

MERGE HEALTHCARE INC
Form S-4
June 16, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 16, 2009

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-4

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

MERGE HEALTHCARE INCORPORATED
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	7373 (Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number) 6737 West Washington Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-5650 (414) 977-4000	39-1600938 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
---	---	--

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

Justin C. Dearborn
Chief Executive Officer
Merge Healthcare Incorporated
6737 West Washington Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214-5650
(414) 977-4000

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

Copies to:

Mark A. Harris
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
227 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-5096
(312) 984-2121

Ann Mayberry-French
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Merge Healthcare Incorporated
6737 West Washington Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214-5650
(414) 977-4000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement and completion of the transactions described in the enclosed prospectus/offer to exchange.

Edgar Filing: MERGE HEALTHCARE INC - Form S-4

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, 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, 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(d) 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.

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

Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer)

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer)

Table of Contents

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title Of Each Class Of Securities To Be Registered	Amount To Be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount Of Registration Fee(3)
Common Stock, \$0.01	3,814,916	N/A	\$ 11,230,104	\$ 627

(1) Based on the maximum number of shares of Merge Healthcare Incorporated (“Merge Healthcare”) common stock to be issued in connection with the Merger Agreement described in the enclosed prospectus/offer to exchange, calculated by multiplying (i) the exchange ratio of 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock for each share of etrials Worldwide, Inc. (“etrials”) common stock and (ii) 11,064,142, the estimated maximum aggregate number of shares of etrials common stock that could be exchanged for shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock pursuant to the merger described in the enclosed document, including shares of etrials common stock issuable upon lapse of restrictions on outstanding. ..restricted stock awards.

(2) Estimated solely for the purposes of calculating the registration fee, and calculated pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(f) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price is equal to the market value of shares of etrials common stock less the total cash consideration expected to be paid in the merger by Merge Healthcare, calculated as follows: (i) \$1.815, the average of the high and low prices per share of etrials common stock on June 10, 2009, as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market, multiplied by (ii) 11,064,142, the estimated maximum aggregate number of shares of etrials common stock computed as described in footnote (1) above, less (iii) \$8,851,314, the estimated cash consideration expected to be paid in the merger by Merge Healthcare.

(3) Equal to \$55.80 per \$1,000,000 of the proposed aggregate offering price.

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

Table of Contents

The information contained in this prospectus/offer to exchange (“Prospectus/Offer to Exchange” or “Prospectus”) may be changed. Merge Healthcare Incorporated may not complete the exchange offer and issue these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission becomes effective. This Prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and Merge Healthcare Incorporated is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED JUNE 16, 2009
MERGE HEALTHCARE INCORPORATED

Offer by Merge Acquisition Corp. to Exchange Each Outstanding Share of Common Stock of
etrial Worldwide, Inc.
for \$0.80 in Cash and
0.3448 Shares of Common Stock of Merge Healthcare Incorporated

subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal

THE OFFER AND THE WITHDRAWAL RIGHTS WILL EXPIRE AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT, NEW YORK CITY
TIME, AT THE END OF JULY 14, 2009, UNLESS EXTENDED.

Merge Acquisition Corp., a Delaware corporation (“Offeror”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare Incorporated (“Merge Healthcare”), is offering to exchange for each outstanding share of common stock of etrial Worldwide, Inc. (“etrial”), par value \$0.0001 per share (the “Shares”), validly tendered in the Offer and not withdrawn, \$0.80 in cash, without interest, and 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (“Merge Healthcare Common Stock”) (collectively, the “Consideration”) subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal (which together, as each may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, constitute the “Offer”). etrial stockholders who otherwise would be entitled to receive a fractional share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will instead receive an amount in cash (without interest) equal to the amount of such fraction multiplied by \$2.610, rounded to the nearest cent.

The purpose of the Offer is for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrial. The Offer is the first step in Merge Healthcare’s plan to acquire all of the outstanding Shares. Promptly after completion of the Offer, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate a merger of Offeror with and into etrial, with etrial surviving the merger (this merger is referred to herein as the “Merger” and etrial after the Merger is sometimes referred to herein as the “Surviving Corporation”). The purpose of the Merger is for Merge Healthcare to acquire all Shares not acquired in the Offer. After the Merger, the Surviving Corporation will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare and the former etrial stockholders will no longer have any direct ownership interest in the Surviving Corporation.

Offeror’s obligation to accept for exchange, and to exchange, Shares for cash and shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock in the Offer is subject to a number of conditions, which are more fully described in “The Offer — Terms of the Offer.”

Merge Healthcare Common Stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “MRGE.” The Shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “ETWC.”

For a discussion of certain factors that etrial stockholders should consider in connection with the Offer, please carefully read “Risk Factors” beginning on page 7.

Merge Healthcare has not authorized any person to provide any information or to make any representation in

connection with the Offer other than the information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus, and if any person provides any information or makes any representation of this kind, that information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by Merge Healthcare.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this Prospectus is 2009.

Table of Contents

[This page is intentionally left blank.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION</u>	i
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	ii
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</u>	iv
<u>Who is offering to buy my Shares?</u>	iv
<u>What are the classes and amounts of etrials securities that Offeror is offering to acquire in the Offer?</u>	iv
<u>What will I receive for my Shares?</u>	iv
<u>What will I receive for my options to purchase Shares?</u>	v
<u>Will I have to pay any fee or commission to exchange Shares?</u>	v
<u>Why is Offeror making this Offer?</u>	v
<u>What does the etrials board of directors recommend?</u>	v
<u>What are the conditions of the Offer?</u>	vi
<u>How long will it take to complete the proposed transaction?</u>	vi
<u>Is Merge Healthcare's financial condition relevant to my decision to tender Shares in the Offer?</u>	vi
<u>When does the Offer expire? Can the Offer be extended and, if so, under what circumstances?</u>	vi
<u>How do I tender my Shares?</u>	vii
<u>Until what time can I withdraw tendered Shares?</u>	vii
<u>How do I withdraw previously tendered Shares?</u>	vii
<u>When and how will I receive the Offer consideration in exchange for my tendered Shares?</u>	vii
<u>What are the United States federal income tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger to me?</u>	vii
<u>Why does the cover page to this Prospectus state that this Offer is subject to change and that the registration statement filed with the SEC is not yet effective? Does this mean that the Offer has not commenced?</u>	viii
<u>Do I have appraisal rights in connection with the Offer or the Merger?</u>	viii
<u>Where can I find more information about Merge Healthcare and etrials?</u>	viii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>The Offer</u>	1
<u>Purpose of the Offer; The Merger</u>	1
<u>The Companies</u>	2
<u>Reasons for the Offer</u>	3
<u>Expiration of the Offer</u>	3
<u>Extension, Termination or Amendment</u>	3
<u>Withdrawal Rights</u>	4
<u>Procedure for Tendering</u>	4
<u>Exchange of Shares</u>	4
<u>Top-Up Option</u>	4
<u>Interests of Certain Persons</u>	4
<u>Regulatory Approvals</u>	5
<u>Source and Amount of Funds</u>	5
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	5

<u>Comparative Market Price Data</u>	5
<u>Ownership of Merge Healthcare After the Offer and the Merger</u>	5
<u>Comparison of Stockholders' Rights</u>	5
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	6
<u>Accounting Treatment</u>	6
<u>Questions about the Offer and the Merger</u>	6

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	7
<u>Risk Factors Relating to the Offer</u>	7
<u>Risk Factors Relating to etrials and the Merger</u>	10
<u>Risk Factors Relating to Owning Merge Common Stock</u>	12
<u>Risk Factors Relating to Merge Healthcare and the Combined Company</u>	14
<u>SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF MERGE HEALTHCARE</u>	23
<u>SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ETRIALS</u>	24
<u>COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL AND SUMMARY UNAUDITED PRO FORMA PER SHARE INFORMATION</u>	25
<u>COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICE DATA AND DIVIDEND DATA</u>	26
<u>THE MERGER</u>	28
<u>The Companies</u>	28
<u>etrials' Reasons for the Merger</u>	30
<u>Background and Recommendation of the etrials Board of Directors</u>	34
<u>Opinion of Emerging Growth Equities Ltd. Financial Advisor to etrials</u>	40
<u>Merge Healthcare's Reasons for the Merger</u>	48
<u>Interests of etrials Management and Board of Directors</u>	49
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	51
<u>Accounting Treatment</u>	53
<u>Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger</u>	53
<u>Delisting and Termination of Registration</u>	53
<u>Quotation on the NASDAQ Global Market</u>	53
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	53
<u>MERGER AGREEMENT</u>	54
<u>The Offer</u>	54
<u>The Merger</u>	55
<u>Completion and Effectiveness of the Merger</u>	55
<u>Merger Consideration</u>	55
<u>Exchange of etrials Stock Certificates for the Merger Consideration</u>	55
<u>Fractional Shares</u>	56
<u>Conditions to the Merger</u>	56
<u>Representations and Warranties</u>	56
<u>No Solicitation of Other Offers by etrials</u>	58
<u>Changes of Recommendation</u>	59
<u>Stockholder Approval</u>	60
<u>Conduct of Business Before Completion of the Merger</u>	60
<u>Access</u>	62
<u>Additional Agreements</u>	62
<u>etrials' Benefit Plans</u>	64
<u>Directors' and Officers' Indemnification</u>	64
<u>Termination of the Merger Agreement</u>	65
<u>Termination Fees and Expenses</u>	65
<u>Effect of Termination</u>	66
<u>Amendments, Extensions and Waivers</u>	66

<u>The Stockholder Support Agreements</u>	66
<u>Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement</u>	67

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>THE OFFER</u>	68
<u>Consideration</u>	68
<u>Top-Up Option</u>	68
<u>Distribution of Offering Materials</u>	68
<u>Expiration of the Offer</u>	68
<u>Extension, Termination and Amendment</u>	69
<u>Subsequent Offering Period</u>	70
<u>Exchange of Shares; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Merge Healthcare</u>	
<u>Common Stock</u>	70
<u>Withdrawal Rights</u>	70
<u>Procedure for Tendering</u>	71
<u>Guaranteed Delivery</u>	72
<u>Grant of Proxy</u>	73
<u>Fees and Commissions</u>	73
<u>Matters Concerning Validity and Eligibility</u>	73
<u>Announcement of Results of the Offer</u>	74
<u>Ownership of Merge Healthcare After the Offer and the Merger</u>	74
<u>Conditions to the Offer</u>	74
<u>Purpose of the Offer; the Merger</u>	76
<u>Plans for etrials</u>	76
<u>Effect of the Offer on the Market for Shares; NASDAQ Listing;</u>	
<u>Registration Under the Exchange Act; Margin Regulations</u>	77
<u>Certain Relationships With etrials</u>	77
<u>Source and Amount of Funds</u>	78
<u>DESCRIPTION OF MERGE HEALTHCARE CAPITAL STOCK</u>	79
<u>Common Stock</u>	79
<u>Preferred Stock</u>	79
<u>Delaware Law Anti-takeover Provisions</u>	80
<u>Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions</u>	80
<u>COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS</u>	82
<u>Authorized Capital Stock</u>	82
<u>Annual Meetings of Stockholders</u>	82
<u>Special Meetings of Stockholders</u>	82
<u>Quorum Requirements</u>	83
<u>Stockholder Action by Written Consent</u>	83
<u>Amending the Bylaws</u>	83
<u>Special Voting Requirements and Provisions</u>	83
<u>Number and Election of Directors</u>	83
<u>Notice Requirements for Stockholder Nomination of Directors and Other</u>	
<u>Proposals</u>	84
<u>Board Vacancy</u>	85
<u>Removal of Directors</u>	85
<u>Indemnification and Liability of Directors and Officers</u>	85
<u>Business Combinations</u>	87

<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	88
<u>EXPERTS</u>	89
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	90
<u>ETRIALS BUSINESS</u>	101

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Overview</u>	101
<u>History and Merger</u>	101
<u>General</u>	101
<u>Value Proposition</u>	101
<u>Products</u>	102
<u>Technology Acquisitions</u>	104
<u>Research and Development</u>	104
<u>Business Segments and Geographic Information</u>	104
<u>Customers</u>	104
<u>Competition</u>	105
<u>Intellectual Property Rights</u>	106
<u>Potential Liability and Insurance</u>	107
<u>Regulatory Matters</u>	107
<u>Employees</u>	108
<u>Properties</u>	108
<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	109
<u>MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR ETRIALS</u>	110
<u>Overview</u>	110
<u>Sources of Revenues</u>	110
<u>Cost of Revenues and Operating Expenses</u>	111
<u>Foreign Currency</u>	112
<u>Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates</u>	112
<u>Revenue Recognition</u>	112
<u>Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation</u>	113
<u>Goodwill</u>	113
<u>Accounting for Income Taxes</u>	114
<u>Results of Operations</u>	114
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	116
<u>Contractual Obligations</u>	117
<u>Inflation</u>	118
<u>Certain Factors That Might Affect Future Results</u>	118
<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	119
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	120
<u>Beneficial Ownership of etrials Shares</u>	120
<u>INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ETRIALS WORLDWIDE, INC.</u>	F-1

Appendix A – Agreement and Plan of MergerAppendix B – Form of Stockholder Support AgreementAppendix C – Fairness Opinion of Emerging Growth Equities, Ltd.Appendix D – Directors and Executive Officers of Merge Healthcare and OfferorAppendix E – Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporate Law

Table of Contents

This Prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about Merge Healthcare and its subsidiaries from documents filed with the SEC that have not been included in or delivered with this Prospectus. This information is available without charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and at Merge Healthcare's website at www.merge.com, as well as from other sources. See "Where To Obtain More Information."

etrial stockholders also may request copies of these publicly filed documents from Merge Healthcare, without charge, upon written or oral request to Merge Healthcare's information agent for the Offer and Merger, Morrow & Co., LLC, at 470 West Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, 1-(800) 607-0088. In order to receive timely delivery of the documents, etrial stockholders must make such request no later than July 7, 2009, or five business days before the expiration date of the Offer, whichever is later.

This Prospectus does not constitute a solicitation of proxies for any meeting of stockholders of etrials. We are not asking you for a proxy and you are requested not to send us a proxy. Any solicitation of proxies that Merge Healthcare or etrials might make will be made only pursuant to separate proxy solicitation materials complying with the requirements of Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

Merge Healthcare and etrials file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The public may read and copy any reports, statements or other information that Merge Healthcare or etrials file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference room. Merge Healthcare's and etrials' public filings also are available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and may be obtained without charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Merge Healthcare's and etrials' filings with the SEC are also available on their websites at www.merge.com and www.etrials.com, respectively. The contents of those websites are not incorporated by reference into this Prospectus.

Merge Healthcare has filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 to register the offer and sale of shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock to be issued in the Offer and the Merger (the "Registration Statement"). This Prospectus is a part of that registration statement. Merge Healthcare may also file amendments to such registration statement. In addition, on June 16, 2009, Merge Healthcare filed with the SEC a Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO under the Exchange Act, together with exhibits, to furnish certain information about the Offer. Merge Healthcare may file amendments to the Schedule TO. As allowed by SEC rules, this Prospectus does not contain all of the information in the Registration Statement or the Schedule TO or the exhibits to the Registration Statement or Schedule TO. You may obtain copies of the Form S-4 and Schedule TO (and any amendments to those documents) by contacting the information agent as directed on the back cover of this Prospectus.

The SEC allows Merge Healthcare to incorporate information into this Prospectus "by reference," which means that Merge Healthcare and Offeror can disclose important information to etrial stockholders by referring to another document or information filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this Prospectus, except for any information amended or superseded by information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this Prospectus. This Prospectus incorporates by reference the documents and information set forth below that Merge Healthcare (File No. 29486) has previously filed (but not furnished) with the SEC. These documents contain important information about Merge Healthcare and its financial condition.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare Filings (File No. 29486)

Merge Healthcare Information Incorporated by Reference	Period Covered or Date of Filing
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009, as filed with the SEC on May 8, 2009	Fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009

Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, as filed with the SEC on March 11, 2009	Fiscal year ended December 31, 2008
---	-------------------------------------

Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A as filed with the SEC on April 24, 2009 (other than such information that is included in the proxy statement but not deemed to be filed with the SEC).

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

Current Reports on Form 8-K

Filed with the SEC on:

- June 2, 2009
- April 30, 2009
- April 16, 2009
- April 6, 2009
- March 5, 2009
- February 17, 2009
- February 13, 2009
- January 7, 2009

Merge Healthcare also incorporates by reference into this Prospectus any additional documents that it may file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date of this Prospectus to the termination of the Offer. Nothing in this Prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished but not filed with the SEC.

Merge Healthcare has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus about Merge Healthcare, and etrials has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus about etrials.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Information both included and incorporated by reference in this Prospectus may contain forward-looking statements, concerning, among other things, each of Merge Healthcare's and etrials' outlook, financial projections and business strategies, including regarding the Offer, the proposed Merger and the Surviving Corporation, all of which are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms such as "intend," "plan," "may," "should," "will," "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "continue," "potential," "oppo" and similar terms. These statements are based on certain assumptions and analyses that each company believes are

appropriate under the circumstances. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should the assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may differ materially from those expected, estimated or projected. Neither Merge Healthcare nor etrials can guarantee that either actually will achieve these plans, intentions or expectations, including completing the Offer and the Merger on the terms summarized in this Prospectus. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and Merge Healthcare and etrials undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any of them in light of new information, future events or otherwise. Factors that could have an adverse effect on operations and future prospects of Merge Healthcare and etrials or the completion of the Offer and the Merger include, but are not limited to:

-ii-

Table of Contents

- failure to satisfy the conditions to consummate the Offer and the Merger;
- the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated May 30, 2009, among Merge Healthcare, Offeror and etrials (the “Merger Agreement”);
 - the failure of the Offer or the Merger to close for any other reason;
- the amount of the costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the Offer and the Merger;
- the ability of Merge Healthcare to integrate etrials successfully;
- whether the transaction will result in the enhancement of value and benefits to customers and to Merge Healthcare’s and etrials’ stockholders;
 - general economic and business conditions;
 - global economic growth and activity;
 - industry conditions; and
 - changes in laws or regulations.

These risks and uncertainties, along with the risk factors discussed under “Risk Factors” in this Prospectus, should be considered in evaluating any forward-looking statements contained in this Prospectus. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this Prospectus. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to Merge Healthcare and etrials or any person acting on their behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements in this section.

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below are some of the questions that you as a holder of Shares may have regarding the Offer and the Merger and answers to those questions. You are urged to carefully read the remainder of this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal and the other documents to which we have referred because the information contained in this section and in the “Summary” is not complete. Additional important information is contained in the remainder of this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal. See “Where To Obtain More Information.”

As used in this Prospectus, unless otherwise indicated or the context requires, “Merge Healthcare” or “we” refers to Merge Healthcare Incorporated and its consolidated subsidiaries, “Offeror” refers to “Merge Acquisition Corp.” or “Merger Sub”, and “etrial” refers to etrial Worldwide, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Who is offering to buy my Shares?

The Offer is made by Merge Acquisition Corp., a Delaware corporation formed for the purpose of making the Offer and consummating the Merger. Offeror is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare.

Merge Healthcare develops software solutions that automate healthcare data and diagnostic workflow to create a more comprehensive electronic record of the patient experience. Merge Healthcare products, ranging from standards-based development toolkits to fully integrated clinical applications, have been used by healthcare providers worldwide for over 20 years.

Merge Healthcare goes to market through two different channels, placing it in a unique space in the healthcare market. The Merge OEM business unit sells toolkits, customizable applications and engineering services to modality and medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies and health IT vendors. The Merge Fusion business unit sells workflow solutions and services to hospitals, physician practices and outpatient clinics directly and through distributors.

Merge Healthcare was founded in 1987 and was reincorporated in Delaware on December 5, 2008. It currently markets its products and services throughout the world. Merge Healthcare Common Stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “MRGE.”

What are the classes and amounts of etrial securities that Offeror is offering to acquire in the Offer?

The Offeror seeks to acquire all issued and outstanding shares of etrial common stock (the “Shares”).

What will I receive for my Shares?

The Offeror is offering to exchange for each outstanding Share validly tendered pursuant to the Offer and not properly withdrawn:

- \$0.80 in cash, without interest, plus
- 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (collectively, the “Consideration”),

subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal (which together, as each may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, constitute the “Offer”). etrial stockholders who otherwise would be entitled to receive a fractional share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will instead receive an amount in cash (without interest) equal to the amount of such fraction multiplied by \$2.610, rounded to the nearest

cent.

-iv-

Table of Contents

What will I receive for my options to purchase Shares?

