing in respect of any senior indebtedness is not paid when due, or

any other default occurs with respect to any senior indebtedness and the maturity of such senior indebtedness is accelerated in accordance with its terms,

unless and until such default in payment or event of default has been cured or waived and any such acceleration is rescinded or such senior indebtedness has been paid in full in cash.

If there is any payment or distribution of the assets of Bemis to creditors upon a total or partial liquidation or a total or partial dissolution or in a bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding, holders of all present and future senior indebtedness (which will include interest accruing after, or which would accrue but for, the commencement of any bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding) are entitled to receive payment in full before any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, in respect of the subordinated indebtedness. In addition, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, in any such event, payments or distributions which would otherwise be made on subordinated debt securities will generally be paid to the holders of senior indebtedness, or their representatives, in accordance with the priorities existing among these creditors at that time until the senior indebtedness is paid in full.

After payment in full of all present and future senior indebtedness, holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of any holders of senior indebtedness to receive any further payments or distributions that are applicable to the senior indebtedness until all the subordinated debt securities are paid in full. The subordinated debt indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions may not be changed in a manner which would be adverse to the holders of senior indebtedness without the consent of the holders of such senior indebtedness.

The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated debt securities will set forth a more detailed description of the subordination provisions applicable to any such debt securities.

If the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture or any holders of the subordinated debt securities receive any payment or distribution that is prohibited under the subordination provisions, then the trustee or the holders will have to repay that money to the holders of the senior indebtedness.

Even if the subordination provisions prevent us from making any payment when due on the subordinated debt securities of any series, we will be in default on our obligations under that series if we do not make the payment when due. This means that the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture and the holders of that series can take action against us, but they will not receive any money until the claims of the holders of senior indebtedness have been fully satisfied.

Defeasance

The indentures permit us to be discharged from our obligations under the respective indentures and United States of America dollar-denominated debt securities if we comply with the following procedures. This discharge from our obligations is referred to in this prospectus as defeasance. (Section 403)

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material state otherwise, if we deposit with the trustee sufficient cash and/or U.S. government securities to pay and discharge the

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principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, to the date of maturity of that series of debt securities, then from and after the ninety-first day following such deposit:

we will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness on the debt securities of that series; and

our obligations under the indentures with respect to the debt securities of that series will cease to be in effect (other than the obligations described above in " Form, Exchange and Transfer"). (Section 403)

Following defeasance, holders of the applicable debt securities would be able to look only to the defeasance trust for payment of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on their debt securities.

Defeasance may be treated as a taxable exchange for U.S. federal income tax purposes of the related debt securities for obligations of the trust or a direct interest in the money or U.S. government securities held in the trust. In that case, holders of debt securities would recognize taxable gain or loss as if the trust obligations or the money or U.S. government securities held in the trust, as the case may be, had actually been received by the holders in exchange for their debt securities. Holders thereafter might be required to include as income a different amount of income than in the absence of defeasance. We urge prospective investors to consult their own tax advisors as to the specific tax consequences of defeasance.

Events of Default

The indentures provide holders of debt securities with remedies if we fail to perform specific obligations, such as making payments on the debt securities. You should review these provisions carefully in order to understand what constitutes an event of default under the indentures.

Unless stated otherwise in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities under the indentures includes:

a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series at its maturity;

a default in making a sinking fund payment, if any, on any debt security of such series when due and payable;

a default for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest on any debt security of such series;

a default for 60 days after written notice in the observance or performance of any other covenant in the respective indenture;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, or court appointment of a receiver, liquidator or trustee for us or our property; or

any other event of default provided in or pursuant to the applicable resolution of our board of directors or supplemental indenture under which such series of debt securities is issued. (Section 501)

The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of debt securities of any default with respect to such series, except in the payment of principal, premium or interest or in the payment of any sinking fund installment or analogous obligation, if it considers such withholding of notice in the interest of such holders. (Section 602)

If an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of

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that series may declare the principal of all the debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately. If such a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series can, subject to conditions, rescind the declaration. (Section 502)