Holders of options to purchase Shares may not tender their options in the Offer. However, as a result of the Merger, all outstanding and unexercised stock options under etrials' stock option plans and agreements, including stock options held by executive officers and directors of etrials, will fully vest and become exercisable immediately prior to the closing of the Merger. Persons who exercise their stock options prior to the effective time of the Merger will be entitled to receive the Consideration, on the same basis as the other etrials stockholders. Unexercised stock options will be cancelled immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger and converted into the right to receive a net payment, if any, in cash. If the per share exercise price of an etrials stock option is less than \$1.70, the option holder will receive cash equal to the product of (A) \$1.70 less the applicable per share exercise price of the etrials stock option, and (B) the number of shares subject to the unexercised etrials stock option. An amount necessary to satisfy any applicable minimum withholding tax obligation will be withheld from the cash consideration to be received. If the per share exercise price of an etrials stock option is greater than or equal to \$1.70, such option will be cancelled at the closing of the Merger and the holder of such option will not receive any Consideration with respect thereto.

Will I have to pay any fee or commission to exchange Shares?

If you are the record owner of your Shares and you tender your Shares in the Offer, you will not have to pay any brokerage fees, commissions or similar expenses. If you own your Shares through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee and your broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee tenders your Shares on your behalf, your broker or such other nominee may charge a fee for doing so. You should consult your broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee to determine whether any charges will apply.

Why is Offeror making this Offer?

The purpose of the Offer is for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrials. The Offer is the first step in Merge Healthcare's plan to acquire all of the outstanding Shares. Promptly after completion of the Offer, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate the Merger. The purpose of the Merger is for Merge Healthcare to acquire all Shares not acquired in the Offer. In the Merger, etrials stockholders who did not tender their Shares in the Offer will receive the Consideration. After the Merger, the Surviving Corporation will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare and the former etrials stockholders will no longer have any direct ownership interest in the Surviving Corporation.

What does the etrials board of directors recommend?

The etrials board of directors has unanimously (i) authorized the execution, delivery and performance of the Merger Agreement, (ii) approved, and declared advisable, the Merger Agreement, the Offer and the Merger, (iii) determined that the terms of the Offer and the Merger are fair to and in the best interests of etrials' stockholders, and (iv) recommended that the holders of Shares accept the Offer and tender their Shares pursuant to the Offer (the "etrials Recommendation").

A description of the reasons why the etrials board of directors approved the Offer is set forth in etrials' Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 that is being mailed to you together with this Prospectus.

As described below, the directors and executive officers of etrials and their affiliates currently beneficially own approximately 33% of the outstanding Shares. After reasonable inquiry and to the best of etrials' knowledge, each executive officer and director of etrials and its affiliates currently intends, subject to compliance with applicable law including Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, to tender all Shares held of record or beneficially owned by such person to the Offeror pursuant to the Offer. These directors and executive officers of etrials and their affiliates (the

“Stockholders”), hold 3,621,299 shares of common stock (including 397,313 shares of restricted stock) and options to purchase 403,662 shares of common stock and have entered into Stockholder Support Agreements with Merge Healthcare pursuant to which they have agreed to accept the Offer with respect to all of their Shares and tender all of their Shares pursuant to the Offer, vote all their Shares in favor of approval of the Merger Agreement and each of the transactions contemplated thereby and not to sell or otherwise transfer their Shares other than in compliance with the Stockholder Support Agreement. See “Merger Agreement — The Stockholder Support Agreements.”

-v-

Table of Contents

What are the conditions of the Offer?

Offeror's obligation to accept for exchange and to exchange Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the Offer is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Offeror of certain conditions, including the valid tender of at least a majority of the outstanding Fully Diluted Shares (the "Minimum Tender Condition") and the effectiveness of this Form S-4, as more fully described below under the heading "The Offer — Conditions to the Offer." The Merger Agreement defines Fully Diluted Shares to mean all outstanding securities entitled generally to vote in the election of directors of the Company on a fully diluted basis, after giving effect to the exercise or conversion of all options, rights and securities exercisable or convertible into such voting securities having an exercise price or conversion price less than the "Cash Value of the Offer Price," which is the greater of \$1.70 or an amount equal to the highest price per Share paid pursuant to the Offer.

Offeror may, without the consent of etrials, from time to time extend the Offer for increments of not more than five (5) business days if, at the scheduled expiration date, any of the conditions of the Offer shall not have been satisfied or waived until such time as such conditions are satisfied or waived. See "The Offer – Extension, Termination and Amendment."

Merge Healthcare and etrials cannot be certain when, or if, the conditions to the Offer will be satisfied or waived or whether or not the Offer will be completed. The conditions to the Offer are for the sole benefit of Merge Healthcare and Offeror and may be asserted by Merge Healthcare or Offeror regardless of the circumstances (including any action or inaction by Merge Healthcare or Offeror) giving rise to such condition or may be waived by Merge Healthcare or Offeror, by express and specific action to that effect, in whole or in part at any time and from time to time, in each case except for the Minimum Tender Condition which may only be waived by Merge Healthcare or Offeror with the express prior written consent of etrials.

How long will it take to complete the proposed transaction?

The transaction is expected to be completed in the third quarter of calendar year 2009, subject to the conditions described in "The Merger Agreement — Conditions to the Merger" and "The Offer — Conditions to the Offer."

Is Merge Healthcare's financial condition relevant to my decision to tender Shares in the Offer?

Yes. Merge Healthcare's financial condition is relevant to your decision to tender your Shares because part of the Consideration you will receive if your Shares are exchanged in the Offer will consist of shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, assuming you own at least three Shares. You should, therefore, consider Merge Healthcare's financial condition as you could become a Merge Healthcare stockholder through the Offer. You should also consider the likely effect that Merge Healthcare's acquisition of etrials could have on Merge Healthcare's financial condition. This Prospectus contains and/or incorporates by reference financial information regarding Merge Healthcare and etrials, all of which we encourage you to review.

When does the Offer expire? Can the Offer be extended and, if so, under what circumstances?

The Offer is scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, at the end of July 14, 2009, which is the "Initial Expiration Date," unless further extended by Offeror. Any extension, delay, termination, waiver or amendment of the Offer will be followed as promptly as practicable by public announcement thereof to be made no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled Expiration Date. During any such extension, all Shares previously tendered and not properly withdrawn will remain subject to the Offer, subject to the rights of a tendering stockholder to withdraw such stockholder's Shares. "Expiration Date" means the Initial Expiration Date, unless and until Offeror has extended the period during which the Offer is open, subject to the terms and

conditions of the Merger Agreement, in which event the term “Expiration Date” means the latest time and date at which the Offer, as so extended by Offeror, will expire.

Subject to the provisions of the Merger Agreement and the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, Offeror may, without the consent of etrials, from time to time extend the Offer (A) in increments of not more than five (5) business days for one or more periods if, at the scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer shall not have been satisfied or waived until the time as such conditions are satisfied or waived or (B) for any period required by any rule, regulation, interpretation or position of the SEC or the staff thereof applicable to the Offer. Offeror shall, at the request of etrials, extend the Offer for not less than five (5) business days if, at the initial Expiration Date or any subsequent scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer have not been satisfied or waived. Offeror shall, if requested by etrials or Merge Healthcare, make available a subsequent offering period of not less than ten (10) business days; but Offeror shall not be required to make available a subsequent offering period if, prior to such period, Merge Healthcare and Offeror own more than 80% of the Fully Diluted Shares.

-vi-

Table of Contents

Any decision to extend the Offer will be made public by an announcement regarding such extension as described under “The Offer — Extension, Termination and Amendment.”

How do I tender my Shares?

To tender Shares into the Offer, you must deliver the certificates representing your Shares, together with a completed letter of transmittal and any other documents required by the letter of transmittal, to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC, the exchange agent for the Offer, not later than the time the Offer expires. The letter of transmittal (and the instructions thereto) is enclosed with this Prospectus. If your Shares are held in street name (i.e., through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee), your Shares can be tendered by your nominee by book-entry transfer through the Depository Trust Company.

For a complete discussion of the procedures for tendering your Shares, please see the section of this Prospectus entitled “The Offer — Exchange of Shares; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.”

Until what time can I withdraw tendered Shares?

You may withdraw previously tendered Shares at any time prior to the expiration of the Offer. For a complete discussion of the procedures for withdrawing your Shares, please see the section of this Prospectus entitled “The Offer — Withdrawl Rights.”

How do I withdraw previously tendered Shares?

To withdraw previously tendered Shares, you must deliver a written or facsimile notice of withdrawal with the required information to the exchange agent while you still have the right to withdraw. If you tendered Shares by giving instructions to a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, you must instruct the broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee to arrange for the withdrawal of your Shares. For a complete discussion on the procedures for withdrawing your Shares, including the applicable deadlines for effecting withdrawals, please see the section of this Prospectus entitled “The Offer — Withdrawl Rights.”

When and how will I receive the Offer consideration in exchange for my tendered Shares?

Offeror will exchange all validly tendered and not properly withdrawn Shares promptly after the Expiration Date, subject to the terms thereof and the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions to the Offer, as set forth in the section of this Prospectus entitled “The Offer — Conditions to the Offer.” Offeror will deliver the consideration for your validly tendered and not properly withdrawn Shares by depositing the cash and stock consideration therefor with the exchange agent, which will act as your agent for the purpose of receiving the Offer consideration from Offeror and transmitting such consideration to you. In all cases, an exchange of tendered Shares will be made only after timely receipt by the exchange agent of certificates for such Shares (or a confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such Shares as described in the section of this Prospectus entitled “The Offer — Procedure for Tendering”) and a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal and any other required documents for such Shares.

What are the United States federal income tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger to me?

The sale or exchange of Shares for cash and Merge Healthcare Common Stock pursuant to the Offer or the Merger will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, you will recognize gain or loss, equal, in each case, to the difference between (1) the sum of (a) the fair market value of the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock received at the effective time of the exchange pursuant to the Offer or the Merger and (b) the cash proceeds received pursuant to the Offer or the Merger, as applicable and (2) your adjusted tax basis in your Shares

surrendered in exchange therefor. If the Shares sold or exchanged constitute capital assets, such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if your holding period for such Shares is more than one year at the time of consummation of the Offer or the Merger, as the case may be. Gain or loss generally will be determined separately for each block of Shares (i.e., Shares acquired at the same cost in a single transaction) exchanged pursuant to either the Offer or the Merger. Because the tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger are complex and may vary depending on your particular circumstances, we recommend that you consult your own tax advisor concerning the federal (and any state, local or foreign) tax consequences to you of the Offer and the Merger. Please see “The Merger — Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

-vii-

Table of Contents

Why does the cover page to this Prospectus state that this Offer is subject to change and that the registration statement filed with the SEC is not yet effective? Does this mean that the Offer has not commenced?

No. As permitted under SEC rules, we commenced the Offer without the registration statement, of which this Prospectus is a part, having been declared effective by the SEC. We cannot, however, complete the Offer and accept for exchange any Shares tendered in the Offer until the registration statement is declared effective by the SEC and the other conditions to the Offer have been satisfied or, where permissible, waived.

Do I have appraisal rights in connection with the Offer or the Merger?

etrial stockholders do not have appraisal rights in connection with the Offer, but do have appraisal rights in connection with the Merger.

etrial stockholders will have the right, under Section 262 of the DGCL, to dissent and demand appraisal of their Shares in connection with the Merger, if the stockholders perfect their appraisal rights. Under Section 262, dissenting stockholders who (i) do not vote in favor of the Merger, in the event that a stockholder vote is necessary, and (ii) comply with the applicable statutory requirements and procedures, may be entitled to receive a judicial determination of the fair value of their Shares not tendered nor accepted by Offeror in the Offer (exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the Merger) and to receive payment of such fair value in cash, together with a fair rate of interest, if any. This fair value may be greater than, less than or equal to the Consideration. For more information about your appraisal rights, see “See “The Merger — Appraisal Rights.”

Where can I find more information about Merge Healthcare and etrial stockholders?

You can find more information about Merge Healthcare and etrial stockholders from various sources described in the section of this Prospectus entitled “Where To Obtain More Information.”

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This section summarizes material information presented in greater detail elsewhere in this Prospectus. However, this summary does not contain all of the information that may be important to etrials stockholders. You are urged to carefully read the remainder of this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal and the other documents to which we have referred because the information in this section is not complete. See “Where To Obtain More Information.”

The Offer (Page 68)

Under the terms of the Offer, each etrials stockholder may elect to receive, for each outstanding Share validly tendered in the Offer and not withdrawn:

- \$0.80 in cash, without interest, plus
- 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (collectively, the “Consideration”),

subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal (which together, as each may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, constitute the “Offer”).

etrials stockholders will not receive any fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock in the Offer. Instead of receiving a fractional share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock to which etrials stockholders otherwise would be entitled, tendering etrials stockholders will receive an amount in cash (without interest) equal to such fraction multiplied by \$2.610, rounded to the nearest cent.

Holders of options to purchase Shares may not tender their options in the Offer. However, as a result of the Merger, all outstanding and unexercised stock options under etrials’ stock option plans and agreements, including stock options held by executive officers and directors of etrials, will fully vest and become exercisable immediately prior to the closing of the Merger. Persons who exercise their stock options prior to the effective time of the Merger will be entitled to receive the Consideration on the same basis as the other etrials stockholders. Unexercised stock options will be cancelled immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger and converted into the right to receive a net payment, if any, in cash. If the per share exercise price of an etrials stock option is less than \$1.70, the option holder will receive cash equal to the product of (A) \$1.70 less the applicable per share exercise price of the etrials stock option, and (B) the number of shares subject to the unexercised etrials stock option. An amount necessary to satisfy any applicable minimum withholding tax obligation will be withheld from the cash consideration to be received. If the per share exercise price of an etrials stock option is greater than or equal to \$1.70, such option will be cancelled at the closing of the Merger and the holder of such option will not receive any Consideration with respect thereto.

Purpose of the Offer; The Merger (Page 76)

Merge Healthcare intends, promptly after the completion of the Offer, to have Offeror merge into etrials, with etrials surviving the Merger. In the Merger, etrials stockholders who did not tender their Shares in the Offer will receive the Consideration. If Offeror owns 90% or more of the outstanding Shares following consummation of the Offer and any subsequent offering period and exercise of an irrevocable option to purchase additional newly issued shares (the “Top-Up Option”), if exercised, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate the Merger as a “short-form” merger pursuant to Section 253 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (“DGCL”). In this case, neither the approval of any holder of Shares nor the approval of the etrials board of directors will be required. If Offeror owns less than 90% of the outstanding Shares following the consummation of the Offer and does not exercise the Top-Up Option, the etrials board of directors will submit the Merger to etrials’ stockholders for approval at a stockholder meeting convened for that purpose in accordance with the DGCL. Merge Healthcare will, upon consummation of the Offer, have sufficient

voting power to ensure approval of the Merger at the stockholders' meeting without the affirmative vote of any other etrials stockholder. After the Merger, the Surviving Corporation will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare and the former etrials stockholders will not have any direct equity ownership interest in the Surviving Corporation. In the Merger, each issued and outstanding Share (other than dissenting Shares) will be converted into the right to receive the greater of the Consideration or the highest price per Share paid pursuant to the Offer, subject to appraisal rights under Delaware law, as more fully described under "The Offer — Purpose of the Offer; The Merger."

Table of Contents

The Companies (Page 28)

Merge Healthcare

Merge Healthcare Incorporated
6737 West Washington Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-5650
(414) 977-4000

Merge Healthcare, a Delaware corporation, develops software solutions that automate healthcare data and diagnostic workflow to create a more comprehensive electronic record of the patient experience. Merge Healthcare products, ranging from standards-based development toolkits to fully integrated clinical applications, have been used by healthcare providers worldwide for over 20 years.

Merge Healthcare goes to market through two different channels, placing it in a unique space in the healthcare market. The Merge OEM business unit sells toolkits, customizable applications and engineering services to modality and medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies and health IT vendors. The Merge Fusion business unit sells workflow solutions and services to hospitals, physician practices and outpatient clinics directly and through distributors.

Merge Healthcare was founded in 1987 and was reincorporated in Delaware on December 5, 2008. It currently markets its products and services throughout the world. Merge Healthcare Common Stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "MRGE."

Merge Healthcare maintains a site on the Internet at www.merge.com; however, information found on Merge Healthcare's website is not part of this Prospectus.

Offeror

Merge Acquisition Corp.
c/o Merge Healthcare Incorporated
6737 West Washington Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-5650
(414) 977-4000

Offeror, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare. Offeror is newly formed, and was organized solely for the purpose of making the Offer and consummating the Merger. Offeror has engaged in no business activities to date and it has no material assets or liabilities of any kind, other than those incident to its formation and those incurred in connection with the Offer and the Merger.

etrials

etrials Worldwide, Inc.
4000 Aerial Center Parkway
Morrisville, NC 27560
(919) 653-3400

etrials Worldwide Inc., a Delaware corporation, is a leading provider of eClinical software and services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and contract research organizations. It was established in 1988 and

has participated in over 900 clinical trials in over 70 countries. etrials provides the information systems backbone for a clinical trial by coordinating data capture, logistics, patient interaction and trial management through Web-based tools.

etrials differentiates itself by offering a flexible and integrated software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform that includes electronic data capture (EDC), interactive voice and Web response (IVR/IWR) and electronic patient diaries (eDiaries). These solutions allow for real-time acquisition of data from multiple sources (clinical trial sites, patients and labs) and then the quick compilation of these for fast decision-making.

Table of Contents

etrial is located in the greater Raleigh area, North Carolina.

Reasons for the Offer (Page 76)

The purpose of the Offer is for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrial. Offeror is making the Offer and Merge Healthcare plans to complete the Merger because it believes that the acquisition of etrial by Merge Healthcare will provide significant beneficial long-term growth prospects and increased stockholder value for the combined company. Merge Healthcare believes that the Offer and the Merger will increase its market presence and opportunities, enhance its product mix, increase operating efficiencies, combine significant management talent and enhance employee opportunities.

Expiration of the Offer (Page 68)

The Offer is scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, at the end of July 14, 2009, which is the "Initial Expiration Date," unless further extended by Offeror. "Expiration Date" means the Initial Expiration Date, unless and until Offeror has extended the period during which the Offer is open, subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, in which event the term "Expiration Date" means the latest time and date at which the Offer, as so extended by Offeror, will expire.

Extension, Termination or Amendment (Page 69)

Subject to the provisions of the Merger Agreement and the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, Offeror may, without the consent of etrial, from time to time extend the Offer (A) in increments of not more than five (5) business days for one or more periods if, at the scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer shall not have been satisfied or waived until the time as such conditions are satisfied or waived or (B) for any period required by any rule, regulation, interpretation or position of the SEC or the staff thereof applicable to the Offer. Offeror shall, at the request of etrial, extend the Offer for not less than five (5) business days if, at the initial Expiration Date or any subsequent scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer have not been satisfied or waived. Offeror shall, if requested by etrial or Merge Healthcare, make available a subsequent offering period of not less than ten (10) business days; but Offeror shall not be required to make available a subsequent offering period if, prior to such period, Merge Healthcare and Offeror own more than 80% of the Shares outstanding on a Fully Diluted Basis.

Offeror will effect any extension, termination, amendment or delay by giving oral or written notice to the exchange agent and by making a public announcement as promptly as practicable thereafter as described under "The Offer — Extension, Termination and Amendment." In the case of an extension, any such announcement will be issued no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day following the previously scheduled Expiration Date. Subject to applicable law (including Rules 14d-4(d) and 14d-6(c) under the Exchange Act, which require that any material change in the information published, sent or given to stockholders in connection with the Offer be promptly disseminated to stockholders in a manner reasonably designed to inform them of such change) and without limiting the manner in which Offeror may choose to make any public announcement, Offeror assumes no obligation to publish, advertise or otherwise communicate any such public announcement of this type other than by issuing a press release. During any extension, Shares previously tendered and not properly withdrawn will remain subject to the Offer, subject to the right of each etrial stockholder to withdraw previously tendered Shares.

The Merger Agreement provides that the agreement may be terminated if the Offer has not been consummated on or before July 29, 2009 (or August 28, 2009 in certain circumstances) and Offeror may not extend the Offer beyond such date without the prior written consent of etrial.

Subject to applicable SEC rules and regulations, Offeror also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, at any time or from time to time to waive any condition identified as subject to waiver in “The Offer — Conditions to the Offer” by giving oral or written notice of such waiver to the exchange agent.

Table of Contents

Offeror may elect to provide subsequent offering periods of up to five business days (but no fewer than three business days) after the acceptance of Shares in the Offer in accordance with Rule 14d-11 under the Exchange Act if, on the expiration date of the offer, all of the conditions to the Offer have been satisfied or waived. If Offeror exercises its right to use a subsequent offering period, Offeror will first consummate the exchange with respect to the Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the initial offer period. You will not have the right to withdraw any Shares of etrials common stock that you tender in the subsequent offering period. If Offeror elects to provide a subsequent offering period, Offeror will publicly announce the results of the Offer, including the approximate number and percentage of Shares deposited to date no later than 9:00 a.m. New York City time on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration and immediately begin the subsequent offering period.

Withdrawal Rights (Page 70)

Tendered Shares may be withdrawn at any time prior to the Expiration Date. Additionally, if Offeror has not agreed to accept the Shares for exchange on or prior to the 60th day after the Offer has commenced, etrials stockholders may thereafter withdraw their Shares from tender at any time after such date until Offeror accepts the Shares for exchange. Once Offeror accepts Shares for exchange pursuant to the Offer, all tenders not previously withdrawn become irrevocable.