The indentures contain a provision entitling the trustee to be indemnified by the holders before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the respective indenture at the request of any such holders. (Section 603) The indentures provide that the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of such series. (Section 512) The right of a holder to institute a proceeding with respect to the respective indenture is subject to certain conditions precedent, including notice and indemnity to the trustee. However, the holder has an absolute right to the receipt of principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities of any series on the respective stated maturities, as defined in the respective indenture, and to institute suit for the enforcement of these rights. (Sections 507, 508)

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of the holders of all the debt securities of such series waive any past defaults. Each holder of a debt security affected by a default must consent to a waiver of:

a default in payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security of such series; or

a default in respect of a covenant or provision of the respective indenture that cannot be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected. (Section 513)

We will furnish to the trustee annual statements as to the fulfillment of our obligations under each respective indenture. (Section 704)

Book-Entry, Delivery and Settlement

We will issue the debt securities in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates, which we refer to as global securities. We will deposit the global securities with or on behalf of The Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. Beneficial interests in the global securities may be held through the Euroclear System ("Euroclear") and Clearstream Banking, S.A. ("Clearstream") (as indirect participants in DTC).

We have provided the following descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream and are subject to change by them from time to time. Neither we, any underwriter nor the trustee take any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream directly to discuss these matters.

DTC has advised us that:

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 under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

DTC holds securities that its direct participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among direct participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited

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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, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations;

DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries;

Access to the DTC system is also available to indirect participants 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; and

The rules applicable to DTC and its direct and indirect participants are on file with the SEC.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

Upon deposit of the global securities with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amounts of the global securities; and

Ownership of the debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership of the debt securities will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants.

Investors in the global securities who are participants in DTC's system may hold their interests therein directly through DTC. Investors in the global notes who are not participants may hold their interests therein indirectly through organizations (including Euroclear and Clearstream) which are participants in such system. Euroclear and Clearstream may hold interests in the global securities on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in their respective names on the books of their respective depositories, which are Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of Euroclear, and Citibank, N.A., as depository of Clearstream. All interests in a security, including those held through Euroclear or Clearstream, may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC. Those interests held through Euroclear or Clearstream may also be subject to the procedures and requirements of such systems.

The laws of some jurisdictions require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in the form of a certificate. For that reason, it may not be possible to transfer interests in a global security to those persons. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in a global security to pledge or transfer that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of that interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of that interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by that global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture and under the debt securities. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have debt securities represented by that global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive the debt securities in the form of a physical certificate and will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities under the applicable indenture or under the debt securities, and may not be entitled to give the trustee directions, instructions or approvals. For that reason, each person or entity owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on DTC's procedures and, if that person or entity is

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not a direct or indirect participant in DTC, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which that person or entity owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of debt securities under the applicable indenture or the global security.

Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of DTC's records relating to the debt securities or relating to payments made by DTC on account of the debt securities, or any responsibility to maintain, supervise or review any of DTC's records relating to the debt securities. (Sections 307, 308)

We will make payments on the debt securities represented by the global securities to DTC or its nominee, as the holder and registered owner of the debt securities. We expect that when DTC or its nominee receives any payment on the debt securities represented by a global security, DTC will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the global security as shown in DTC's records. We also expect that payments by DTC's participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global security held through those participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. DTC's participants will be responsible for those payments.

Payments on the debt securities represented by the global securities will be made in immediately available funds. Transfers between participants in DTC will be made in accordance with DTC's rules and will be settled in immediately available funds.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures, and will be settled in same-day funds, and transfers between participants in Euroclear and Clearstream will be effected in accordance with their respective rules and operating procedures.

Cross-market transfers between the participants in DTC, on the one hand, and Euroclear or Clearstream participants, on the other hand, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by its depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by the counterparty in such system in accordance with the rules and procedures and within the established deadlines (European time) of such system. Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its respective depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving interests in the relevant global security in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Euroclear participants and Clearstream participants may not deliver instructions directly to the depositories for Euroclear or Clearstream.

DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of notes only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account DTC has credited the interests in the global securities and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of the notes as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direction. However, if there is an event of default under the notes, DTC reserves the right to exchange the global securities for certificated notes, and to distribute such notes to its participants.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of interests in the global securities among participants in DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or to continue to perform such procedures, and may discontinue such procedures at any time. None of the Company, the trustee or any of their respective agents will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective direct or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

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Exchange of Global Securities for Certificated Securities

We will issue certificated debt securities to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of debt securities represented by the global securities upon surrender by DTC of the global securities only if:

DTC notifies us that it is no longer willing or able to act as a depository for the global securities, and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of that notice;

An event of default with respect to the debt securities has occurred and is continuing; or

We decide not to have the debt securities represented by a global security.

Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the related debt securities. We and the trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee, including instructions about the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the debt securities to be issued.

Same Day Settlement and Payment

We will make payments in respect of the notes represented by the global securities (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the accounts specified by the global securities holder. We will make all payments of principal, interest and premium, if any, with respect to certificated notes by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the accounts specified by the holders of the certificated notes or, if no such account is specified, by mailing a check to each such holder's registered address. The notes represented by the global securities are expected to be eligible to trade in DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. The Company expects that secondary trading in any certificated notes will also be settled in immediately available funds.

Because of time zone differences, the securities account of a Euroclear or Clearstream participant purchasing an interest in a global security from a participant in DTC will be credited, and any such crediting will be reported to the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream participant, during the securities settlement processing day (which must be a business day for Euroclear and Clearstream) immediately following the settlement date of DTC. DTC has advised us that cash received in Euroclear or Clearstream as a result of sales of interests in a global securities by or through a Euroclear or Clearstream participant to a participant in DTC will be received with value on the settlement date of DTC but will be available in the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream cash account only as of the business day for Euroclear or Clearstream following DTC's settlement date.

Our Relationship with the Trustee

Affiliates of U.S. Bank National Association, the current trustee under the indentures, may provide banking and corporate trust services to us and extend credit to us and many of our subsidiaries worldwide. The trustee may act as a depository of our funds and hold our common shares for the benefit of its customers, including customers over whose accounts the trustee has discretionary authority. If a bank or trust company other than U.S. Bank National Association is to act as trustee for a series of senior or subordinated debt securities, the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material will provide information concerning that other trustee.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, depositary shares or other securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or depositary shares offered by any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material and may be attached to or separate from any such offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as will be set forth in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the particular issue of warrants. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following summary of certain provisions of the warrants does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all provisions of the warrant agreements. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the particular issue of warrants offered pursuant to such prospectus supplement and/or other offering material for the terms of and information relating to such warrants, including, where applicable:

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase debt securities and the price at which such debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase common stock and the price at which such number of shares of common stock may be purchased upon such exercise;

the number of shares and series of preferred stock or depositary shares purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase preferred stock or depositary shares, and the price at which such number of shares of such series of preferred stock or depositary shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the designation and number of units of other securities purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase other securities and the price at which such number of units of such other securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

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

U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to such warrants;

the number of warrants outstanding as of the most recent practicable date; and

any other terms of such warrants.

Warrants will be issued in registered form only. The exercise price for warrants will be subject to adjustment in accordance with provisions described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

Each warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase such principal amount of debt securities or such number of shares of preferred stock, common stock, depositary shares or other securities at such exercise price as will in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the warrants, which exercise price may be subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events as set forth in such prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. After the close of business on the expiration date, or such later date to which such expiration date may be extended by us, unexercised warrants will become void. The place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised will be specified in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to such warrants.

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Prior to the exercise of any warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, depositary shares or other securities, holders of such warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities, as the case may be, purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture, or to receive payments of dividends, if any, on the preferred stock, or common stock purchasable upon such exercise, or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts that obligate you to purchase from us, and obligate us to sell to you, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the stock purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from you, and obligate you to sell to us, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock or preferred stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock or preferred stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are entered into or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. Any stock purchase contract may include anti-dilution provisions to adjust the number of shares to be delivered pursuant to the stock purchase contract upon the occurrence of specified events.

The stock purchase contracts may be entered into separately or as a part of stock purchase units consisting of a stock purchase contract and, as security for your obligations to purchase or sell the shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, under the stock purchase contracts, either:

common stock;

preferred stock;

depositary shares;

debt securities; or

debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities.