Procedure for Tendering (Page 71)

To validly tender Shares pursuant to the Offer, etrials stockholders must:

- deliver a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal, along with any required signature guarantees and any other required documents, and certificates for tendered Shares to the exchange agent at its address set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus, all of which must be received by the exchange agent prior to the Expiration Date;
- deliver an agent's message in connection with a book-entry transfer, and any other required documents, to the exchange agent at its address set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus, and Shares must be tendered pursuant to the procedures for book-entry tender set forth herein (and a confirmation of receipt of that tender received), and in each case be received by the exchange agent prior to the Expiration Date; or
 - comply with the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth in "The Offer — Guaranteed Delivery."

etrials stockholders who hold Shares in "street name" through a bank, broker or other nominee holder, and desire to tender their Shares pursuant to the Offer, should instruct the nominee holder to do so prior to the Expiration Date.

Exchange of Shares (Page 70)

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Offer (including, if the Offer is extended or amended, the terms and conditions of any extension or amendment), as soon as practicable following the Expiration Date, Offeror will accept for exchange, and will exchange, all Shares validly tendered and not withdrawn prior to the Expiration Date.

Top-Up Option (Page 68)

Under the Merger Agreement, Offeror has a Top-Up Option to purchase up to a number of additional Shares such that following the consummation of the Offer, Merge Healthcare and Offeror shall own one Share more than 90% of the Fully Diluted Shares. The Top-Up Option's per share purchase price, which is equal to the Cash Value of the Offer Price, may be paid in cash, cashiers check or by wire transfer.

Interests of Certain Persons (Page 49)

Certain etrials directors, officers and stockholders have interests in the Offer and the Merger that are different from, or are in addition to, those of other stockholders. These interests include: the accelerated vesting of stock options and other unvested stock-based awards previously issued to certain etrials directors and officers; current and future employment arrangements; severance benefits; and the indemnification of directors and officers of etrials against certain liabilities.

Table of Contents

The boards of directors of etrials and Merge Healthcare were aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, when they approved the Offer, the Merger and the Merger Agreement.

Regulatory Approvals (Page 53)

Merge Healthcare and etrials have agreed to use reasonable efforts to do all things necessary, proper or advisable to consummate the Offer and the Merger, including obtaining all necessary waivers, consents and approvals from governmental entities and making all necessary registrations and filings as may be necessary to obtain an approval or waiver from, or to avoid an action or proceeding by, any governmental entity. This includes, if such filing is required, filing with the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission a Notification and Report Form pursuant to the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act (the “HSR Act”); however, the purchase of Shares pursuant to the Offer is not subject to such requirements because the size of the transaction falls below the current statutory thresholds for pre-merger notification under the HSR Act. Merge Healthcare and etrials are not aware of any material governmental approvals or actions that are required for the Merger. Such legal matters and regulatory issues are discussed under “The Merger — Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger.”

Source and Amount of Funds (Page 78)

The Offer and the Merger are not conditioned upon any financing arrangements or contingencies.

Assuming all incentive equity awards tender into the Offer, and all outstanding vested in-the-money stock options remain unexercised prior to the Merger, the Offeror estimates the amounts required to purchase the then outstanding Shares and fund transaction-related fees and expenses will approximate 3.8 million shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and \$11.6 million of cash.

Merge Healthcare expects to have sufficient cash on hand to complete the transactions contemplated by the Offer and the Merger and to pay fees, expenses and other related amounts.

Appraisal Rights (Page 53)

Under Delaware law, you will not have any appraisal rights in connection with the Offer. However, the Merger is expected to entitle etrials stockholders to appraisal rights under Section 262 of the DGCL. A copy of the appraisal rights provisions of the DGCL is attached as Appendix E to this prospectus. See “The Merger — Appraisal Rights.”

Comparative Market Price Data (Page 26)

Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “MRGE.” The etrials Shares trade on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “ETWC.” On May 29, 2009, the last full trading day before the public announcement of Merge Healthcare’s proposal to acquire etrials, the closing sales price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$3.14 and the closing sales price of etrials common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$1.27. etrials stockholders should obtain current market quotations for Merge Healthcare Common Stock and the Shares before deciding whether to tender Shares in the Offer. See “Comparative Market Price and Dividend Data” and “Comparative Historical and Summary Unaudited Pro Forma Per Share Information” for a discussion of per share data.

Ownership of Merge Healthcare After the Offer and the Merger (Page 74)

Merge Healthcare estimates that if all Shares (assuming all outstanding vested in-the-money stock options remain unexercised prior to the Merger) are exchanged pursuant to the Offer and the Merger, former etrials stockholders

would own, in the aggregate, approximately 6.3% of the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock outstanding after the Merger.

Comparison of Stockholders' Rights (Page 82)

The rights of Merge Healthcare stockholders are different in some respects from the rights of etrials stockholders. Therefore, etrials stockholders will have different rights as stockholders once they become Merge Healthcare stockholders. The differences are described in more detail under "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights."

Table of Contents

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences (Page 51)

The Offer and the Merger, taken together, generally will be a taxable transaction within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Neither the Offer nor the Merger is conditioned on the receipt of an opinion of counsel regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the Offer and the Merger. A U.S. holder of etrials stock that holds etrials stock as a capital asset and receives Merge Healthcare Common Stock and cash in the Offer or the Merger generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the sum of the fair market value of Merge Healthcare Common Stock at the effective time of the exchange and cash, including any cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, received in the Offer or the Merger, and (2) such holder’s adjusted tax basis in its etrials stock exchanged therefor.

Although not currently contemplated, a merger of etrials with and into Merge Healthcare or one of its affiliates after the Merger, if viewed as occurring as part of an integrated plan with the Offer and the Merger, could cause the Offer and the Merger to be treated as an overall tax-free reorganization for U.S federal income tax purposes.

Each etrials stockholder should read the discussion under “The Merger — Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” and should consult its own tax advisor for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger to such stockholder.

Accounting Treatment (Page 53)

Merge Healthcare intends to treat the merger as an acquisition by Merge Healthcare of etrials under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Under the acquisition method of accounting, the assets and liabilities of etrials will be recorded, as of the completion of the Merger, at their respective fair values in the financial statements of Merge Healthcare. Financial statements and reported results of operations of Merge Healthcare issued after the completion of the Merger will reflect these values, but will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of etrials.

Questions about the Offer and the Merger

etrials stockholders should contact the information agent for the Offer, at the following address and telephone numbers with any questions about the Offer or the Merger, or to request additional copies of this Prospectus or other documents:

470 West Avenue

Stamford, CT 06902

Banks and Brokerage Firms, Please Call: (203) 658-9400

Holders Call Toll Free: (800) 607-0088

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

etrial stockholders should carefully read this Prospectus and the other documents referred to or incorporated by reference into this Prospectus, including in particular the following risk factors, in deciding whether to tender Shares pursuant to the Offer.

Risk Factors Relating to the Offer

The market price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may decline as a result of Merge Healthcare's acquisition of etrials.

The market price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may decline after the Offer and Merger are announced as well as after completion. Some of the issues that Merge Healthcare could face are:

- the integration of etrials' business is unsuccessful or takes longer or is more disruptive than anticipated;
- Merge Healthcare does not achieve the expected synergies or other benefits of the etrials acquisition as rapidly or to the extent anticipated, if at all;
- the effect of Merge Healthcare's acquisition of etrials on Merge Healthcare's financial results does not meet the expectations of Merge, financial analysts or investors; or
 - after Merge Healthcare acquires etrials, etrials' business does not perform as anticipated.

As of May 31, 2009, there were 56,772,006 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock issued, including 479,997 shares subject to restricted stock awards and 15,414 shares held in treasury, and held of record by approximately 284 stockholders. On such date, 4,528,229 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock were subject to outstanding options. In connection with the Offer and Merger, Merge Healthcare estimates that it could issue up to approximately 3,814,916 additional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. The increase in the number of outstanding shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may lead to sales of such shares or the perception that such sales may occur, either of which may adversely affect the market price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

The value of the Consideration may fluctuate prior to the Expiration Date.

As a result of the fixed exchange ratio of the Offer, the value of the Consideration will fluctuate prior to the Expiration Date, if and as the market price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock fluctuates. If the price per share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock declines, the value of the Consideration to etrials stockholders will decline.

Even if the Offer is completed, full integration of etrials' operations with Merge Healthcare's may be delayed if Offeror does not acquire at least 90% of the issued and outstanding Shares pursuant to the Offer.

The Offer is subject to a condition that, before the Expiration Date, there shall have been validly tendered and not properly withdrawn at least a majority of the Shares on a fully diluted basis. If Offeror acquires at least 90% of the issued and outstanding Shares, the Merger will be able to be effected as a "short-form merger" under Delaware law. A short-form merger would enable Merge Healthcare to complete the acquisition of etrials without any action on the part of the other holders of Shares. If Merge Healthcare does not acquire 90% of the issued and outstanding Shares pursuant to the Offer or the Top-Up Option, if exercised, etrials will be required to hold a stockholder meeting in order to obtain the approval of etrials stockholders to consummate the Merger. Although this would not prevent the Merger from occurring because Offeror would hold sufficient Shares to approve the Merger, it would delay the

completion of the Merger and could delay the realization of some or all of the anticipated benefits from integrating etrials' operations with Merge Healthcare's operations.

7

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare's acquisition of etrials could trigger certain provisions contained in etrials' agreements with third parties that could permit such parties to terminate that agreement.

etrials may be a party to agreements that permit a counter-party to terminate an agreement or receive payments because the Offer or the Merger would cause a default or violate an anti-assignment, change of control or similar clause in such agreements. If this happens, Merge Healthcare may have to seek to replace that agreement with a new agreement or make additional payments under such agreements. However, Merge Healthcare may be unable to replace a terminated agreement on comparable terms or at all. Depending on the importance of such agreement to etrials' business, the failure to replace a terminated agreement on similar terms or at all, and requirements to pay additional amounts, may increase the costs to Merge Healthcare of operating etrials' business or prevent Merge Healthcare from operating etrials' business.

etrials stockholders who receive Merge Healthcare Common Stock in the Offer will become Merge Healthcare stockholders. Merge Healthcare Common Stock may be affected by different factors than the factors that affect the Shares, and holders will have different rights than those they have as etrials stockholders.

Upon completion of the Offer, etrials stockholders receiving shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will become stockholders of Merge. Merge Healthcare's business differs from that of etrials, and Merge Healthcare's results of operations and the trading price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may be adversely affected by factors different from those that would affect etrials' results of operations and stock price.

In addition, holders of shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will have different rights as stockholders than the rights they had as etrials stockholders before the Offer or the Merger. For a detailed comparison of the rights of Merge Healthcare stockholders compared to the rights of etrials stockholders, see "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights."

The receipt of shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock in the Offer and/or the Merger will be taxable to etrials stockholders.

The receipt of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and cash in exchange for etrials stock in the Offer or the Merger generally will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A U.S. holder of etrials stock who holds etrials stock as a capital asset and receives Merge Healthcare Common Stock and cash in the Offer or the Merger generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the sum of the fair market value of Merge Healthcare Common Stock at the effective time of the exchange and cash, including any cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock received in the Offer or the Merger, and (2) such holder's adjusted tax basis in its etrials stock exchanged therefor. Gain or loss and holding period will be determined separately for each block of etrials stock, i.e., shares acquired at the same cost in a single transaction, exchanged in the exchange. Any capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for its etrials stock is more than one year at the time of the exchange. Currently, long-term capital gain for non-corporate taxpayers is taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate of 15%. If the U.S. holder has held its etrials stock for one year or less at the time of the exchange, any capital gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations. A U.S. holder's aggregate tax basis in its Merge Healthcare Common Stock received in the Offer or the Merger will equal the fair market value of such stock at the effective time of such exchange, and the holder's holding period for such stock will begin on the day after such exchange.

A merger of etrials with and into Merge Healthcare or one of its affiliates subsequent to the Merger, if viewed as occurring as part of an integrated plan with the Offer and the Merger, could cause the Merger to be treated as an overall tax-free reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Merge Healthcare has no present plan or intent to merge etrials with and into Merge Healthcare or any of its affiliates subsequent to the Merger.

etrial stockholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the specific tax consequences to them of the Offer and the Merger, including any federal, state, local, foreign or other tax consequences, and any tax return filing or other reporting requirements.

8

Table of Contents

The transaction may adversely affect the liquidity and value of the Shares not tendered.

If the Offer is completed but all Shares are not tendered in the Offer, the number of etrials stockholders and the number of Shares publicly held will be greatly reduced. As a result, the closing of the Offer could adversely affect the liquidity and market value of the remaining Shares held by the public. In addition, following completion of the Offer, subject to the rules of NASDAQ and the SEC, etrials may seek to delist the Shares from NASDAQ and may seek to discontinue its reporting obligations under the Exchange Act. As a result of any such actions, Shares not tendered pursuant to the Offer may become illiquid and may be of reduced value. See “The Offer — Plans for etrials.”

If the Offer and the Merger are not completed, Merge Healthcare’s and etrials’ stock prices and future businesses and operations could be harmed.

Merge Healthcare’s and etrials’ obligations to complete the Offer and the Merger are subject to conditions, many of which are beyond the control of Merge Healthcare and etrials. If the Offer and the Merger are not completed for any reason, each company may be subject to a number of material risks, including the following:

- etrials may be required to pay a termination fee or expense reimbursement upon termination of the Merger Agreement under certain circumstances;
 - the price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and/or the Shares may decline;
- costs related to the Offer and the Merger, such as financial advisory, legal, accounting and printing fees, must be paid even if the Offer and the Merger are not completed; and
- if the Offer and the Merger are not completed, Merge Healthcare and etrials would fail to derive the benefits expected to result from the Offer and the Merger.

In addition, if the Offer and the Merger are terminated, either company may be unable to find a partner willing to engage in a similar transaction on terms as favorable as those set forth in the Merger Agreement, or at all. This could limit each company’s ability to pursue its respective strategic goals.

Uncertainty regarding the Offer and the Merger may cause customers, suppliers and channel partners to delay or defer decisions concerning Merge Healthcare and etrials and adversely affect each company’s business, financial condition and operating results.

The Offer and the Merger will occur only if stated conditions are met, many of which are outside the control of Merge Healthcare and etrials, and both parties also have rights to terminate the Merger Agreement under specified circumstances. Accordingly, there may be uncertainty regarding the completion of the Merger. This uncertainty may cause customers and suppliers to delay or defer decisions concerning Merge Healthcare or etrials products, which could negatively affect their respective businesses. Customers and suppliers may also seek to change existing agreements with Merge Healthcare or etrials as a result of the Merger. Any delay or deferral of those decisions or changes in existing agreements could have a material adverse effect on the respective businesses of Merge Healthcare and etrials, regardless of whether the Merger is ultimately completed. Moreover, diversion of management focus and resources from the day-to-day operation of the business to matters relating to the Offer and the Merger could have a material adverse effect on each company’s business, regardless of whether the Offer and the Merger are completed.

etrials officers and directors may have conflicts of interest that may influence them to support or approve the Offer and the Merger.

The directors and officers of etrials have interests in the Offer and Merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of etrials stockholders. The directors and officers of etrials could be more likely to recommend and approve the Offer and the Merger than if they did not hold these interests. etrials stockholders should consider whether these interests might have influenced these directors and officers to support or recommend the Offer and the Merger. These interests are more fully described under “The Merger—Interests of etrials Management and Board of Directors.”

Table of Contents

The termination fee and restrictions on solicitation contained in the Merger Agreement may discourage other companies from trying to acquire etrials.

Until the completion of the Merger, with limited exceptions, the Merger Agreement prohibits etrials from entering into an alternative acquisition transaction with, or soliciting any alternative acquisition proposal from, another party. etrials has agreed to pay Merge Healthcare a termination fee of \$500,000, plus reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses up to \$250,000, in specified circumstances, including where etrials' board of directors withdraws its support of the Offer and the Merger to enter into a business combination with a third party. All of the directors and executive officers of etrials and certain stockholders of etrials who collectively own approximately 33% of the outstanding Shares have agreed in the Stockholder Support Agreements to tender their Shares in the Offer and to vote their Shares in favor of the Merger Agreement and against any competing acquisition transaction. These provisions could discourage other companies from trying to acquire etrials even though those other companies might be willing to offer greater value to etrials stockholders than Merge Healthcare has offered in the Offer and the Merger.

Merge Healthcare and etrials expect to incur significant costs associated with the Offer and Merger.

Merge Healthcare estimates that it will incur direct transaction costs of approximately \$0.4 million associated with the Offer and the Merger, including direct costs of the acquisition as well as liabilities to be accrued in connection with the acquisition (excluding any related severance costs). All such direct acquisition costs will be expensed as incurred by Merge Healthcare. In addition, etrials estimates that it will incur direct transaction costs of approximately \$1.8 million, which will be expensed as incurred. Merge Healthcare and etrials believe the combined entity may incur charges to operations, which are not currently reasonably estimable, in the quarter in which the Merger is completed or the following quarters, to reflect costs associated with integrating the two companies. The combined company may incur additional material charges in subsequent quarters to reflect additional costs associated with the Merger. Merge Healthcare and etrials anticipate that the combination will require significant cash outflows for acquisition and integration related costs. If the benefits of the Merger do not exceed the costs of integrating the businesses of Merge Healthcare and etrials, the combined company's financial results may be adversely affected.

Litigation related to the Offer and the Merger may prevent or delay the completion of the Offer and the closing of the Merger, may result in significant monetary damages or may otherwise negatively impact the business and operations of Merge Healthcare and etrials.

Fluctuation in the price of Merge Healthcare or etrials common stock may expose each company to the risk of securities class-action lawsuits. Even if such litigation is ultimately proven to lack merit, these actions could prevent or delay the acceptance of Shares pursuant to the Offer and the closing of the Merger. Any conclusion of such litigation in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or etrials could have a material adverse effect on each company's business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, the cost of defending this litigation, even if resolved favorably, could be substantial. Such litigation could also substantially divert the attention of management and resources in general. Furthermore, uncertainties resulting from the initiation and continuation of any litigation could harm the ability of Merge Healthcare or etrials to compete in the marketplace.

Risk Factors Relating to etrials and the Merger

There is no guarantee that the Offer or the Merger will be completed.

The Offer and the Merger are subject to a number of conditions, including the tender of at least a majority of the outstanding Shares. There is no assurance that this or any other condition to the completion of the Offer or the Merger will be satisfied. If the Merger is not completed, etrials will face the same operational challenges facing it prior to the execution of the Merger Agreement, including an accumulated deficit, possible continuing operating losses and a lack

of profitability.

10

Table of Contents

etrial has had recurring losses from operations and might never achieve or maintain profitability.

At March 31, 2009, etrial had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$46.7 million, including a net loss of approximately \$1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. etrial might not ever be able to achieve or maintain profitability.

Current conditions in the global economy and the major industries it serves might materially and adversely affect etrial's business and results of operations.

etrial's business and operating results might be adversely affected by worldwide economic conditions and, in particular, conditions in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries it serves. As a result of slowing global economic growth, the credit market crisis, declining consumer and business confidence, shifts in consumer spending patterns, increased unemployment, reduced levels of capital expenditures, fluctuating commodity prices, bankruptcies and other challenges currently affecting the global economy, etrial's clients might experience deterioration of their businesses, cash flow shortages, and difficulty obtaining financing. As a result, existing or potential clients might delay or cancel plans to purchase etrial's products and services and might not be able to fulfill their obligations to etrial in a timely fashion. For example, in December 2008, etrial had to pursue litigation against two former customers in excess of \$500,000, as described in "etrial Business — Legal Proceedings." Contract cancellations could affect etrial's ability to fully recover its contract costs. If the global economic slowdown continues for a significant period or there is significant further deterioration in the global economy, etrial's financial position and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

etrial might require additional financing to fund operations or potential acquisitions. If financing is not available, etrial might not be able to grow as it plans.

At March 31, 2009, etrial had cash and cash equivalents totaling approximately \$9.0 million. In the future, etrial might be required to seek additional financing to fund operations or potential acquisition opportunities. The recent downturn in the capital markets and the general economic slowdown could prevent etrial from raising additional capital or obtaining additional financing on favorable terms, if at all. If etrial cannot raise sufficient capital, its ability to operate and to grow through acquisitions or otherwise respond to competitive pressures would be significantly limited.

etrial has several large clients from which it derives substantial revenue; the loss of even a few of its clients could significantly reduce its revenues.

etrial currently derives and expects to continue to derive a significant portion of its revenues from a limited number of clients. etrial's top two clients accounted for approximately 29% and 28% of its revenue for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2008, respectively. These two clients accounted for approximately 22% and 20%, respectively, and a third client accounted for approximately 12% of etrial's revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2009. If etrial loses one of these clients or other significant clients and does not replace them with new clients, its revenues will decrease and may not be sufficient to cover its costs.

etrial faces risks associated with former employees competing with its business and the related litigation that aims to prevent them from using etrial's confidential, proprietary and/or non-public data.