If we issue stock purchase units where debt obligations of third parties are used as security for your obligations to purchase or sell shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other securities, we will include in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the offering information about the issuer of the debt securities. Specifically, if the issuer has a class of securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is either eligible to register its securities on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, (the "Securities Act") or meets the listing criteria to be listed on a national securities exchange, we will include a brief description of the business of the issuer, the market price of its securities and how you can obtain more information about the issuer. If the issuer does not meet the criteria described in the previous sentence, we will include substantially all of the information that would be required if the issuer were making a public offering of the debt securities.

The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to you or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded and may be paid on a current or deferred basis. The stock purchase contracts may require you to secure your obligations in a specified manner and, in some circumstances, we may deliver newly issued prepaid stock purchase contracts upon release to you of any collateral securing your obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material will describe the specific terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid stock purchase contracts.

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SELLING SHAREHOLDERS

We may register shares of common stock covered by this prospectus for re-offers and resales by any selling shareholders to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may register these shares to permit selling shareholders to resell their shares when they deem appropriate. A selling shareholder may resell all, a portion or none of such shareholder's shares at any time and from time to time. Selling shareholders may also sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of some or all of their shares of our common stock in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. We do not know when or in what amounts any selling shareholders may offer shares for sale under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We will not receive any proceeds from any sale of shares by a selling shareholder under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We may pay all expenses incurred with respect to the registration of the shares of common stock owned by the selling shareholders, other than underwriting fees, discounts or commissions which will be borne by the selling shareholders. We will provide you with a prospectus supplement naming the selling shareholders, the amount of shares to be registered and sold and any other terms of the shares of common stock being sold by each selling shareholder.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell our securities, and any selling shareholder may sell shares of our common stock, in any one or more of the following ways from time to time: (1) through agents; (2) to or through underwriters; (3) through brokers or dealers; (4) directly by us or any selling shareholders to purchasers, including through a specific bidding, auction or other process; or (5) through a combination of any of these methods of sale. The applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material will contain the terms of the transaction, name or names of any underwriters, dealers, agents and the respective amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by them, the initial public offering price of the securities, and the applicable agent's commission, dealer's purchase price or underwriter's discount. Any selling shareholders, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and compensation received by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts. Additionally, because selling shareholders may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act, selling shareholders may be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

Any initial offering price, dealer purchase price, discount or commission may be changed from time to time.

The securities may be distributed from time to time in one or more transactions, at negotiated prices, at a fixed price or fixed prices (that may be subject to change), at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at various prices determined at the time of sale or at prices related to prevailing market prices.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us or any selling shareholder or by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, of the securities so offered and sold.

If underwriters are utilized in the sale of any securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, such securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale. Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of securities, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all such securities if they purchase any of them.

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If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities, and any selling shareholder will sell shares of our common stock to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. Transactions through brokers or dealers may include block trades in which brokers or dealers will attempt to sell shares as agent but may position and resell as principal to facilitate the transaction or in cross trades, in which the same broker or dealer acts as agent on both sides of the trade. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, of the securities so offered and sold. In addition, any selling shareholder may sell shares of our common stock in ordinary brokerage transactions or in transactions in which a broker solicits purchases.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us or any selling shareholder and the sale thereof may be made by us or any selling shareholder directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof.

Any selling shareholders may also resell all or a portion of their shares of our common stock in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act provided they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule, Section 4(1) of the Securities Act or other applicable exemptions, regardless of whether such shares are covered by the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, we or any selling shareholder may authorize agents and underwriters to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase securities from us or any selling shareholder at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. Such delayed delivery contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under relevant agreements with us or any selling shareholder to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which such agents, underwriters and dealers may be required to make in respect thereof. The terms and conditions of any indemnification or contribution will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

We may pay all expenses incurred with respect to the registration of the shares of common stock owned by any selling shareholders, other than underwriting fees, discounts or commissions, which will be borne by the selling shareholders. We or any selling shareholder may also sell shares of our common stock through various arrangements involving mandatorily or optionally exchangeable securities, and this prospectus may be delivered in connection with those sales.