On January 6, 2009, etrial filed a lawsuit against its former Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Client Services, Robert Sammis, and its former Director of Product Development, Brendon Ball, to enforce Confidentiality Agreements that they signed while employed at etrial and to prevent the disclosure or unauthorized use of confidential or non-public information of etrial in connection with the employment of Sammis and Ball at Unithink,

Inc., a direct competitor of etrials. See “etrials Business — Legal Proceedings.” etrials faces the risk that the defendants, or anyone acting in concert or participating with them (including Unithink), might make customers delay or not make purchases from etrials, use etrials’ confidential information against it or legitimately compete effectively with it. Additionally, litigation can be expensive, time-consuming and uncertain in ultimate result. Even if etrials is successful in this litigation, its business might be materially and adversely harmed nevertheless.

Table of Contents

etrialis might not continue to meet NASDAQ listing requirements, which could result in its delisting, limiting the liquidity of the Shares.

The Shares trade on the NASDAQ Global Market, which has qualitative and quantitative listing criteria, including operating results, net assets, corporate governance, minimum trading price and minimums for public float, which is the amount of stock not held by affiliates of the issuer. Although NASDAQ has temporarily halted delisting procedures for certain of these criteria in light of current market conditions, etrialis is at risk of delisting in the future due to its low capitalization and the low price of its common stock. If for any reason, the Shares are not eligible for continued quotation on the NASDAQ, holders of etrialis common stock might have difficulty selling their Shares should they desire to do so.

Risk Factors Relating to Owning Merge Common Stock

Merge Healthcare's stockholders' percentage ownership and voting power and the price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may decrease as a result of events that increase the number of Merge Healthcare outstanding shares.

As of May 31, 2009, Merge Healthcare had outstanding options to purchase 4,528,229 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock at exercise prices ranging from \$0.57 to \$24.88 per share (exercisable at a weighted average of \$3.85 per share), of which 1,508,481 options were then exercisable. Exercise of Merge Healthcare's outstanding options into shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may significantly and negatively affect the market price for Merge Healthcare Common Stock as well as decrease its stockholders' percentage ownership and voting power. In addition, Merge Healthcare may conduct future offerings of Merge Healthcare Common Stock or other securities with rights to convert the securities into shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. As a result of these and other events, such as future acquisitions, that increase the number of Merge Healthcare's outstanding shares, Merge Healthcare's stockholders' percentage ownership and voting power and the price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may decrease.

Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock eligible for public sale may have a negative impact on its market price.

Merge Healthcare is registering all of the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock being issued to etrialis stockholders pursuant to the Offer and the Merger. Future sales of these shares and shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock by existing holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock or by holders of outstanding options, upon the exercise thereof, could have a negative impact on the market price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. As of May 31, 2009, Merge Healthcare had 56,772,006 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock issued, substantially all of which are currently freely tradable. As additional shares of common stock become available for resale in the public market pursuant to the registration statement and exercise of options, the market supply of shares of common stock will increase, which could also decrease its market price.

Merge Healthcare is unable to estimate the number of shares that may be sold because this will depend on the market price for Merge Healthcare Common Stock, the personal circumstances of the sellers and other factors. Any sale of substantial amounts of Merge Healthcare Common Stock or other securities in the open market may adversely affect the market price of such securities and may adversely affect its ability to obtain future financing in the capital markets as well as create a potential market overhang.

There are a limited number of stockholders who have significant control over Merge Healthcare Common Stock, allowing them to have significant influence over the outcome of all matters submitted to its stockholders for approval, which may conflict with Merge Healthcare's interests and the interests of its other stockholders.

Merge Healthcare's directors, officers and principal stockholders (stockholders owning 10% or more of Merge Healthcare Common Stock) beneficially owned approximately 52% of the outstanding shares of common stock and stock options that could have been converted to common stock at May 31, 2009, and such stockholders will have significant influence over the outcome of all matters submitted to Merge Healthcare's stockholders for approval, including the election of its directors and other corporate actions. In addition, such influence by these affiliates could have the effect of discouraging others from attempting to take Merge Healthcare over, thereby increasing the likelihood that the market price of the common stock will not reflect a premium for control.

Table of Contents

Because Merge Healthcare does not intend to pay dividends, stockholders will benefit from an investment in its stock only if it appreciates in value.

Merge Healthcare currently intends to retain its future earnings, if any, to finance further research and development and does not expect to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. As a result, the success of an investment in Merge Healthcare Common Stock will depend upon any future appreciation in its value. There is no guarantee that Merge Healthcare Common Stock will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which etrials stockholders exchange their Shares pursuant to the Offer and the Merger or at which stockholders have purchased and will purchase their shares.

The trading price of Merge Healthcare's common stock has been volatile and may fluctuate substantially in the future.

The price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock has been, and may continue to be, volatile. Between June 1, 2008 and June 10, 2009, Merge Healthcare Common Stock has traded at a low of \$0.26 per share (on November 28, 2008) and a high of \$3.24 per share (on May 18, 2009).

The trading price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock may continue to fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, some of which are not in Merge Healthcare's control, including:

- Merge Healthcare's ability to meet or exceed the expectations of analysts or investors;
- Changes in Merge Healthcare's own forecasts or earnings estimates by analysts;
- Quarter-to-quarter variations in Merge Healthcare's operating results;
- Announcements regarding clinical activities or new products by Merge Healthcare or its competitors;
- General conditions in the healthcare IT industry;
- Governmental regulatory action and healthcare reform measures, including changes in reimbursement rates for imaging procedures;
 - Rumors about Merge Healthcare's performance or software solutions;
 - Uncertainty regarding Merge Healthcare's ability to service existing debt;
- Price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market, which have particularly affected the market prices of many software, healthcare and technology companies; and
 - General economic conditions.

In addition, the market for Merge Healthcare Common Stock may experience price and volume fluctuations unrelated or disproportionate to its operating performance. These fluctuations could have a significant impact on Merge Healthcare's business due to diminished incentives for management and diminished currency for acquisitions.

Certain provisions of Merge Healthcare's charter and Delaware law could make a takeover difficult and may prevent or frustrate attempts by its stockholders to replace or remove its management team.

Merge Healthcare has an authorized class of 1,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock and one authorized share of Series 3 Special Voting Stock preferred stock. These shares may be issued by its board of directors, on such terms and with such rights, preferences and designation as the board of directors may determine. Issuance of such preferred stock, depending upon the rights, preferences and designations thereof, may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of Merge Healthcare. In addition, Merge Healthcare is subject to provisions of Delaware corporate law which, subject to certain exceptions, will prohibit it from engaging in any “business combination” with a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns 15% or more of Merge Healthcare Common Stock for a period of three years following the date that the person came to own 15% or more of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner.

Table of Contents

These provisions of Merge Healthcare's certificate of incorporation, and of Delaware law, may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of Merge Healthcare, may discourage bids for Merge Healthcare Common Stock at a premium over market price and may adversely affect the market price, and the voting and other rights of the holders, of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. In addition, these provisions make it more difficult to replace or remove its current management team in the event its stockholders believe this would be in the best interest of Merge Healthcare and its stockholders.

Risk Factors Relating to Merge Healthcare and the Combined Company

Merge Healthcare's business could be harmed by the deteriorating general economic and market conditions that lead to reduced spending on information technology products.

As Merge Healthcare's business has expanded globally, it has become increasingly subject to the risks arising from adverse changes in domestic and global economic and political conditions. Economic growth in the U.S. and other countries slowed during the second half of calendar year 2008, which caused Merge Healthcare's customers to delay or reduce information technology purchases. If economic conditions in the U.S. and other countries continue to deteriorate, customers may continue to delay or further reduce purchases. This could result in additional reductions in sales of Merge Healthcare's products, longer sales cycles, slower adoption of new technologies and increased price competition. In addition, weakness in the end-user market could negatively affect the cash flow of Merge Healthcare's OEM and VAR customers who could, in turn, delay paying their obligations, which would increase Merge Healthcare's credit risk exposure and cause a decrease in operating cash flows. Also, if OEM and VAR customers experience excessive financial difficulties and/or insolvency, and Merge Healthcare is unable to successfully transition end-users to purchase its products from other vendors or directly from Merge Healthcare, sales could decline significantly. Any of these events would likely harm Merge Healthcare's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Continued disruption in credit markets and world-wide economic changes may adversely affect Merge Healthcare's business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Continued disruptions in the financial and credit markets may adversely affect Merge Healthcare's business and financial results. The tightening of credit markets may reduce the funds available to Merge Healthcare's customers to buy its products and services. It may also result in customers extending the length of time in which they pay and may result in Merge Healthcare having higher customer receivables with increased default rates. General concerns about the fundamental soundness of domestic and foreign economies may also cause customers to reduce their purchases, even if they have cash or if credit is available to them.

Merge Healthcare's future capital needs are uncertain and its ability to access additional financing may be negatively impacted by the volatility and disruption of the capital and credit markets and adverse changes in the global economy.

Merge Healthcare's capital requirements in the future will depend on many factors, including:

- Acceptance of and demand for its products;
- The extent to which Merge Healthcare invests in new technology and product development;
 - The costs of developing new products, services or technologies;
- The number and method of financing of acquisitions and other strategic transactions; and

- The costs associated with the growth of its business, if any.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare intends to finance its operations and any growth of its business with existing cash and cash flows from operations. Merge Healthcare believes existing cash and anticipated cash flows from operations will be sufficient to meet operating and capital requirements through at least the twelve month period following the filing of this Prospectus. If adverse global economic conditions persist or worsen, however, Merge Healthcare could experience a decrease in cash flows from operations and may need additional financing to fund operations. Due to the existing uncertainty in the capital markets (including debt, private equity, venture capital and traditional bank lending), access to additional debt or equity may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. If Merge Healthcare cannot raise funds on acceptable terms when necessary, it may not be able to develop or enhance products and services, execute its business plan, take advantage of future opportunities or respond to competitive pressures or unanticipated customer requirements.

Merge Healthcare may experience significant fluctuations in revenue growth rates and operating results.

Merge Healthcare may not be able to accurately forecast its growth rate. Merge Healthcare bases expense levels and investment plans on sales estimates and reviews all estimates on a quarterly basis. Many of its expenses and investments are fixed and Merge Healthcare may not be able to adjust spending quickly enough if sales are lower than expected.

Merge Healthcare's revenue growth may not be sustainable and its percentage growth rates may decrease or fluctuate significantly. Merge Healthcare's revenue and operating profit growth depends on the continued growth of demand for its products and services offered through Merge Healthcare or its OEM and VAR customers, and its business is affected by general economic and business conditions worldwide. A softening of demand, whether caused by changes in customer preferences or a weakening of the U.S. or global economies, may result in decreased revenue or growth.

Merge Healthcare's net sales and operating results will also fluctuate for many other reasons, including due to risks described elsewhere in this section and the following:

- demand for Merge Healthcare's software solutions and services;
- Merge Healthcare's sales cycle;
- economic cycles;
- the level of reimbursements to Merge Healthcare's end-user customers from government sponsored healthcare programs (principally, Medicare and Medicaid);
- accounting policy changes mandated by regulating entities;
- delays due to customers' internal budgets and procedures for approving capital expenditures, by competing needs for other capital expenditures and the deployment of new technologies and personnel resources;
- Merge Healthcare's ability to retain and increase sales to existing customers, attract new customers and satisfy its customers' demands;
- Merge Healthcare's ability to fulfill orders;
- the introduction of competitive products and services;
- price decreases;

- changes in the usage of the Internet and eCommerce including in non-U.S. markets;
- timing, effectiveness and costs of expansion and changes in Merge Healthcare's systems and infrastructure;
 - the outcomes of legal proceedings and claims involving Merge Healthcare; and
 - variations in the mix of products and services offered by Merge Healthcare.

Table of Contents

Delays in the expected sales or installation of Merge Healthcare's software may have a significant impact on its anticipated quarterly revenues and, consequently, its earnings since a significant percentage of expenses are relatively fixed. Additionally, Merge Healthcare sometimes depends, in part, upon large contracts with a small number of OEM customers to meet sales goals in any particular quarter. Delays in the expected sales or installation of solutions under these large contracts may have a significant impact on Merge Healthcare's quarterly net sales and consequently its earnings, particularly because a significant percentage of expenses are fixed.

The length of Merge Healthcare's sales and implementation cycles may adversely affect its future operating results.

Merge Healthcare has experienced long sales and implementation cycles. How and when to implement, replace, expand or substantially modify medical imaging management software, or to modify or add business processes, are major decisions for Merge Healthcare's end-user target market. The sales cycle for Merge Healthcare's software ranges from six to 18 months or more from initial contact to contract execution. Its end-user implementation cycle has generally ranged from three to nine months from contract execution to completion of implementation. During the sales and implementation cycles, Merge Healthcare will expend substantial time, effort and resources preparing contract proposals, negotiating the contract and implementing the software, and may not realize any revenues to offset these expenditures. Additionally, any decision by Merge Healthcare's customers to delay or cancel purchases or the implementation of its software may adversely affect net sales.

Merge Healthcare has outstanding debt and may incur additional debt in the future.

On June 4, 2008, Merge Healthcare closed a financing transaction with Merrick RIS, LLC in which it received gross proceeds of \$20.0 million from Merrick Ventures, LLC in exchange for a \$15.0 million senior secured term note (the "Note") due June 4, 2010 and 21,085,715 shares of Merge Healthcare's common stock. Merge Healthcare's ability to repay the principal of the Note and any additional indebtedness that it may incur is dependent upon its ability to manage business operations and generate sufficient cash flows to service such debt. There can be no assurance that Merge Healthcare will be able to manage any of these risks successfully.

If Merge Healthcare is unable to successfully identify or effectively integrate acquisitions, its financial results may be adversely affected.

Merge Healthcare has in the past and may in the future acquire and make investments in companies, products or technologies that it believes complement or expand Merge Healthcare's existing business and assist in quickly bringing new products to market. There can be no assurance that Merge Healthcare will be able to identify suitable candidates for successful acquisitions at acceptable prices. In addition, Merge Healthcare's ability to achieve the expected returns and synergies from past and future acquisitions and alliances depends in part upon its ability to integrate the offerings, technology, administrative functions, and personnel of these businesses into Merge Healthcare's business in an efficient and effective manner. Merge Healthcare cannot predict whether it will be successful in integrating acquired businesses or that Merge Healthcare's acquired businesses will perform at anticipated levels. In addition, Merge Healthcare's past and future acquisitions may subject it to unanticipated risks or liabilities, or disrupt operations and divert management's attention from day-to-day operations. In addition, Merge Healthcare may use its capital stock to acquire acquisition targets, which could be dilutive to the existing stockholders and cause a decline in the price of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

In making or attempting to make acquisitions or investments, Merge Healthcare faces a number of risks, including risks related to:

- Identifying suitable candidates, performing appropriate due diligence, identifying potential liabilities and negotiating acceptable terms;

- Reducing Merge Healthcare's working capital and hindering its ability to expand or maintain its business, if acquisitions are made using cash;

Table of Contents

- The potential distraction of Merge Healthcare’s management, diversion of its resources and disruption to its business;
 - Retaining and motivating key employees of the acquired companies;
- Managing operations that are distant from Merge Healthcare’s current headquarters and operational locations;
- Entering into industries or geographic markets in which Merge Healthcare has little or no prior experience;
- Competing for acquisition opportunities with competitors that are larger or have greater financial and other resources than Merge Healthcare;
 - Accurately forecasting the financial impact of a transaction;
- Assuming liabilities of acquired companies, including existing or potential litigation related to the operation of the business prior to the acquisition;
 - Maintaining good relations with the customers and suppliers of the acquired company; and
 - Effectively integrating acquired companies and achieving expected synergies.

In addition, any acquired business, products or technologies may not generate sufficient revenue and net income to offset the associated costs of such acquisitions, and such acquisitions could result in other adverse effects. Moreover, from time to time, Merge Healthcare may enter into negotiations for the acquisition of businesses, products or technologies but be unable or unwilling to consummate the acquisitions under consideration. This can be expensive and could cause significant diversion of managerial attention and resources.

A portion of Merge Healthcare’s business relies upon a network of independent contractors and distributors whose actions could have an adverse effect on its business.

Merge Healthcare obtains some critical information from independent contractors. In addition, Merge Healthcare relies on a network of VAR's and distributors to sell its offerings in locations where it does not maintain a sales office or sales team. These independent contractors and distributors are not employees of Merge Healthcare. As a result, Merge Healthcare has limited ability to monitor and direct their activities. The loss of a significant number of these independent contractors or dealers could disrupt Merge Healthcare’s sales, marketing and distribution efforts. Furthermore, if any actions or business practices of these individuals or entities violate Merge Healthcare’s policies or procedures or otherwise are deemed inappropriate or illegal, Merge Healthcare could be subject to litigation, regulatory sanctions or reputation damage, any of which could adversely affect its business and require Merge Healthcare to terminate relationships with them.

Merge Healthcare’s investments in technology may not be sufficient and may not result in an increase in its revenues or decrease in its operating costs.

As the technological landscape continues to evolve, it may become increasingly difficult for Merge Healthcare to make timely, cost-effective changes to its offerings in a manner that adequately differentiates them from those of its competitors. Merge Healthcare cannot provide any assurance that its investments have been or will be sufficient to maintain or improve its competitive position or that the development of new or improved technologies and products by its competitors will not have a material adverse effect on Merge Healthcare’s business.

Merge Healthcare operates in competitive markets, which may adversely affect its market share and financial results.

Some of Merge Healthcare's competitors are focused on sub-markets within its targeted industries, while others have significant financial and information-gathering resources with recognized brands, technological expertise and market experience. Merge Healthcare believes that competitors are continuously enhancing their products and services, developing new products and services and investing in technology to better serve the needs of their existing customers and to attract new customers.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare faces competition in specific industries and with respect to specific offerings. Merge Healthcare may also face competition from organizations and businesses that have not traditionally competed with it, but that could adapt their products and services to meet the demands of its customers. Increased competition may require Merge Healthcare to reduce the prices of its offerings or make additional capital investments that would adversely affect margins. If Merge Healthcare is unable or unwilling to do so, it may lose market share in its target markets and its financial results may be adversely affected.

Merge Healthcare faces aggressive competition in many areas of its business, and business will be harmed if it fails to compete effectively.

The markets for medical imaging solutions are highly competitive and subject to rapid technological change. Merge Healthcare may be unable to maintain its competitive position against current and potential competitors. Many of Merge Healthcare's current and potential competitors have greater financial, technical, product development, marketing and other resources, and Merge Healthcare may not be able to compete effectively with them. In addition, new competitors may emerge and Merge Healthcare's system and software solution offerings may be threatened by new technologies or market trends that reduce the value of its solutions. Further, Merge Healthcare's recent challenges may have weakened its competitive position.

Merge Healthcare often "competes" with its OEM customers' own internal software engineering groups. The size and competency of these groups may create additional competition for Merge Healthcare. In the area of Radiology Information Systems ("RIS") and Picture Archiving and Communication Systems ("PACS") workflow applications, many competitors offer portions of an integrated radiology solution through their RIS and PACS. Additionally, certain competitors are integrating RIS and PACS technologies through development, partnership and acquisition activities.

The development and acquisition of additional products, services and technologies, and the improvement of Merge Healthcare's existing products and services, require significant investments in research and development. For example, Merge Healthcare's current product candidates are in various stages of development and may require significant further research, development, pre-clinical or clinical testing, regulatory approval and commercialization. If Merge Healthcare fails to successfully sell new products and update existing products, its operating results may decline as existing products reach the end of their commercial life cycles.

Merge Healthcare's performance and future success depends on its ability to attract, integrate and retain qualified technical, managerial and sales personnel.

Merge Healthcare is dependent, in part, upon the services of its senior executives and other key business and technical personnel. Merge Healthcare does not currently maintain key-man life insurance on its senior executives. The loss of the services of any of Merge Healthcare's senior executives or key employees could have a material adverse effect on its business. Merge Healthcare's commercial success will depend upon, among other things, the successful recruiting and retention of highly skilled technical, managerial and sales personnel with experience in similar business activities. Competition for the type of highly skilled individuals sought by Merge Healthcare is intense. Merge Healthcare may not be able to retain existing key employees or be able to find, attract and retain skilled personnel on acceptable terms.

Merge Healthcare may not be able to adequately protect its intellectual property rights or may be accused of infringing intellectual property rights of third parties.

Merge Healthcare regards its trademarks, service marks, copyrights, patents, trade secrets, proprietary technology and similar intellectual property as critical to its success. It relies on trademark, copyright and patent law, trade secret protection and confidentiality and/or license agreements with employees, customers and others to protect its

proprietary rights. Effective intellectual property protection may not be available in every country in which its products and services are made available. Merge Healthcare also may not be able to acquire or maintain appropriate intellectual property rights in all countries where it does business.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare may not be able to discover or determine the extent of any unauthorized use of its proprietary rights. Third parties that license Merge Healthcare's proprietary rights also may take actions that diminish the value of its proprietary rights. Such claims, whether or not meritorious, may result in the expenditure of significant financial and managerial resources, injunctions against Merge Healthcare or the payment of damages. Merge Healthcare may need to obtain licenses from third parties who allege that it has infringed their rights, but such licenses may not be available on terms acceptable to Merge Healthcare or at all. In addition, Merge Healthcare may not be able to obtain or utilize on favorable terms, or at all, licenses or other rights with respect to intellectual property it does not own in providing services under commercial agreements. These risks have been amplified by the increase in third parties whose sole or primary business is to assert such claims.

Merge Healthcare also relies on proprietary know how and confidential information and employs various methods, such as entering into confidentiality and non-compete agreements with its current employees and with certain third parties to whom Merge Healthcare has divulged proprietary information to protect the processes, concepts, ideas and documentation associated with its solutions. Such methods may not afford sufficient protection, and Merge Healthcare may not be able to protect trade secrets adequately or ensure that other companies would not acquire information that it considers proprietary.

Merge Healthcare may be subject to product liability claims if people or property is harmed by the products and services that it sells.

Some of the products Merge Healthcare sells or manufactures may expose it to product liability claims relating to personal injury, death or environmental or property damage and may require product recalls or other actions. Certain third parties, primarily Merge Healthcare's customers, also sell products or services using its products. This may increase Merge Healthcare's exposure to product liability claims. Although Merge Healthcare maintains liability insurance, it cannot be certain that coverage will be adequate for liabilities actually incurred or that insurance will continue to be available on economically reasonable terms or at all. In addition, some of Merge Healthcare's agreements with its vendors and sellers do not indemnify Merge Healthcare from product liability.

Merge Healthcare has foreign exchange risk.

The results of Merge Healthcare's international operations are exposed to foreign exchange rate fluctuations. While the functional currency of most of Merge Healthcare's international operations is the U.S. Dollar, certain account balances are maintained in the local currency. Upon remeasurement of such accounts or through normal operations, results may differ materially from expectations, and Merge Healthcare may record significant gains or losses on the remeasurement of such balances. As Merge Healthcare expands international operations, its exposure to exchange rate fluctuations may increase.

Merge Healthcare may not be successful in its efforts to expand into international market segments.

Merge Healthcare's international activities are significant to its revenues and profits, and it plans to further expand internationally. Merge Healthcare has relatively little experience operating in these or future market segments and may not benefit from any first-to-market advantages or otherwise succeed. It is costly to establish, develop and maintain international operations and websites and promote Merge Healthcare's brand internationally. Merge Healthcare's international operations may not be profitable on a sustained basis.

In addition to risks described elsewhere in this section, Merge Healthcare's international sales and operations are subject to a number of risks, including:

- Local economic and political conditions;

- Foreign government regulation of healthcare and government reimbursement of health services;

Table of Contents

- Local restrictions on sales or distribution of certain products or services and uncertainty regarding liability for products and services;
 - Local import, export or other business licensing requirements;
 - Local limitations on the repatriation and investment of funds and foreign currency exchange restrictions;
 - Shorter payable and longer receivable cycles and the resultant negative impact on cash flow;
 - Local laws and regulations regarding data protection, privacy, network security and restrictions on pricing;
- Difficulty in staffing, developing and managing foreign operations as a result of distance, language and cultural differences;
 - Different employee/employer relationships and the existence of workers' councils and labor unions;
 - Laws and policies of the U.S. and other jurisdictions affecting trade, foreign investment, loans and taxes; and
 - Geopolitical events, including war and terrorism.

Litigation or regulatory actions could adversely affect Merge Healthcare's financial condition.

On April 27, 2006, Merge received an informal, non-public inquiry from the SEC requesting voluntary production of documents and other information. The inquiry principally related to Merge Healthcare's announcement, on March 17, 2006, that it would investigate allegations of improprieties related to financial reporting and revise its results of operations for the fiscal quarters ended June 30, 2005, and September 30, 2005. On July 10, 2007, SEC Staff advised Merge Healthcare that the SEC had issued a formal order of investigation in this matter. Merge Healthcare is cooperating fully with the SEC. The SEC Staff has informed Merge Healthcare that the Staff is considering recommending an injunctive or cease and desist order against it prohibiting violations of the reporting, record-keeping, and internal control provisions under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Staff did not inform Merge Healthcare that it is considering recommending any monetary sanctions against it. However, the matter has not yet been finally resolved, and, until such final resolution, Merge Healthcare will continue to incur expenses, including legal fees and other costs, in connection with the SEC's investigation.

On Monday, June 1, 2009, Merge Healthcare was served with a Summons and Complaint in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, State of Wisconsin, captioned William C. Mortimore and David M. Nosay v. Merge Technologies Inc. n/k/a Merge Healthcare Inc. [sic], Case Number 09CV008356, Case Code 30301. The Complaint includes a demand for a jury trial and alleges that the corporation unreasonably refused Mortimore and Nosay's request for indemnification; requests the court order that they are entitled to indemnification under Wisconsin Statute Section 180.0851(2); alleges breaches of certain employment agreements; and a breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Monetary damages are unspecified. Merge Healthcare is in the process of identifying counsel, has notified its appropriate insurers and intends to vigorously defend the action.

As a result of lawsuits and regulatory matters, including the matter discussed above, Merge Healthcare has incurred and may continue to incur substantial expenses.

Merge Healthcare depends on licenses from third parties for rights to some technology it uses, and if it is unable to continue these relationships and maintain Merge Healthcare's rights to this technology, its business could suffer.

Some of the technology used in Merge Healthcare's software depends upon licenses from third party vendors. These licenses typically expire within one to five years, can be renewed only by mutual consent and may be terminated if Merge Healthcare breaches the license and fails to cure the breach within a specified period of time. Merge Healthcare may not be able to continue using the technology made available to it under these licenses on commercially reasonable terms or at all. As a result, Merge Healthcare may have to discontinue, delay or reduce software shipments until it obtains equivalent technology, which could hurt its business. Most of Merge Healthcare's third party licenses are nonexclusive. Merge Healthcare's competitors may obtain the same right to use any of the technology covered by these licenses and use the technology to compete directly with Merge Healthcare. In addition, if Merge Healthcare's vendors choose to discontinue support of the licensed technology in the future or are unsuccessful in their continued research and development efforts, particularly with regard to the Microsoft Windows/Intel platform on which most of Merge Healthcare's products operate, Merge Healthcare may not be able to modify or adapt its own software.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare is subject to government regulation, changes to which could negatively impact its business.

Merge Healthcare is subject to regulation in the U.S. by the Food and Drug Administration (the “FDA”), including periodic FDA inspections, in Canada under Health Canada’s Medical Devices Regulations, and in other countries by corresponding regulatory authorities. Merge Healthcare may be required to undertake additional actions in the U.S. to comply with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the “Act”), regulations promulgated under the Act, and any other applicable regulatory requirements. For example, the FDA has increased its focus on regulating computer software intended for the use in a healthcare setting. If Merge Healthcare’s software solutions are deemed to be actively regulated medical devices by the FDA, Merge Healthcare could be subject to more extensive requirements governing pre- and post-marketing activities. Complying with these regulations could be time consuming and expensive, and may include:

- Requiring Merge Healthcare to receive FDA clearance of a pre-market notification submission demonstrating substantial equivalence to a device already legally marketed, or to obtain FDA approval of a pre-market approval application establishing the safety and effectiveness of the software;
- Requiring Merge Healthcare to comply with rigorous regulations governing the pre-clinical and clinical testing, manufacture, distribution, labeling and promotion of medical devices; and
- Requiring Merge Healthcare to comply with the Act regarding general controls, including establishment registration, device listing, compliance with good manufacturing practices, reporting of specified malfunctions and adverse device events.

A significant portion of Merge Healthcare’s net sales are derived directly or indirectly from sales to end-users, including hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers and specialty clinics, many of which generate some or all of their revenues from government sponsored healthcare programs, principally, Medicare and Medicaid. Merge Healthcare believes that the implementation of the reimbursement reductions contained in the Deficit Reduction Act has adversely impacted its end-user customers’ revenues per examination, which has caused some of them to respond by reducing their investments or postponing investment decisions, including investments in Merge Healthcare’s software solutions and services, including maintenance. The risk of more Medicare imaging reimbursement cuts remains.

Similar obligations may exist in other countries in which Merge Healthcare does business, including Canada. Any failure by Merge Healthcare to comply with other applicable regulatory requirements, both domestic and foreign, could subject it to a number of enforcement actions, including warning letters, fines, product seizures, recalls, injunctions, total or partial suspension of production, operating restrictions or limitations on marketing, refusal of the government to grant new clearances or approvals, withdrawal of marketing clearances or approvals and civil and criminal penalties.

Changes in federal and state regulations relating to patient data could depress the demand for Merge Healthcare’s software and impose significant software redesign costs on it.

Federal regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) impose national health data standards on healthcare providers that conduct electronic health transactions, healthcare clearinghouses that convert health data between HIPAA compliant and non-compliant formats and health plans. Collectively, these groups are known as covered entities. The HIPAA regulations prescribe transaction formats and code sets for electronic health transactions, protect individual privacy by limiting the uses and disclosures of individually identifiable health information and require covered entities to implement administrative, physical and technological safeguards to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, availability and security of individually identifiable health information in electronic form. Although Merge Healthcare is not a covered entity, most of its customers are, and

they require that Merge Healthcare's software and services adhere to HIPAA regulations. Any failure or perceived failure of Merge Healthcare's software or services to meet HIPAA regulations could adversely affect demand for its software and services and potentially require it to expend significant capital, research and development and other resources to modify its software or services to address the privacy and security requirements of its clients.

Table of Contents

States and foreign jurisdictions have adopted, or may adopt, privacy standards that are similar to or more stringent than the federal HIPAA privacy regulations. This may lead to different restrictions for handling individually identifiable health information. As a result, Merge Healthcare's customers may demand IT solutions and services that are adaptable to reflect different and changing regulatory requirements, which could increase Merge Healthcare's development costs. In the future, federal, state or foreign governmental authorities may impose new data security regulations or additional restrictions on the collection, use, transmission and other disclosures of health information. Merge Healthcare cannot predict the potential impact that these future rules may have on its business; however, the demand for Merge Healthcare's software and services may decrease if it is not able to develop and offer software and services that can address the regulatory challenges and compliance obligations facing its clients.

Merge Healthcare provides its customers with certain warranties that could result in higher costs than anticipated.

Software products as complex as those offered by Merge Healthcare that are used in a wide range of clinical and health information systems settings are likely to contain a number of errors or "bugs," especially early in their product life cycle. Merge Healthcare's products include clinical information systems used in patient care settings where a low tolerance for bugs exists. Testing of products is difficult due to the wide range of environments in which systems are installed. The discovery of defects or errors in Merge Healthcare's software products may cause delays in product delivery, poor client references, payment disputes, contract cancellations or additional expenses and payments to rectify problems. Any of those factors may result in delayed acceptance of, or the return of, Merge Healthcare's software products.

Healthcare industry consolidation could impose pressure on Merge Healthcare's software prices, reduce its potential client base and reduce demand for its software.

Many hospitals and imaging centers have consolidated to create larger healthcare enterprises with greater market power. If this consolidation trend continues, it could reduce the size of Merge Healthcare's target market and give the resulting enterprises greater bargaining power, which may lead to erosion of the prices for its software. In addition, when hospitals and imaging centers combine, they often consolidate infrastructure, and consolidation of Merge Healthcare's customers could erode its revenue base.

Table of Contents

SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF MERGE HEALTHCARE

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial data for Merge Healthcare for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and for each year of the five-year period ended December 31, 2008. The selected financial data should be read together with the historical consolidated financial statements, related notes to the financial statements and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” from Merge Healthcare’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, incorporated by reference into this Prospectus.

The operating results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the remainder of the fiscal year or any future period. All adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, of a normal and recurring nature and necessary for a fair presentation of the interim financial statements have been included in the consolidated condensed financial statements for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2009.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)	Years Ended December 31,				
		2008	2007(3)	2006(3)	2005(1)(2)	2004
Statements of Operations Data:						
Net sales	\$15,309	\$56,735	\$59,572	\$74,322	\$82,538	\$25,477
Operating income (loss)(2)(3)	3,536	(21,697)	(171,238)	(252,087)	4,377	(250)
Income (loss) before income taxes	2,864	(23,743)	(171,808)	(249,473)	5,113	219
Income tax expense (benefit)	22	(60)	(240)	9,450	8,373	(1,444)
Net income (loss)	2,842	(23,683)	(171,568)	(258,923)	(3,260)	1,663
Earnings (loss) per share:						
Basic	\$0.05	\$(0.51)	\$(5.06)	\$(7.68)	\$(0.13)	\$0.13
Diluted	0.05	(0.51)	(5.06)	(7.68)	(0.13)	0.12
Weighted average shares outstanding:						
Basic	56,305	46,718	33,913	33,702	24,697	13,014
Diluted	57,190	46,718	33,913	33,702	24,697	13,828

	As of March 31, 2009 (unaudited)	As of December 31,				
		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Balance Sheet Data:						
Working capital	\$12,866	\$8,254	\$878	\$27,101	\$56,964	\$22,786
Total assets	54,816	54,737	61,635	234,875	500,045	85,853
Long-term debt obligations	14,358	14,230	-	-	-	-
Shareholders’ equity	12,065	8,841	24,405	189,925	442,592	54,949

(1)Includes the results of Cedara Software Corp. from June 1, 2005, the date of Merge Healthcare’s business combination with Cedara.

(2)For the year ended December 31, 2005, Merge Healthcare incurred a charge for acquired in-process research and development of \$13.0 million.

(3)

For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, Merge Healthcare incurred charges of \$122.4 million and \$214.1 million, respectively, related to the impairment of goodwill.

Table of Contents

SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ETRIALS

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial data for etrials for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and for each year of the five year period ended December 31, 2008. The selected financial data should be read together with the historical Consolidated Financial Statements, related Notes to the Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of etrials included in this Prospectus.

The operating results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2009, of etrials are not necessarily indicative of the results for the remainder of the fiscal year or any future period. All adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, of a normal and recurring nature and necessary for a fair presentation of the interim financial statements have been included in the consolidated condensed financial statements for the three-month period ended March 31, 2009.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)	2008	2007	2006	2005(1)	2004(1)
			Years Ended December 31, (in thousands, except per share data)			
Statements of Operations Data:						
Service revenue	\$3,627	\$15,061	\$18,349	\$15,528	\$13,187	\$12,027
Total revenue	3,638	16,242	22,440	19,180	13,623	12,766
Income (loss) before interest and taxes	(916)	(16,013)	(6,945)	(1,428)	(1,284)	552
Net income (loss)	(964)	(15,817)	(6,165)	(641)	(1,332)	260
Loss per share						
Basic	\$(0.09)	\$(1.45)	\$(0.57)	\$(0.18)	\$(0.78)	\$(0.24)
Diluted	(0.09)	(1.45)	(0.57)	(0.18)	(0.78)	(0.24)
Weighted average shares outstanding:						
Basic	10,644	10,914	10,806	10,011	3,191	3,030
Diluted	10,644	10,914	10,806	10,011	3,191	3,030
	As of March 31, 2009 (unaudited)	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
			As of December 31, (in thousands, except for number of employees)			
Balance Sheet Data:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,061	\$10,700	\$13,793	\$11,829	\$1,650	\$1,707
Working capital	7,685	8,546	15,521	19,863	(212)	943
Total assets	15,679	17,064	31,583	35,378	14,909	14,099
Long-term debt	135	197	250	20	140	-
Stockholders' equity (deficit)	9,626	10,495	25,393	29,796	(3,728)	(1,935)
Other data:						
Purchases of property and equipment	\$99	\$786	\$461	\$707	\$728	\$110
Depreciation and amortization	288	1,152	1,223	766	1,084	1,059

Number of employees	95	100	125	124	86	70
---------------------	----	-----	-----	-----	----	----

(1) etrials was acquired by CEA Acquisition Corporation (“CEA”) on February 9, 2006. CEA changed its name to etrials Worldwide, Inc. as part of that transaction. CEA was a shell company without any operations. All data in all periods presented prior to the acquisition date is for etrials only and does not include any data for CEA.

Table of ContentsCOMPARATIVE HISTORICAL AND SUMMARY UNAUDITED
PRO FORMA PER SHARE INFORMATION

The following tables set forth information derived from the audited, unaudited and pro forma combined results of Merge Healthcare and etrials.

Historical Merge Healthcare and etrials information includes (i) unaudited historical basic and diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2009, (ii) audited historical basic and diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2008, and (iii) unaudited historical book value per share of the respective company's common stock as of March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008.

For the three months ended March 31, 2009, and the year ended December 31, 2008, unaudited pro forma combined and "combined equivalent" data includes (i) unaudited pro forma condensed combined basic and diluted earnings per share for each period, and (ii) unaudited pro forma combined book value per share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (after giving effect to the Merger) as of March 31, 2009.

etrials has not paid any cash dividends for any of the periods presented. On June 19, 2008, Merge Healthcare paid a dividend of \$0.001 on each share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock as part of the termination of a rights plan. The unaudited pro forma combined equivalent for etrials is derived based on the exchange ratio of 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock for each share of etrials common stock.

The information in the tables should be read in conjunction with the audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements of Merge Healthcare and etrials, and the notes thereto, which are incorporated by reference in this Prospectus for Merge Healthcare and included elsewhere herein for etrials, and the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information and notes thereto included elsewhere herein. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is not necessarily indicative of the earnings or book value per share that would have been achieved had the Merger been consummated as of the beginning of the period presented and should not be construed as representative of such amounts for any future dates or periods.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
Historical – Merge Healthcare		
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.51)
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.51)
Book value per share (at end of period)	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.16

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
Historical – etrials		
Basic earnings per share	\$ (0.09)	\$ (1.45)
Diluted earnings per share	\$ (0.09)	\$ (1.45)
Book value per share (at end of period)	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.96

Three Months Ended	Year Ended
-----------------------	------------

Edgar Filing: MERGE HEALTHCARE INC - Form S-4

	March 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Unaudited Pro Forma — Combined		
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.03	\$ (0.76)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.03	\$ (0.76)
Book value per share (at end of period)	\$ 0.25	N/A

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
Unaudited Pro Forma — Combined Equivalent — etrials		
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.26)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.26)
Book value per share (at end of period)	\$ 0.09	N/A

Table of Contents

COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICE DATA AND DIVIDEND DATA

Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "MRGE" and the Shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "ETWC." The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, as reported by NASDAQ, the per share high and low sales prices of each company's common stock.

	Merge Healthcare Common Stock	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year 2007 (ended December 31, 2007)		
1st Quarter	\$ 6.73	\$ 3.62
2nd Quarter	\$ 7.25	\$ 4.78
3rd Quarter	\$ 6.61	\$ 3.88
4th Quarter	\$ 4.43	\$ 0.98
Fiscal Year 2008 (ended December 31, 2008)		
1st Quarter	\$ 1.26	\$ 0.33
2nd Quarter	\$ 1.37	\$ 0.26
3rd Quarter	\$ 1.60	\$ 0.60
4th Quarter	\$ 1.75	\$ 0.26
Fiscal Year 2009 (ended December 31, 2009)		
1st Quarter	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.07

	etrial's Common Stock	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year 2007 (ended December 31, 2007)		
1st Quarter	\$ 5.10	\$ 3.06
2nd Quarter	\$ 5.54	\$ 4.21
3rd Quarter	\$ 4.78	\$ 2.90
4th Quarter	\$ 4.10	\$ 2.41
Fiscal Year 2008 (ended December 31, 2008)		
1st Quarter	\$ 3.46	\$ 1.55
2nd Quarter	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.26
3rd Quarter	\$ 2.10	\$ 0.93
4th Quarter	\$ 1.58	\$ 0.36
Fiscal Year 2009 (ended December 31, 2009)		
1st Quarter	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.38

The following table contains historical closing prices per share for Merge Healthcare Common Stock and the Shares on May 29, 2009, the last full trading day before the public announcement of Merge Healthcare's proposal to acquire etrial's, and June 10, 2009, the most recent practicable date before the mailing of this Prospectus. The implied value per Share of the Consideration in the Offer on each of the specified dates represents (i) with respect to the Merge Healthcare Common Stock portion of the Consideration, the closing sales price of a share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock on that date multiplied by 0.3448 per Share, plus (ii) \$0.80 in cash per Share.

Table of Contents

	Merge Healthcare Common Stock (NASDAQ)	Etrials Common Stock (NASDAQ)	Per Share Implied Value of Offer Consideration
May 29, 2009	\$ 3.14	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.88
June 10, 2009	\$ 3.10	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.87

The market prices of shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and the Shares will fluctuate prior to the Expiration Date of the Offer and thereafter, and may be different at the Expiration Date from the prices set forth above, and for etrials stockholders tendering Shares in the Offer, at the time they receive cash and shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. etrials stockholders are encouraged to obtain current market quotations prior to making any decision with respect to the Offer. See also “The Offer — Effect of the Offer on the Market for Shares; NASDAQ Listing; Registration Under the Exchange Act; Margin Regulations” for a discussion of the possibility that Shares will cease to be listed on the NASDAQ Global Market.