We or any selling shareholder may enter into derivative, sale or forward sale transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material indicates, in connection with those transactions, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, including in short sale transactions and by issuing securities not covered by this prospectus but convertible into, exchangeable for or representing beneficial interests in such securities covered by this prospectus, or the return of which is derived in whole or in part from the value of such securities. The third parties may use securities received under derivative, sale or forward sale transactions or securities pledged by us or any selling shareholder or borrowed from us, any selling shareholder or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us or any selling shareholder in settlement of those transactions to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The

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third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment) and/or other offering material.

Additionally, any selling shareholder may engage in hedging transactions with broker-dealers in connection with distributions of shares or otherwise. In those transactions, broker-dealers may engage in short sales of shares in the course of hedging the positions they assume with such selling shareholder. Any selling shareholder also may sell shares short and redeliver shares to close out such short positions. Any selling shareholder may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers which require the delivery of shares to the broker-dealer. The broker-dealer may then resell or otherwise transfer such shares pursuant to this prospectus. Any selling shareholder also may loan or pledge shares, and the borrower or pledgee may sell or otherwise transfer the shares so loaned or pledged pursuant to this prospectus. Such borrower or pledgee also may transfer those shares to investors in our securities or the selling shareholder's securities or in connection with the offering of other securities not covered by this prospectus.

Underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of commissions, discounts or concessions from us or any selling shareholder. Underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may also receive compensation from the purchasers of shares for whom they act as agents or to whom they sell as principals, or both. Compensation as to a particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent will be in amounts to be negotiated in connection with transactions involving shares and might be in excess of customary commissions. In effecting sales, broker-dealers engaged by us or any selling shareholder may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate in the resales.

Any securities offered other than common stock will be a new issue and, other than the common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common stock, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, we shall not be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our subsidiaries or any selling shareholder in the ordinary course of business.

Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time. An underwriter may carry out these transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

The place and time of delivery for securities will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement and/or other offering material for such securities.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy that information at the SEC's Public Reference Room located 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.

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The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, including Bemis, that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>. Our SEC filings are also available on our website, located at <http://www.bemis.com>. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this document.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC. The documents contain important information about us and our financial condition:

The Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 that we filed with the SEC on February 19, 2016;

The Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016 that we filed with the SEC on April 29, 2016 and July 29, 2016, respectively;

The Current Reports on Form 8-K that we filed with the SEC on May 6, 2016 and July 26, 2016; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act including any amendment or report updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of the filing of this registration statement and until we terminate the offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus. Our subsequent filings with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus.

We will not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement any documents or portions thereof that are not deemed "filed" with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K unless, and except to the extent, specified in such Current Reports.

You may obtain a copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this registration statement at no cost by writing to or calling our secretary at:

Bemis Company, Inc.
One Neenah Center, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 669
Neenah, Wisconsin 54957
(920) 727-4100
Attention: Secretary

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, as well as the information we file or previously filed with the SEC that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, is accurate as of any date other than its respective date. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Foley & Lardner LLP, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP may be conditioned upon and may be subject to assumptions regarding future action required to be taken by us and any

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underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the issuance and sale of any securities. The opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP with respect to securities may be subject to other conditions and assumptions, as indicated in the prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 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.

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

The aggregate estimated expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, in connection with the sale of the securities being registered hereby are currently anticipated to be as follows (all amounts are estimated). All expenses of the registration of securities hereby will be paid by Bemis Company, Inc. (the "Company").

| | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee | \$ (1) |
| Printing expenses | (2) |
| Legal fees and expenses | (2) |
| Accounting fees and expenses | (2) |
| Miscellaneous (including any applicable listing fees, rating agency fees, trustee and transfer agent's fees and expenses) | (2) |
| Total | \$ |