Dividends

On June 19, 2008, Merge Healthcare paid a dividend of \$0.001 on each share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock as part of the termination of a rights plan. Merge Healthcare does not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. etrials has never declared or paid any cash dividend on the Shares.

Table of Contents

THE MERGER

The Companies

etrial

etrial Worldwide, Inc. is a provider of eClinical (clinical trials) software technology and services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and contract research organizations, or CROs. etrial provides these customers with integrated software technology and services that it believes help reduce the time spent collecting clinical trials data, managing clinical trials performance and closing a study database, reduce overall clinical trial research costs, and enhance data quality. The software technology includes the three key eClinical software applications: electronic data capture (“EDC”), electronic patient diaries (“eDiaries”), and interactive voice and Web response software (“IVRS/IWRS”), all of which are designed to provide an automated and easy-to-use mechanism to collect data directly from clinical investigators and patients. Professional services and support are offered as part of an integrated or individual software-as-a-service (“SaaS”) platform. etrial primary focus is on the costly and time-consuming clinical trial phase of drug development.

etrial, Inc., the operating subsidiary of the business, was incorporated in 1999 in the State of Delaware under the name Pharmacentric Technologies, Inc., for the purpose of managing certain assets acquired from Persimmon IT, Inc. In March 2000, Pharmacentric acquired Expidata. In May of 2000 the subsidiary’s name was changed to etrial.com, Inc. and in June of 2001, the name was changed to etrial, Inc. In January 2003, Aracel Corporation merged into etrial, Inc. Aracel primarily provided eClinical electronic patient reported outcomes or ePRO solutions that capture, analyze, distribute, manage and report clinical trial data from patients. Prior to the merger with Aracel, etrial, Inc. was in the business of primarily providing EDC software and services for clinical trials.

CEA Acquisition Corporation (“CEA”) was incorporated in Delaware in October 2003 as a blank check company, the objective of which was to effect a merger, capital stock exchange, asset acquisition or other similar business combination in the entertainment, media and communications industry. In February 2004, CEA consummated an initial public offering (the “Offering”) and raised net proceeds of \$21,390,100. In February 2006, etrial Acquisition, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of CEA, consummated a merger with etrial in which etrial became CEA’s wholly owned subsidiary. At that time CEA changed its name to etrial Worldwide, Inc.

etrial is a single source global provider of each of the three key clinical software technologies used to optimize the clinical trial process – EDC, interactive voice and Web response systems or IVRS/IWRS, and electronic patient diaries (“eDiaries”) – along with professional services and support as part of an integrated or individual SaaS platform.

etrial’s eClinical solutions include:

EDC. etrial’s EDC is a Web-based, globally proven solution for collecting, managing, and analyzing real-time clinical trial information. etrial’s EDC solution allows clinicians, researchers and business executives to drive data quality and make more informed decisions faster by more effectively managing and monitoring trial progress, site and clinical research associate performance, compliance, and data reconciliation virtually in real-time.

With etrial’s configurable electronic case report forms (“eCRF”), study information is more accurate, timely and accessible, for better collaboration and communication. This application’s dynamic business process engine supports multiple workflows and creates a means to review, complete, verify and report on data collected at the site, patient and overall study levels. The PowerReports component supports adaptive study designs with the ability to analyze statistics in real-time by creating advanced reports with study as it is entered and the trial progresses.

eDiaries. Trials' eDiaries consist of multiple device and modalities for the collection of electronic patient reported outcomes (ePRO) data. Depending on study budgets, requirements and geographic locations, sponsors can choose from four different device and form factors, a Web application or via phone system for their solution. Trials' eDiaries solutions can drive high compliance and quality data across different therapeutic areas, patient populations, and global locations, while ensuring that the study team gains optimal control, flexibility and reporting capabilities.

Table of Contents

etrial's eDiaries minimize problems associated with paper-based collection such as patient compliance, transcription errors and limited data analysis. Information is stored on the local device (handheld, tablet, or smartphone) and the EDC central database through wired and wireless connectivity.

IVRS/IWRS. etrial's IVRS/IWRS solutions go well beyond traditional IVRS systems, providing a powerful trial and site monitoring and control tool. Real-time patient enrollment, dynamic randomization and comprehensive drug supply management systems are accessible via a single, convenient site logistics administration console.

The solution enables sponsors to easily manage site or stratum-based patient enrollment, the compliance of sites and subjects, and supply shipment status.

Merge Healthcare

Merge Healthcare Incorporated, a Delaware corporation, develops health information and imaging software solutions, and delivers related services. Merge Healthcare's solutions are designed to automate specific medical processes, such as transforming the tasks associated with film-based images and paper information into a computerized workflow. Merge Healthcare sells these solutions through two business units. The Merge Fusion business unit sells directly to hospitals, imaging centers and specialty clinics located in the U.S., sells directly and through distributors outside the U.S., and also distributes certain products through the Internet via its website. The Merge OEM business unit primarily sells to original equipment manufacturers, value added resellers and distributors located throughout the world. Merge Healthcare's principal executive offices are located at 6737 West Washington Street, Suite 2250, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-5650, and the telephone number there is (414) 977-4000.

Merge Healthcare was founded in 1987 and specialized in the transformation of legacy radiology (film-based) images into filmless digitized images for distribution and diagnostic interpretation. Merge Healthcare acquired eFilm Medical Inc. in June 2002 for its diagnostic medical image workstation software capabilities; RIS Logic, Inc. in July 2003 for its RIS software, which manages business and clinical workflow for imaging centers; AccuImage Diagnostics Corp. in January 2005 for its advanced visualization technologies for clinical specialty medical imaging; and Cedara Software Corp. in June 2005, which significantly enhanced Merge Healthcare's medical imaging software offerings. In April 2009, Merge Healthcare acquired certain assets of eko systems, inc. for its Surgical Management System capabilities.

Merge Healthcare's business is health IT software, which can involve any aspect of moving medical images and/or information into electronic media. Its major product categories consist of:

- Software development toolkits and platforms, which give software developers resources to accelerate new product development;
- Diagnostic workstation software applications, which bring specialized reading and review tools to the clinician's desktop;
- RIS and related applications, which manage the business workflow of an imaging enterprise or radiology department;
 - PACS and related applications, which manage the medical image workflow of a healthcare enterprise;
- Surgical Management Systems, which automate the monitoring and recording of anesthesia and perfusion before, during and after a surgery;
- Consultative engineering, which provides customer development teams with added expertise and technology; and

- Managed Services, which extends additional image and remote information management capabilities to Merge Healthcare's customers.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare generates revenue through licensing software and/or intellectual property, upgrading and/or renewing those licenses, ongoing service and support of the solutions, project or hourly professional services or consultative engineering fees and pay-per-study managed services.

Medical imaging is based on a standard called Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (“DICOM”), which ensures that any image acquired from any DICOM-compliant modality can be displayed, moved and stored within a standard set of guidelines. For the past 20 years, Merge Healthcare has participated in this ever-expanding and evolving standard, and customers rely on Merge Healthcare for the latest DICOM updates found in its toolkits, as well as in other applications. DICOM has enabled the IT component of medical imaging to stay in step with the clinical technology. As such, medical imaging has had high innovation and has expanded from general radiology into cardiology, mammography, dentistry, endoscopy, surgery and other medical specialties, as well as new markets such as veterinary medicine. Merge Healthcare’s participation with standards committees as well as the continuous development of products like its DICOM toolkits has enabled it to stay abreast of this innovation. Innovation in the industry will continue, as will ongoing adaptation of the technology globally.

Merge Healthcare’s technologies and expertise span all the major digital imaging modalities, including computed tomography (“CT”), magnetic resonance imaging (“MRI”), digital x-ray, mammography, ultrasound, echo-cardiology, angiography, nuclear medicine, positron emission tomography (“PET”) and fluoroscopy. Merge Healthcare’s offerings are used in all aspects of clinical imaging workflow, including: the display of a patient’s digital image; the archiving communication and manipulation of digital images; clinical applications to analyze digital images; and the use of imaging in minimally-invasive surgery. Merge Healthcare has continued to innovate with its product lines and has extended its business into new areas of medical imaging. Through the Merge OEM business unit, Merge Healthcare has participated in new digital imaging offerings such as veterinary, dental, clinical trials and pharmaceuticals.

Merge Healthcare’s new addition of the Frontiers™ product line in February of 2009 brings additional capabilities for surgical workflow, including: pre-operative screens and checklists, real time recording of monitoring and drug delivery devices, patient vital signs recording during and post surgery and the documentation required for billing.

Merge Healthcare has its software deployed in hospitals and clinics worldwide through its partner, direct end-user and eCommerce channels. Its software is licensed by many of the world’s largest medical device and healthcare information technology companies. With global brand recognition for products such as eFilm Workstation™, a downloadable diagnostic imaging application, and MergeCOM-3 DICOM toolkits, Merge Healthcare is able to generate a foothold in new international markets upon which it can expand into additional product lines.

Offeror

Offeror, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare. Offeror is newly formed, and was organized solely for the purpose of making the Offer and consummating the Merger. Offeror has engaged in no business activities to date and it has no material assets or liabilities of any kind, other than those incident to its formation and those incurred in connection with the Offer and the Merger.

Offeror’s address is c/o Merge Healthcare Incorporated, Attention: Ann Mayberry-French, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, 6737 West Washington Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-5650 and its telephone number is (414) 977-4000.

Offeror’s Reasons for the Merger

The Offeror’s board of directors recommends that all holders of common stock accept the Offer and tender their shares pursuant to the Offer and, if applicable, approve the Merger and the Merger Agreement. This recommendation came

after the etrials board evaluated the Merger Agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the Offer and the Merger, and consulted with etrials' management and legal and financial advisors and considered a number of factors, including the following considerations and deliberations of the etrials board of directors:

30

Table of Contents

- **Financial Condition and Prospects of etrials.** The etrials board considered its knowledge and familiarity with etrials' business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as etrials' financial outlook and prospects if it were to remain an independent company in the current and anticipated economic environment. The etrials board discussed and deliberated at length concerning etrials' current financial outlook, including the risks associated with achieving and executing upon etrials' business plans, and etrials' cash resources. The etrials board considered etrials' projected revenues and operating expenses, the need to obtain operating capital in the future, the risk that such capital would not be available on favorable terms, or at all, and the impact of further efforts to reduce operating expenses on etrials' business. The etrials board also considered the competitive environment in which etrials operates and the potential impact on its current and potential customers of further cost reduction measures and/or the inability to raise additional capital.
- **Competitive Environment.** The etrials board considered the competitive environment in which etrials operates and the competitive challenges facing etrials if it remained as an independent company, including current economic and financial market conditions and competition with companies with greater scale and access to resources.
- **Historical Trading Prices.** With assistance from EGE, the etrials board reviewed the historical market prices, volatility and trading information with respect to the common stock, including the fact that the Offer Price represents a premium of approximately 138% and 100%, respectively, over the average closing price of the Shares on the NASDAQ Global Market for the 30 trading days prior to May 4, 2009, the last trading day prior to announcement of the original Bio-Imaging merger agreement, and May 28, 2009, the last trading day prior to approval of the Merger Agreement.
- **Financial Condition and Prospects of Merge Healthcare.** The etrials board discussed and deliberated at length, and considered the analysis of EGE of Merge Healthcare's business, financial condition and results of operations, including its seasoned management team, and greater financial resources and access to capital than etrials currently has.
- **No Financing Condition.** The etrials board of directors considered that neither the Offer nor the Merger is subject to a financing condition.
- **Prior Acquisition History of Merge Healthcare.** The etrials board considered Merge Healthcare's history of successful acquisitions and integration of acquired companies, and the belief of the etrials directors that the Offer and the Merger could be completed relatively quickly and in an orderly manner.
- **Cash and Stock Tender Offer.** The etrials board considered the fact that the Offer and the Merger give etrials stockholders the ability to achieve liquidity for some of their Shares and, importantly, the ability of etrials stockholders to participate in any future appreciation in value of the combined company through the receipt of the Merge Healthcare Common Stock as part of the Offer Consideration and Merger Consideration. The etrials board also considered Merge Healthcare's size and financial position, and its ability to pay the cash portion of the Offer Price without the need for a financing condition.
- **Fixed Offer/Merger Consideration.** The etrials board considered that the Offer Consideration and the Merger Consideration is fixed, which will allow holders of common stock to participate in any appreciation in the value of Merge Healthcare Common Stock prior to the Effective Time.
- **Certainty of Value.** The Offer provides for a tender offer for all Shares held by etrials stockholders to be followed by the Merger for the same consideration, thereby enabling etrials stockholders, at the earliest possible time, to obtain the benefits of the transaction in exchange for their shares and eliminating any uncertainties in valuing the Merger Consideration to be received by etrials stockholders.

Table of Contents

- **Results of Discussions with Third Parties.** The etrials board, with the assistance of its advisors, discussed and considered the results of discussions that etrials' management and its advisors had with Merge Healthcare and other third parties, including Bio-Imaging, regarding a possible business combination or similar transaction with etrials and the ability of other bidders to make, and the likelihood that other bidders would make, an offer at a higher price. Based on those discussions and considerations, and etrials' extensive negotiations with both Merge Healthcare and Bio-Imaging, the etrials board believed that the Offer Price represented the highest price reasonably attainable.
- **Opinion and Analyses of etrials' Financial Advisor.** The opinion of EGE addressed to the etrials board, dated May 29, 2009, to the effect that, as of May 29, 2009, the per share consideration consisting of \$0.80 in cash and 0.3448 of a share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock to be received by the holders of common stock pursuant to the Merger Agreement was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders, together with EGE's related financial analyses as presented to and discussed with the etrials board. The full text of the EGE opinion, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered, and limitations on and scope of the review undertaken, is attached to this document as Appendix C and is incorporated by reference. The etrials board was aware that EGE becomes entitled to the fees described in "The Merger — Opinion of Emerging Growth Equities Ltd. Financial Advisor to etrials" upon rendering its opinion and upon the consummation of the Offer.
 - **Transferability of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.** The etrials board considered the liquidity and stability of the market for the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock to be issued to etrials stockholders in the Offer and the Merger, and that those shares will be registered with the SEC and will be freely tradable by etrials stockholders who are not affiliates of Merge Healthcare.
- **Stockholder Support Agreement.** The etrials board noted that the stockholders who executed the Stockholder Support Agreements, who together control approximately 33% of the voting rights of etrials' common stock, have agreed to tender their shares in the Offer pursuant to the Stockholder Support Agreements. The etrials board also noted that the Stockholder Support Agreements will terminate if the Merger Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.
- **Public Announcement of the Offer and the Merger.** The etrials board considered the anticipated beneficial effect of a public announcement of the Offer and execution of the Merger Agreement, including potential effects on etrials' sales, operating results and stock price, and etrials' ability to attract and retain key personnel.
- **Merger Agreement Terms and Conditions.** The etrials board reviewed, considered and discussed with etrials' management and etrials' legal and financial advisors the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, including the respective representations, warranties and covenants and termination rights of the parties. The matters considered included:
 - The etrials board's view that the material terms of the Merger Agreement, taken as a whole, were as favorable as or more favorable than those found in comparable acquisition transactions.
 - The availability of appraisal rights with respect to the Merger for etrials stockholders who properly exercise their rights under the DGCL.
 - The etrials board's assessment of Merge Healthcare's financial strength and the fact that Merge Healthcare and Offeror's obligations under the Offer are not subject to any financing condition.

Table of Contents

- The reasonable likelihood of the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement.
- Merge Healthcare's history of completing acquisitions and the absence of significant regulatory approval requirements.
- The provisions in the Merger Agreement allowing etrials, subject to certain conditions therein as set forth in the Merger Agreement, to enter into a written agreement concerning a superior proposal (as defined in "Merger Agreement —No Solicitation of Other Offers by etrials").
- The provisions in the Merger Agreement allowing the etrials board, subject to certain conditions, to change its recommendation to etrials stockholders with respect to the Offer and Merger if required by the etrials board's fiduciary duties.
- The provisions in the Merger Agreement allowing etrials to terminate the Merger Agreement if the Offeror has not accepted Shares for payment prior to July 29, 2009.
- Availability of Appraisal Rights. The etrials board of directors considered that appraisal rights would be available to etrials stockholders under Delaware law.

The etrials board also considered a number of uncertainties and risks in its deliberations concerning the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, including the Offer and the Merger, including the following:

- Prohibition on Solicitation of Other Offers. The restrictions in the Merger Agreement on solicitation generally, which prohibit etrials from soliciting any acquisition proposal or offer for a merger or business combination with any other party, including a proposal that might be advantageous to etrials stockholders when compared to the terms and conditions of the Offer and the Merger, and further prohibit etrials from entering into discussions regarding unsolicited proposals unless certain requirements are met.
- Termination Fee. The restrictions that the Merger Agreement imposes on actively soliciting competing bids, and the insistence by Merge Healthcare as a condition to its offer that etrials would be obligated to pay a termination fee equal to \$500,000, plus certain out-of-pocket expenses up to \$250,000, under certain circumstances, and the potential effect of such termination fee in deterring other potential acquirers from proposing alternative transactions.
- Failure to Close. The conditions to Merge Healthcare's and Offeror's obligation to accept the tendered Shares in the Offer and consummate the Merger, and the possibility that such conditions may not be satisfied. The fact that, if the Merger is not completed, etrials' officers and other employees will have expended extensive time and effort attempting to complete the transaction and will have experienced significant distractions from their work during the pendency of the transaction. The fact that, if the Merger is not completed, the market's perception of etrials' continuing business could potentially result in a loss of customers and employees.
- Pre-Closing Covenants. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, etrials agreed that it will carry on in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and, subject to specified exceptions, that etrials will not take a number of actions related to the conduct of its business without the prior consent of Merge Healthcare.
- Taxation. The fact that the structure of the Offer and the Merger would probably result in the transaction's not qualifying as a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and, therefore, that etrials stockholders participating in the transaction would recognize any gain or loss in connection with the transaction.

Table of Contents

- Fixed Offer/Merger Consideration. The Consideration is fixed and that the value of the Consideration will decrease if there is any decrease in the value of Merge Healthcare Common Stock prior to the Effective Time.
- Risks Related to Merge Healthcare Stock. The risks of owning Merge Healthcare stock, as described in Merge Healthcare's SEC filings, including risks related to potential delisting of its stock from NASDAQ.

The foregoing discussion of information and factors considered by the etrials board is not intended to be exhaustive, but is believed to include all of the material factors considered by the etrials board. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the Offer and the Merger, the etrials board did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors considered in reaching its determinations and recommendations. In addition, individual members of the etrials board may have given different weights to different factors. In arriving at their respective recommendations, the members of the etrials board were aware of the interests of executive officers and directors of etrials as described under "The Merger — Interests of etrials Management and Board of Directors."

It should be noted that this explanation of the reasoning of the etrials board of directors and certain information presented in this section, is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, that information should be read in light of the factors discussed in the section titled "Forward-Looking Statements" in this Prospectus, beginning on page ii.

Background and Recommendation of the etrials Board of Directors

etrials offers a broad range of clinical trial technology and services, including electronic data capture, handheld devices, and interactive voice and Web response software, designed to speed and improve the process of collecting data in clinical trials performed for drug and medical device development. etrials provides pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device companies and contract research organizations with integrated software technology and services designed to significantly reduce the time spent collecting clinical trials data and managing clinical trials performance, using an automated and easy-to-use mechanism to collect data directly from clinical investigators and patients. etrials believes that its automated data collection software enables its customers to reduce overall clinical trial research costs, enhance data quality and reduce the time it takes to close a study database.

etrials' principal sources of cash have been revenues from software application-hosting and related services as well as proceeds from the issuance of various debt instruments and the sale of equity securities. At March 31, 2009, etrials had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$46.7 million, including a net loss of approximately \$15.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and of approximately \$1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. etrials believes its existing cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments, and cash provided by operating activities and etrials' debt facilities will be sufficient to meet its working capital and capital expenditure needs through 2009. Net service revenues decreased 17.5% for the year ended December 31, 2008, primarily as a result of the timing of new project starts during 2008. Although etrials experienced significant growth in awards throughout 2008, customers delayed starting a substantial portion of those studies. This, along with the fact that etrials experienced \$3.9 million in cancellations throughout 2008, had an unfavorable impact on 2008 revenue. Overall cancellations increased by 44.4% in 2008. Net service revenues decreased 2.2% to \$3.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009 as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2008. The decrease in net revenue is primarily the result of a 32.3% decline in active studies during the first quarter of 2009. During the quarter ended March 31, 2009, etrials experienced cancellations of \$5.0 million and ended the quarter with \$3.3 million of studies on hold. The cancellations and studies on hold in 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 were a direct reflection of the economic times and the fact that customers are opting to cancel studies sooner than was the case in the past, especially if they do not show promising results early in the study. As a result, total available backlog decreased 26.3% to \$18.5 million at March 31, 2009 compared to \$25.1 million at December 31, 2008. Of the \$18.5 million backlog, \$2.5 million was scheduled to start later than six months, or after September 30, 2009. Approximately 47% and 46% of etrials' total

available backlog as of March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, consisted of fully executed contracts.

Table of Contents

In September 2008, Robert Brill, etrials' Chairman, had discussions with Greg Berlacher of Emerging Growth Equities, Ltd. ("EGE"), an investment banking firm, to discuss etrials' business and potential strategic opportunities. On October 6, 2008, because of the general economic, financial and business circumstances discussed in the preceding paragraph, etrials engaged EGE to evaluate strategic alternatives to enhance stockholder value, including possible acquisitions available to etrials. etrials hired EGE based on its experience as a financial advisor in mergers and acquisitions as well as its familiarity with the eClinical sector, including etrials. Shortly after its engagement, EGE began its detailed due diligence on etrials and the eClinical market. EGE also reviewed potential acquisition candidates and joint venture candidates, as well as candidates for other strategic transactions, including a sale of etrials. Given etrials' existing customer base, limited infrastructure and low capital resources, EGE focused on potential strategic candidate companies with the infrastructure and capital to absorb and continue etrials' technology and service offerings and its existing customers. This approach produced a focused list of strategic candidates. etrials issued a press release announcing its engagement of EGE, which resulted in EGE receiving numerous inquiries from third parties. EGE followed up with all inquiries.

During EGE's efforts, numerous possible strategic candidates never moved forward with an indication of interest. etrials believes that this lack of interest was primarily attributable to the slowdown nationally and globally in pharmaceutical research and development, which led to studies being cancelled or delayed. As a result, potential strategic partners were hesitant to pursue mergers, acquisitions and other strategic partnerships because of the impact these study cancellations and delays were having on eClinical companies, including etrials.

In November 2008, etrials hired Denis Connaghan as its Chief Executive Officer as part of its management reorganization that began in July 2008 with the resignation of its former chief executive officer. Mr. Connaghan replaced etrials' interim chief executive officer and also became a director of etrials. Mr. Connaghan was hired to guide etrials as it evaluated and reviewed in a general manner various strategic merger and acquisition alternatives. With Mr. Connaghan's hiring, EGE instituted a weekly call with etrials' board of directors to keep them apprised of its efforts on etrials' behalf. During these weekly calls, EGE reviewed the results of its due diligence, its discussion, if any, with possible strategic candidates and possible strategic alternatives.

In January 2009, etrials received a letter, dated January 7, 2009, from Merge Healthcare citing its interest in a possible transaction with etrials and setting forth possible terms of a transaction, all of which were subject to, among other things, due diligence by Merge Healthcare. Mr. Connaghan, Donald Russell, an etrials director, and Jay Seid of EGE, met with representatives of Merge Healthcare to discuss a possible transaction on general terms. Merge Healthcare, however, refused to agree to a confidentiality agreement with a standstill provision, and etrials and Merge Healthcare ceased contact at that time.

In January 2009, EGE contacted Ted Kaminer, the Chief Financial Officer of Bio-Imaging Technologies, Inc., to determine whether it had any interest in discussing a potential strategic transaction with etrials. Immediately following the conversation, representatives of EGE informed Mr. Connaghan that Mark Weinstein, Bio-Imaging's Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Kaminer would be interested in meeting to further discuss a potential acquisition of etrials. EGE representatives immediately communicated with Messrs. Weinstein and Kaminer and indicated that etrials was prepared to sign a confidentiality agreement and schedule a meeting to discuss a transaction. EGE delivered a draft confidentiality agreement, including a standstill provision, to Mr. Kaminer of Bio-Imaging on January 13, 2009, which Bio-Imaging signed on January 16, 2009.

On February 4, 2009, etrials and Bio-Imaging met in New York City and engaged in preliminary discussions regarding a potential strategic transaction between etrials and Bio-Imaging. Messrs. Connaghan and Weinstein each gave an overview of their respective companies. The parties discussed, at a very high level, how the two companies could combine in a way that would be compelling for each.

Over the next few days, Mr. Weinstein had telephone calls with Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE to request additional financial and operational information regarding etrials in order for Bio-Imaging to assess its interest in pursuing a potential strategic transaction of etrials. Messrs. Berlacher and Seid continued to explore with Messrs. Connaghan and Trepanier other potential strategic scenarios with any third parties that had expressed interest in etrials, although none had presented any specific transaction structure or details.

Table of Contents

At a meeting of the etrials board of directors on February 25, 2009 at etrials' offices, Greg Berlacher, Jill Meyer and Jay Seid of EGE, who were participating by telephone, presented the board with an update on its work and contacts regarding potential strategic transactions. The board reviewed potential alternatives in various scenarios in a general manner because no specific transaction details had been suggested by any interested party. Donald R. Reynolds of etrials' counsel, Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP, also attended this meeting and advised the etrials board of directors during its deliberations. The etrials board of directors, however, did not reach any conclusion on any of these scenarios.

A second meeting between etrials and Bio-Imaging was held in New York City on March 18, 2009. The meeting was designed to enable Bio-Imaging to speak directly to management of etrials about its operations. The parties reviewed and discussed the operations of etrials and Michael Mickens, etrials' Vice President of Sales and Client Services, gave a report on etrials' sales. Following this meeting, EGE prepared a preliminary financial review of the potential business combination based on the publicly available analyst's estimates for Bio-Imaging contained in the then latest analyst report issued by EGE. The analysis was conducted at a very high level due to the lack of forward-looking information available for Bio-Imaging. The analysis was based on a combination of the two companies and projected operating revenue through 2010, assuming anticipated cost savings resulting from the combination of the companies.

On March 31 2009, Mr. Kaminer of Bio-Imaging called Mr. Berlacher of EGE to propose a potential strategic transaction between Bio-Imaging and etrials. The proposal did not specify a particular structure for the acquisition, but did set an exchange ratio of 0.2 shares of Bio-Imaging common stock for each share of etrials' stock.

At a telephonic meeting on April 1, 2009, the etrials board of directors met to review the strategic proposal from Bio-Imaging. Greg Berlacher, Jay Seid, Jill Steier and Josh Fine of EGE reviewed with the etrials board of directors its analysis of Bio-Imaging and the proposal. EGE included in its summary various financial comparisons between Bio-Imaging and etrials, including historical performances of each company and estimated financial information based on a combined company. Mr. Seid also summarized EGE's discussions with Bio-Imaging's financial advisors concerning Bio-Imaging's operations. The etrials board of directors reviewed and discussed the forecasted numbers and analyses provided by EGE. The etrials board of directors also considered potential synergies of the combined company, the strategic and competitive implications, the form and amount of the proposed consideration, and potential alternatives to the proposal. The etrials board of directors also discussed the likely costs and timing of an acquisition of etrials by Bio-Imaging. Based on its review, the etrials board of directors instructed EGE to make a counteroffer seeking a higher acquisition price. At this meeting, Mr. Reynolds reviewed the duties and responsibilities of directors in the context of a potential transaction, including the duties of care, loyalty and good faith. Mr. Reynolds asked the directors to disclose any conflicts of interest with respect to the proposed transaction and none were noted.

The etrials board of directors met again telephonically on April 3, 2009. At this meeting, Mr. Connaghan reviewed management's analyses of various scenarios for etrials continuing as an independent entity, whether as a public company or as a private company. He reviewed etrials' need to conserve cash and that remaining independent was a possibility but it would likely severely limit etrials' ability to grow due to a lack of capital resources, with the result that etrials might become a niche player in the marketplace. Mr. Connaghan also explained that remaining independent would not likely provide any significant liquidity for etrials' investors. The etrials board of directors considered the different scenarios of operating etrials as an independent entity, specific future cost estimates for etrials, and other matters related to the strategic outlook of etrials. Mr. Reynolds advised the board on strategic alternatives, including different business organizational structures and potential timelines of a reorganization of etrials. The directors agreed to reconvene the following week to discuss all of these issues further.

Through April 6, 2009, Messrs. Berlacher and Seid had numerous additional conversations with Mr. Kaminer of Bio-Imaging and discussed in detail the requested increased consideration and, in general terms and without any

commitment or decision, the various forms of a possible transaction. Messrs. Weinstein and Kaminer resisted increasing the stock consideration because of their belief that Bio-Imaging stock was undervalued and the potential dilution to Bio-Imaging's existing stockholders. EGE discussed the negotiations with Mr. Connaghan daily during this period. On April 6, 2009, Bio-Imaging, in a telephone conversation with Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE, revised its offer to 0.2 shares of Bio-Imaging common stock and \$0.15 in cash.

Table of Contents

On April 7, 2009, the etrials board of directors convened a special meeting via telephone that Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE and Mr. Reynolds of Wyrick Robbins also attended. Mr. Connaghan and Mr. Berlacher each updated the etrials board of directors on their discussions with Bio-Imaging about the proposed transaction. Messrs. Connaghan and Berlacher summarized Bio-Imaging's position on the increased transaction consideration, now consisting of Bio-Imaging stock and cash. The directors discussed in detail Bio-Imaging's offer and the transaction process from a legal perspective. The directors then unanimously approved the appointment of a Mergers and Acquisitions Committee consisting of Messrs. Brill, Russell and Connaghan to negotiate the general terms and provisions of the proposed transaction with Bio-Imaging. These individuals were elected due to their positions as Chairman (Mr. Brill) and President and Chief Executive Officer (Mr. Connaghan) of etrials, as well as being the directors most involved to date in the process.

Shortly afterward, etrials and Bio-Imaging began their due diligence reviews of each other. etrials posted its diligence materials to a virtual data room, and the parties held diligence meetings on April 16, 20, 21 and 27, 2009 at which company records were reviewed.

From April 20 through May 4, 2009, etrials and Bio-Imaging negotiated the final terms of a merger agreement with the assistance of their respective legal and financial advisors. These negotiations centered on two main points: the type of consideration to be paid, which ultimately was set at the combination of cash, Bio-Imaging common stock and Bio-Imaging preferred stock because Bio-Imaging did not have enough authorized common stock to issue all of the stock consideration in shares of its common stock; and the structure of the transaction, which ultimately was set as a tender offer and subsequent merger rather than a merger alone, due to shorter time expected to complete a tender offer than a straight merger.

The etrials board of directors met on May 1, 2009 for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the proposed Bio-Imaging merger agreement. Also in attendance were Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE, etrials' financial advisor, and Mr. Reynolds of Wyrick Robbins. Mr. Reynolds reviewed the terms of the Bio-Imaging merger agreement and the relevant corporate legal approvals necessary to consummate the Bio-Imaging offer and merger, noting that no regulatory approvals were necessary. Mr. Seid reviewed with the etrials board of directors his firm's analyses of etrials, Bio-Imaging and the proposed transaction. At the conclusion of the review of EGE's analyses, Mr. Seid indicated to the etrials board of directors that EGE was prepared to deliver an opinion that the consideration to be received by etrials stockholders in the Merger is fair, from a financial point of view. The etrials board of directors engaged in detailed discussion of the proposed transaction, and unanimously approved proceeding to finalize the Bio-Imaging merger agreement, but agreed to reconvene on Monday, May 4, 2009 to continue its deliberations on the transaction.

The etrials board of directors then reconvened after the stock market had closed on Monday, May 4, 2009 because the consideration was a fixed ratio of cash and Bio-Imaging stock and the etrials board of directors wanted a set value that the consideration would represent on which to make its decision. In attendance again were Messrs. Berlacher, Seid and Reynolds. After an update on negotiations over the weekend on final technical terms of the merger agreement by Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Seid presented EGE's fairness opinion and his firm's analyses. After further deliberation, the etrials board of directors determined that the Bio-Imaging merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby were fair to, advisable and in the best interests of etrials' stockholders and each other relevant corporate constituency and unanimously voted to approve the terms of the Bio-Imaging merger agreement.

etrials and Bio-Imaging signed their merger agreement on May 4, 2009 and issued a joint press release before the opening of the markets on May 5, 2009, announcing the proposed merger and the related transactions.

On May 5, 2009, etrials received an unsolicited proposal with respect to a potential acquisition of etrials from Merge Healthcare. The etrials board of directors, in consultation with EGE and Wyrick Robbins, subsequently determined

that the unsolicited proposal constituted an acquisition proposal, as defined in the Bio-Imaging merger agreement, that could be a superior proposal, as so defined (these definitions are identical to those in the Merger Agreement, as described below in “Merger Agreement —No Solicitation of Other Offers by etrials”), requiring disclosure to Bio-Imaging. etrials notified Bio-Imaging of its determination on May 6, 2009. The etrials directors also confirmed to each other that none of them had any conflicts of interest with respect to a transaction with Merge Healthcare.

Table of Contents

From May 6 to May 15, 2009, representatives of EGE and Wyrick Robbins, on behalf of etrials, negotiated with representatives of Merge Healthcare on the terms of a merger agreement among etrials, Merge Healthcare and a to-be-formed subsidiary of Merge Healthcare. The parties also entered into a confidentiality agreement, containing a standstill provision, identical to the one etrials entered into with Bio-Imaging. They conducted due diligence on one another, including Merge Healthcare having access to etrials virtual data room, and meetings on May 13 and 14, 2009. The resulting proposal provided for a tender offer and merger transaction identical to the Bio-Imaging offer except for the consideration offered, which was \$0.60 in cash and 0.2584 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, which fraction was valued at \$0.60, based on a volume-weighted average of Merge Healthcare's stock price over the 15 trading days ended May 14, 2009, for a total cash value of \$1.20 per Share. From the outset of the negotiations, etrials insisted to Merge Healthcare that the merger agreement with Merge Healthcare had to be substantively identical to that with Bio-Imaging. On May 15, 2009, Merge Healthcare delivered a proposed merger agreement to etrials, which was identical to the Bio-Imaging merger agreement except as to the consideration offered, the inclusion of references to the termination of the Bio-Imaging merger agreement and the payment of termination fees and expenses thereunder, factual differences in Merge Healthcare's representations, the removal of stockholder approval of an amendment to the certificate of incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Bio-Imaging common stock because Merge Healthcare currently has sufficient authorized common stock to effect its proposed tender and merger, and some minor technical revisions. At the same time, Merge Healthcare also delivered a proposed stockholder support agreement to be entered into by etrials' directors and executive officers and the same stockholders who entered into the stockholder support agreement with Bio-Imaging, which was substantially identical to the Bio-Imaging stockholder support agreement.

On May 15, 2009, the etrials board of directors met to evaluate the Merge Healthcare proposal and the Merge Healthcare merger agreement. After consultation with Wyrick Robbins and EGE, the etrials board of directors unanimously determined in good faith that the Merge Healthcare proposal, including the Merge Healthcare merger agreement, was a superior proposal.

On the afternoon of May 15, 2009, etrials gave written notice to Bio-Imaging of the Merge Healthcare offer. In compliance with the Bio-Imaging merger agreement, etrials could not exercise its right to terminate the Bio-Imaging merger agreement until Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Therefore, the notice indicated that the etrials board of directors intended to, on May 20, exercise its right to terminate the Bio-Imaging merger agreement in order to concurrently enter into the Merge Healthcare merger agreement if it was a superior proposal at that time. Also on May 15, 2009, etrials and Bio-Imaging entered into an amendment to their merger agreement to clarify certain of its provisions.

On the evening of May 18, 2009, Bio-Imaging delivered to etrials a proposed amendment to its merger agreement to increase the cash portion of its offer from \$0.15 to \$0.62.

The etrials board of directors met telephonically on May 19, 2009 for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the increased Bio-Imaging offer. Also in attendance were Mr. Seid of EGE, etrials' financial advisor, and Mr. Reynolds and other representatives of Wyrick Robbins. The etrials board of directors reviewed the terms of increased Bio-Imaging offer and the Merge Healthcare offer in detail, including the relative strategic merits of each, the impact of current market volatility and the different periods the proposals used to value the stock consideration, the liquidity of each and other relevant matters. Mr. Seid reviewed with the etrials board of directors the increased Bio-Imaging offer and delivered to the etrials board of directors his firm's verbal opinion, subsequently expressed in writing, that the increased consideration to be received by the etrials stockholders in the proposed merger with Bio-Imaging was fair, from a financial point of view. The etrials board of directors engaged in detailed discussion of the increased Bio-Imaging offer. After its deliberation, the etrials board of directors determined that the terms of increased Bio-Imaging offer were fair to, advisable and in the best interests of etrials' stockholders and each other relevant corporate constituency and unanimously voted to approve the terms of the increased Bio-Imaging offer. The etrials board of directors also unanimously authorized management of etrials to notify Merge Healthcare that its offer was no

longer a superior proposal. Following the etrials board of directors meeting, etrials and Bio-Imaging executed an amendment to the Bio-Imaging merger agreement and thereafter etrials sent a written notice to Merge Healthcare that its offer was no longer a superior proposal.

Table of Contents

On the evening of May 19, 2009, etrials and Bio-Imaging entered into an amendment to their merger agreement to increase the purchase price. They issued a joint press release before the opening of the markets on May 20, 2009, announcing the execution of the amendment to the Bio-Imaging merger agreement.

On the evening of May 20, 2009, etrials received a letter from Merge Healthcare offering to increase the stock portion of its offer to be 0.3451 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, which was valued at \$0.88, based on a volume weighted average of Merge Healthcare's stock price over the 20 trading days ended May 20, 2009. Merge Healthcare also agreed that its merger agreement would not be revised other than to reflect the increased consideration offered.

On May 21, 2009, the etrials board of directors met telephonically for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the increased Merge Healthcare offer. Also in attendance were Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE and Mr. Reynolds and other representatives of Wyrick Robbins. The etrials board of directors reviewed the terms of the increased Merge Healthcare offer and the terms of the amended Bio-Imaging merger agreement in detail, including the relative strategic merits of each, the impact of current market volatility, the historical prices of Bio-Imaging stock and Merge Healthcare stock and other relevant matters. Mr. Reynolds reviewed with the etrials board of directors its fiduciary duties. Mr. Seid reviewed with the etrials board of directors the increased Merge Healthcare offer. The etrials board of directors then engaged in detailed discussion of the increased Merge Healthcare offer and the amended Bio-Imaging merger agreement, but agreed to reconvene on Friday, May 22, 2009 to continue its deliberations. etrials gave notice to Bio-Imaging of the increased Merge Healthcare proposal, as required by their merger agreement, and requested both Bio-Imaging and Merge Healthcare to consider increasing their offers further. Neither did at that time.

On the afternoon of May 22, 2009, the etrials board of directors met telephonically to continue its deliberations of the increased Merge Healthcare offer. Also in attendance were Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE and Mr. Reynolds and other representatives of Wyrick Robbins. The etrials board of directors reviewed the relative strategic merits of the increased Merge Healthcare offer and the amended Bio-Imaging merger agreement, the trading volume and prices of Bio-Imaging stock and Merge Healthcare stock for that day and other relevant matters. Mr. Reynolds reviewed with the etrials board of directors its fiduciary duties. After detailed discussion, the etrials board of directors determined that the increased Merge Healthcare offer was not a superior proposal, and the Company informed both Bio-Imaging and Merge Healthcare as such.

On May 27, 2009, etrials received a letter and a draft merger agreement from Merge Healthcare whereby Merge Healthcare increased the value of its offer to be \$0.80 in cash and 0.3348 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (which is the Consideration in both the Offer and the Merger). On the afternoon of May 27, 2009, the etrials board of directors met telephonically to continue its deliberations of the increased Merge Healthcare offer. Also in attendance were Messrs. Berlacher and Seid of EGE and Mr. Reynolds and other representatives of Wyrick Robbins. The etrials board reviewed the terms of the increased Merge Healthcare offer, including historical prices of Bio-Imaging stock and Merge Healthcare stock and other relevant matters. After consultation with Wyrick Robbins and EGE, the etrials board of directors unanimously determined in good faith that the increased Merge Healthcare offer, including the revised Merge Healthcare merger agreement (which is the Merger Agreement), was a superior proposal.

On the afternoon of May 27, 2009, etrials gave written notice to Bio-Imaging of the increased Merge Healthcare offer. In compliance with the Bio-Imaging merger agreement, etrials could not exercise its right to terminate the Bio-Imaging merger agreement until Saturday, May 30, 2009. Therefore, the notice indicated that the etrials board of directors intended to, on May 30, exercise its right to terminate the Bio-Imaging merger agreement in order to concurrently enter into the Merge Healthcare merger agreement if it was a superior proposal at that time.

Table of Contents

On the evening of May 28, 2009, Bio-Imaging delivered to etrials a proposed amendment to the Bio-Imaging merger agreement to increase the preferred stock portion of the Bio-Imaging offer from 0.076 shares to 0.113 shares.