(1) Deferred in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

(2) The amount of securities and number of offerings are indeterminable, and the expenses cannot be estimated at this time. An estimate of the various expenses in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being offered will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Pursuant to the General Business and Corporation Law of the State of Missouri (the "GBCL"), a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to an action (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of that person's service as a director or officer of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees) that are actually and reasonably incurred by that person ("Expenses"), and judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement that are actually and reasonably incurred, in connection with the defense or settlement of such action, provided that the person to be indemnified acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. Although Missouri law permits a corporation to indemnify any person referred to above against Expenses in connection with the defense or settlement of an action by or in the right of the corporation, provided that the person to be indemnified acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests, if such person has been adjudged liable to the corporation for negligence or misconduct, indemnification is only permitted to the extent that the court in which the action was brought determines that, despite the adjudication of liability, such person is entitled to indemnity for such Expenses as the court deems proper. The GBCL also provides for mandatory indemnification of any director or officer against Expenses to the extent such person has been successful on the merits in any proceeding covered by the statute. Missouri law allows for the advancement of expenses pursuant to authorization by the board of directors in certain cases. Missouri law also allows a corporation to give further indemnity in its articles of incorporation, bylaws or by vote of the shareholders, provided such further indemnity does not indemnify a person for conduct finally adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or a product of willful misconduct. In addition, the GBCL provides that indemnification provided by the statute shall not be deemed

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exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under the articles of incorporation, the bylaws, any agreement or vote of shareholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise.

Article V of our Bylaws requires indemnification of our directors and officers against any and all expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement incurred by such person in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative action, suit, proceeding or claim (including an action by or in the right of the Company or a subsidiary) by reason of the fact that such person is or was serving in such capacity. However, Article V of the Bylaws prohibits indemnification for: (1) conduct which is finally adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or willful misconduct; or (2) an accounting for profits pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, or pursuant to a successor statute or regulation. Our Bylaws also permit us to make advances of Expenses, to the extent that the board of directors deems appropriate, to any person to whom indemnification is available under Article V of our Bylaws; provided, however, that prior to making any advances, the Company shall receive a written undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such amounts advanced in the event that it shall be ultimately determined that such person is not entitled to such indemnification.

The indemnification provided by the Company's Bylaws and the GBCL is not exclusive of any other rights to which a director or officer of Bemis may be entitled. The Company has purchased insurance as permitted by Missouri law on behalf of directors and officers, which may cover liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item 16. Exhibits.

The exhibits filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference are set forth in the attached Exhibit Index, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

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

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

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provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

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

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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| Signature | Title |
|---|----------|
| * | |
| _____ William L. Mansfield | Director |
| * | |
| _____ Arun Nayar | Director |
| * | |
| _____ Edward N. Perry | Director |
| * | |
| _____ David T. Szczupak | Director |
| * | |
| _____ Holly A. Van Deursen | Director |
| * | |
| _____ Philip G. Weaver | Director |
| *By: _____ /s/ SHERI H. EDISON | |
| _____ Sheri H. Edison <i>Attorney-in-fact</i> | |

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| Exhibit Number | Document Description | Form of Filing |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 3(a) | Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(a) to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004) (Commission File No. 1-5277). | Incorporated by Reference |
| 3(b) | By-Laws of the Registrant, as amended through November 26, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(ii) to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 26, 2012) (Commission File No. 1-5277). | Incorporated by Reference |
| 4(a) | Indenture dated as of June 15, 1995 between the Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as First Trust National Association), as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 dated June 15, 1995) [Reg. No. 33-60253]). | Incorporated by Reference |
| 4(b) | Subordinated Debt Indenture dated as of July 10, 2009 between the Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(b) to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 dated July 20, 2009) [Reg. No. 333-160681]. | Incorporated by Reference |
| 4(c) | Form of Senior Debt Securities. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(d) | Form of Subordinated Debt Securities. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(e) | Form of Deposit Agreement. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(f) | Form of Deposit Receipt. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(g) | Form of Warrant. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(h) | Form of Warrant Agreement. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 4(i) | Form of Stock Purchase Contract. | Incorporated by Reference(1) |
| 5 | Opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP, dated September 2, 2016. | Electronic Transmission |
| 12 | Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges. | Electronic Transmission |
| 23(a) | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. | Electronic Transmission |
| 23(b) | Consent of Foley & Lardner LLP (included in Exhibit 5). | Electronic Transmission |
| 24 | Powers of Attorney. | Electronic Transmission |
| 25(a) | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee for the Registrant's debt securities under the senior debt indenture. | Electronic Transmission |
| 25(b) | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee for the Registrant's debt securities under the subordinated debt indenture. | Electronic Transmission |

(1)

To be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K.