The etrials board of directors met telephonically on the morning of May 29, 2009 for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the increased Bio-Imaging offer. Also in attendance were Messrs. Berlacher and Seid and other representatives of EGE, etrials' financial advisor, and Mr. Reynolds and other representatives of Wyrick Robbins. The etrials board of directors reviewed the terms of the increased Bio-Imaging offer in detail and compared the terms of the Bio-Imaging increased offer, including the liquidity of the preferred stock portion, to those of the Offer and other relevant matters. Mr. Seid reviewed with the etrials board of directors the increased Bio-Imaging offer and his firm's analyses of etrials, Merge Healthcare and the proposed transaction, which are summarized below in "Opinion of Emerging Growth Equities Ltd. Financial Advisor to etrials" and consisted of an analysis of selected publicly traded comparable companies, an analysis of trading volume of etrials and Merge Healthcare, an analysis of selected merger and acquisition transactions by comparable companies and a premium paid analysis. Mr. Seid then delivered to the etrials board of directors his firm's verbal opinion, subsequently expressed in writing (which is attached as Appendix C hereto), that the consideration to be received by the etrials stockholders from Merge Healthcare in the Merger is fair, from a financial point of view. The etrials board of directors engaged in detailed discussion of the increased Bio-Imaging offer. After its deliberation, the etrials board of directors determined that, even in light of the increased Bio-Imaging offer, the Merge Healthcare offer was a superior proposal. The etrials board then determined that the Offer and the Merger were fair to, advisable and in the best interests of etrials' stockholders and each other relevant corporate constituency and unanimously voted to approve the terms of the Offer and the Merger. The etrials board of directors also unanimously authorized management of etrials to notify Bio-Imaging that its increased offer was not a superior proposal.

Bio-Imaging did not make another offer prior to midnight on May 29, 2009. As a result, etrials, Merge Healthcare and Merger Sub executed the Merger Agreement.

As of the date of this Prospectus, the etrials board of directors unanimously recommends that etrials stockholders accept the Offer and tender their shares to Offeror pursuant to the Offer, and, if applicable, vote in favor of the Merger.

Opinion of Emerging Growth Equities Ltd. Financial Advisor to etrials

etrials retained EGE to act as its financial advisor and investment banker, and, if requested, to render to the etrials board of directors an opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of the Shares of the per Share consideration to be paid in the Offer and the Merger. At the May 29, 2009 meeting of the etrials board of directors, EGE delivered to the etrials board of directors an oral presentation and a subsequent written opinion to the effect that, as of the date and based upon and subject to the qualifications set forth in the written opinion, the aggregate consideration of \$0.80 in cash and 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock per Share was fair, from a financial point of view, to holders of the Shares. The written opinion was approved by the fairness opinion committee of EGE. No limitations were imposed by the etrials board of directors upon EGE with respect to the investigations it made or procedures it followed in rendering its opinion.

The full text of the EGE written opinion dated May 30, 2009, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the scope of the review undertaken by EGE in rendering its opinion, is attached as Appendix C and is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference. etrials' stockholders are urged to, and should, carefully read the EGE opinion in its entirety. The EGE opinion addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, to holders of Shares of the aggregate per Share consideration to be paid in the Offer and the Merger. The EGE opinion was directed to the etrials board of directors and was not intended to be, and does not constitute, a recommendation as to whether any of the etrials'

stockholders should tender their Shares in connection with the Offer or how any of the etrials' stockholders should vote with respect to the Merger or any other matter.

Table of Contents

The summary of EGE's opinion described below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion, and you are encouraged to read the opinion carefully in its entirety. EGE's opinion does not in any manner address etrials' underlying business decision to enter into the Merger Agreement, the structure or tax consequences of the proposed Merger or the availability or advisability of any alternatives to the proposed Merger. EGE's opinion is addressed to the etrials board of directors and is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by the etrials' stockholders in connection with the proposed Merger as provided for in the Merger Agreement. EGE expresses no opinion with respect to any other reasons, legal, business or otherwise, that may support the etrials' stockholders decision to approve or consummate the proposed Merger. EGE's opinion does not constitute a recommendation that etrials approve and consummate the proposed Merger, nor does it constitute a recommendation to any stockholder of etrials as to whether to approve the proposed Merger.

In connection with EGE's review of the proposed Merger and the preparation of its opinion, EGE has, among other things:

- reviewed and analyzed the financial terms of the proposed Merger as stated in the final version of the Merger Agreement proposed to be executed by etrials;
- reviewed and analyzed historical publicly available business information and financial results of etrials, including such information and results contained in etrials' Annual Report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and contained in etrials' Quarterly Report filed on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009;
- reviewed and analyzed certain other operating and financial information of etrials provided by etrials' management, including etrials' projections as to the future operating and financial performance of etrials for calendar years 2009 through 2010;
- discussed with senior executives of etrials certain information relating to the aforementioned items, including the strategic, financial and operational benefits anticipated from the proposed Merger and various other matters which EGE deemed relevant to its opinion;
 - reviewed and analyzed historical market prices and trading volumes for the Shares;
- reviewed and analyzed publicly available information (including research reports) regarding selected publicly-traded companies EGE deemed comparable to etrials;
- reviewed and analyzed historical publicly available business information and financial results of Merge Healthcare, including such information and results contained in Merge Healthcare's Annual Report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and contained in Merge Healthcare's Quarterly Report filed on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009;
 - reviewed and analyzed historical market prices and trading volumes for Merge Healthcare's common stock;
- reviewed and analyzed publicly available information (including research reports) regarding selected publicly-traded companies EGE deemed comparable to Merge Healthcare;
- reviewed and analyzed publicly available information regarding selected business combinations EGE deemed comparable to the proposed Merger;
- reviewed and analyzed certain other information EGE deemed relevant for purposes of its opinion with respect to the e-clinical market; and

- performed such other analyses and reviewed such other information as EGE deemed appropriate, including trends prevailing in relevant industries and financial markets.

In rendering its opinion, EGE assumed and relied upon the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information supplied or otherwise made available to it etrials or any other party, without independent verification, and has further relied upon the assurances of management of etrials that they are not aware of any facts that would make such information inaccurate or misleading. In arriving at its opinion, EGE neither performed nor obtained any evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of etrials, and EGE did not perform or obtain any evaluation or appraisal of etrials' physical properties and facilities or sales, marketing or service organizations.

Table of Contents

With respect to the financial projections provided to or otherwise reviewed by or discussed with EGE, EGE assumed that they have been reasonably prepared in good faith on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the management of etrials as to the future operating and financial performance of etrials, and EGE relied upon each party to advise it promptly if any information previously provided became inaccurate or was required to be updated during the period of its review. In addition to EGE's review and analyses of the specific information set forth above, its opinion reflects and gives effect to its assessment of general economic, monetary, market and industry conditions existing and disclosed to EGE as of the date of its opinion as they may affect the business and prospects of etrials.

For purposes of formulating EGE's opinion, etrials agreed that EGE could assume the following:

- the proposed Merger would be consummated in all respects in accordance with the terms of the Merger Agreement, without waiver, modification or amendment of any term, condition or agreement contained therein; and
- in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory or third party consents and approvals for the proposed Merger, no limitations, restrictions or conditions would be imposed on etrials or the proposed Merger.

Although subsequent developments or material changes in any of the information or circumstances reviewed or considered by EGE may affect its opinion, EGE does not have any obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion to account for any such developments or changes.

Analysis of Selected Publicly Traded Comparable Companies

EGE reviewed and compared certain financial, operating and stock market information related to etrials with other publicly held e-clinical companies (the "Comparable Companies"). EGE identified five companies that it deemed comparable to etrials. These companies were deemed by EGE to be comparable to etrials because they each operate in the e-clinical marketplace, including imaging and clinical trial support services. The Comparable Companies utilized were: Phase Forward Inc. (PFWD), eResearch Technologies, Inc. (ERES), Bio-Imaging Technologies, Inc. d/b/a BioClinica (BITI), OmniComm Systems Inc. (OMCM), and Datatrak International, Inc. (DATA).

Using publicly available information, EGE analyzed certain financial, trading and valuation statistics for the Comparable Companies. EGE analyzed enterprise values (calculated as equity value, plus debt, less cash) and equity values, in each case as multiples of last twelve months ("LTM") revenues. This analysis yielded the following multiples:

	Low	High	Median	etrials
Enterprise Value as a Multiple of LTM Actual Revenues	0.1x	2.7x	1.4x	0.1x
Equity Value as a Multiple of LTM Actual Revenues	0.5x	3.5x	1.7x	0.7x

Using publicly available information (as of May 28, 2009), EGE analyzed year-over-year quarterly revenue results beginning in the first quarter 2008 (Q1 2008 compared to Q1 2007) through the first quarter 2009 (Q1 2009 compared to Q1 2008) for each of the Comparable Companies as compared to etrials. This analysis is displayed in the following table:

Table of Contents

Company	2008								2009	
	Q'1		Q'2		Q'3		Q'4		Q'1	
PFWD	36	%	36	%	39	%	29	%	28	%
ERES	60	%	43	%	42	%	4	%	-29	%
BITI	27	%	67	%	46	%	42	%	21	%
OMCM	23	%	52	%	94	%	103	%	140	%
DATA	-41	%	-27	%	12	%	15	%	0	%
ETRIALS	-9	%	-38	%	-24	%	-33	%	-28	%

This analysis indicates that etrials has had continuous year-over-year quarterly declines in revenue compared with the Comparable Companies that all displayed positive growth during the same periods (except for ERES from Q1 2009 compared to Q1 2008 and DATA Q1,Q2 2008 compared to Q1,Q2 2007).

Using publicly available information, EGE analyzed Operating Margins for each of the Comparable Companies as compared to etrials. The analysis is displayed as set forth below:

Company	2008								2009	
	Q'1		Q'2		Q'3		Q'4		Q'1	
PFWD	12	%	10	%	10	%	7	%	11	%
ERES	25	%	30	%	31	%	29	%	14	%
BITI	9	%	11	%	10	%	15	%	8	%
OMCM	-207	%	-100	%	-113	%	-82	%	-40	%
DATA*	-107	%	-99	%	-66	%	-5	%	-38	%
ETRIALS**	-57	%	-57	%	-57	%	-41	%	-25	%

*DATA Q2 2008 severance expense and impairment loss has been excluded from margin calculations. Q4 2008 margins include the forgiveness of a \$3.0 million debt obligation.

**etrials Q3 & Q4 amortization of intangible assets and goodwill impairment has been excluded from margin calculation because the magnitude of the amortized amounts would distort the comparison to the Comparable Companies.

This analysis indicated that with the exception of DATA, the Comparable Companies generally had positive and/or increasing margins during the time periods specified. etrials, due to its continuing and increasing losses, has continuing negative margins that do not reflect significant improvement.

Analysis of Trading Volume of etrials and Merge Healthcare

Using publicly available information, EGE reviewed an analysis of the daily trading volume for the seven-month period ended April 28, 2009 for both the Shares and the Merge Healthcare Common Stock. This analysis shows the relative liquidity of both companies' shares over the specified time period. EGE feels that the current stockholders of etrials will retain added value upon closing of the Merger and receiving Merge Healthcare shares due to the increased liquidity associated with the Merge Healthcare shares, compared to the relative illiquidity Shares.

Table of Contents

EGE also reviewed the historical stock price and trading volume data for the Shares and compared its historical trading patterns to the trading patterns of certain market indices (Dow Jones Industrial Average and NASDAQ Composite Index) and of the Comparable Companies. EGE noted that the Shares generally performed similarly to the index of Comparable Companies but underperformed the broader market indices.

As noted above, none of the Comparable Companies are identical or directly comparable to etrials. Accordingly, EGE considered the multiples for such Comparable Companies, taken as a whole, to be more relevant than the multiples of any single Comparable Company. Further, an analysis of publicly traded comparable companies is not mathematical; rather, it involves complex consideration and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the Comparable Companies and other factors that could affect the public trading of the Comparable Companies.

In its analysis, EGE considered that the overall lower valuation metrics of etrials relative to the Comparable Companies is likely a result of etrials' significant historical losses, decline in revenue, smaller relative size and capitalization and the limited liquidity of its stock as compared to most of the Comparable Companies.

Analysis of Selected Merger and Acquisition Transactions by Comparable Companies

Using publicly available information, EGE reviewed and compared the purchase prices and implied transaction value multiples paid in the following six selected merger and acquisition transactions of other publicly held e-clinical providers (the "Comparable Transactions"). The Comparable Transactions were:

Acquirer	Target	Date
Phase Forward, Inc. (PFWD)	Waban Software	4/22/09
Tripos International	Pharsight (PHST)	9/9/08
Phase Forward, Inc. (PFWD)	Clarix LLC	9/5/08
Parexel International Corp. (PRXL)	ClinPhone (CINHF)	8/14/08
Bio-Imaging Technologies (BITI)	Phoenix Data Systems	3/24/08
eResearch Technology, Inc. (ERES)	ECG division of Covance (CVD)	11/28/07

Table of Contents

Based on the information disclosed in each of the Comparable Transactions, EGE calculated and compared transaction values as multiples of LTM revenues and compared such multiples with those implied by the Merger. All multiples were based on financial information available at the closing date of the relevant transaction. The analysis yielded the following multiples:

Transaction Value as Multiple:	Low	High	Average	etrial's
LTM Revenues	1.9x	6.4x	3.0x	1.3x

EGE also reviewed the Comparable Transactions in light of the broad-based decline in the stock market during the twelve months ended April 30, 2009. During this time period the average decline of the stock price in the Comparable Companies was 45%. While the LTM Revenue multiple associated with the Offer Consideration is below the low range for the Comparable Transactions, etrial's differs from the listed targets in that etrial's has incurred substantial operating losses. In addition, etrial's has had a recent history of declining revenues compared with the targets in the Comparable Transactions whose revenues were either steady-state or growing. Accordingly, EGE does not believe that multiples of LTM revenues are the most appropriate methodology to utilize in an analysis of the Merger.

Premium Paid Analysis

EGE reviewed current and historical market prices and trading data concerning the Shares for specified periods prior to the announcement of the proposed Merger on June 1, 2009. EGE utilized the Premium Paid Analysis, a market valuation approach, for the purposes of comparing the consideration to be paid in the proposed Merger to the average closing price of the Shares over varying time periods prior to May 28, 2009. For the purpose of the Premium Paid Analysis, EGE used the price of the Shares as of May 4, 2009, the day prior to the announcement of the initial offer from Bio-Imaging. On May 28, 2009 the Shares closed at \$1.31 per share and the Merge Healthcare Common Stock closed at \$3.04 per share. Accordingly the Offer Consideration represents an implied premium of 30% over the closing price of the Shares on May 28, 2009. For calculation purposes, EGE assumed the Offer Consideration equates to \$1.70 per Share (which is calculated using the 20-day volume-weighted average price of \$2.61 for Merge Healthcare Common Stock as of the close of the market on May 26, 2009, the day prior to the Merge Healthcare proposal.

EGE also reviewed the Offer Consideration and volume-weighted average price ("VWAP") for the Shares and the Merge Healthcare Common Stock for various time periods ending on May 28, 2009, as set forth below, and calculated the implied premium as of such date EGE informed the etrial's board of directors that the Offer Consideration per share represented a premium to the Shares price per share as of May 28, 2009 and during each time period set forth above.

Date/Date Range	etrial's VWAP at May 4, 2009	Merge Healthcare VWAP at May 28, 2009	Implied Transaction Price	Implied Premium	
10 trading days	\$ 0.73	\$ 2.98	\$ 1.83	151	%
20 trading days	\$ 0.72	\$ 2.67	\$ 1.72	139	%
30 trading days	\$ 0.70	\$ 2.60	\$ 1.70	142	%
60 trading	\$ 0.73	\$ 2.47	\$ 1.65	126	%
YTD	\$ 0.69	\$ 2.23	\$ 1.59	127	%

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The summary set forth above does not contain a complete description of the analyses performed by EGE, but does summarize the material analyses performed by EGE in rendering its opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. EGE believes that its analyses and the summary set forth above must be considered as a whole, and that selecting portions of its analyses or of the summary, without considering the analyses as a whole or all of the factors included in its analyses, would create an incomplete view of the processes underlying the analyses set forth in the EGE opinion. In arriving at its opinion, EGE considered the results of all of its analyses and did not attribute any particular weight to any factor or analysis. Instead, EGE made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and financial judgment after considering the results of all of its analyses. The fact that any specific analysis has been referred to in the summary above is not meant to indicate that this analysis was given greater weight than any other analysis. No company or transaction used in the above analyses as a comparison is directly comparable to etrials or the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, and an evaluation of the results of those analyses is not entirely mathematical. Rather, the analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the companies or transactions analyzed, public trading or other values of the companies or business segments analyzed.

EGE performed its analyses solely for purposes of providing its opinion to the etrials board of directors. In performing its analyses, EGE made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters. Certain of the analyses performed by EGE are based upon forecasts of future results furnished to EGE by etrials' management, which are not necessarily indicative of actual future results and may be significantly more or less favorable than actual future results. These forecasts are inherently subject to uncertainty because, among other things, they are based upon numerous factors or events beyond the control of the parties or their respective advisors. EGE does not assume responsibility if future results are materially different from forecasted results. Each of the analyses conducted by EGE was carried out to provide a different perspective on the proposed Merger. EGE did not form a conclusion as to whether any individual analysis, considered in isolation, supported or failed to support an opinion as to the fairness to the etrials stockholders, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received. EGE did not place any specific reliance or weight on any individual analysis, but instead concluded that its analyses, taken as a whole, supported its determination.

EGE's opinion was one of many factors taken into consideration by the etrials board of directors in making the determination to approve the Merger Agreement and recommend that the stockholders tender their Shares in connection with the Offer. The type and amount of consideration payable in the proposed Merger was determined through negotiation between etrials and Merge Healthcare, and the decision to enter into the proposed Merger was solely that of the etrials board of directors. The above summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by EGE in connection with the opinion and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the written opinion of EGE attached as Appendix C hereto.

EGE has relied upon and assumed, without assuming liability or responsibility for independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all information that was publicly available or was furnished, or otherwise made available, to it or discussed with or reviewed by it. EGE has further relied upon the assurances of the management of etrials that the financial information provided has been prepared on a reasonable basis in accordance with industry practice and that they are not aware of any information or facts that would make any information provided to EGE incomplete or misleading. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, for the purpose of its opinion, EGE has assumed that, with respect to financial forecasts, estimates and other forward-looking information reviewed by it, that such information has been reasonably prepared based on assumptions reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the management of etrials as to the expected future results of operations and financial condition of etrials to which such financial forecasts, estimates and other forward-looking information relate. EGE expresses no

opinion as to any such financial forecasts, estimates or forward-looking information or the assumptions on which they were based. With the consent of etrials, EGE has relied on advice of the outside counsel and the independent accountants to etrials, and on the assumptions of the management of etrials, as to all accounting, legal, tax and financial reporting matters with respect to etrials, Merge Healthcare and the Merger Agreement.

EGE assumed that the Offer and the Merger would be completed on the terms set forth in the Merger Agreement reviewed by EGE, without amendments and with full satisfaction of all covenants and conditions without any waiver. EGE expressed no opinion regarding whether the necessary approvals or other conditions to the consummation of the merger will be obtained or satisfied.

Table of Contents

EGE did not assume responsibility for performing, and did not perform, any appraisals or valuations of specific assets or liabilities of etrials. EGE expresses no opinion regarding the liquidation value or solvency of any entity. EGE did not undertake any independent analysis of any outstanding, pending or threatened litigation, regulatory action, any potential delisting of the Shares or the shares of Merge Healthcare from the NASDAQ Global Market, possible unasserted claims or other contingent liabilities to which etrials, or any of its respective affiliates, are a party or may be subject. At the direction of etrials, and with its consent, EGE's opinion made no assumption concerning, and therefore did not consider, the potential effects of litigation, claims, investigations, or possible assertions of claims, or the outcomes or damages arising out of any such matters.

EGE's opinion was necessarily based on the information available to it and the facts and circumstances as they existed and were subject to evaluation as of the date of the opinion. Events occurring after the date of the opinion could materially affect the assumptions used by EGE in preparing its opinion. EGE expresses no opinion as to the prices at which the Shares have traded or may trade following announcement of the transaction or at any time after the date of the opinion. EGE has not undertaken and is not obligated to affirm or revise its opinion or otherwise comment on any events occurring after the date it was rendered.

EGE was not requested to opine as to, and the opinion does not address, the basic business decision to proceed with or effect the Offer, the Merger or the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, the pre-signing process conducted by etrials, the merits of the transaction compared to any alternative business strategy or transaction that may be available to etrials, Merge Healthcare's ability to fund the consideration, any other terms contemplated by the Merger Agreement or the fairness of the amount or nature of the compensation to etrials' officers, directors or employees, or any class of such persons, relative to the compensation to be received by holders of the Shares. EGE did not express any opinion as to whether any alternative transaction might produce consideration for the etrials stockholders in excess of the consideration. The fairness opinion does not address the fairness of the amount or nature of the compensation to any of etrials' officers, directors or employees, or class of such persons, relative to the compensation to any of etrials' officers, directors or employees, or class of such persons, relative to the compensation to the public stockholders of etrials.

EGE is an investment banking firm that is regularly engaged as a financial advisor in connection with mergers and acquisitions, underwritings and secondary distributions of securities and private placements. The etrials board of directors selected EGE to render its fairness opinion in connection with the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement on the basis of its experience and reputation in acting as a financial advisor in connection with tender offers, and mergers and acquisitions. In the ordinary course of EGE's brokerage business, EGE or its affiliates may have long or short positions, for its own account or for those of its clients, in the securities of etrials and Merge Healthcare. EGE also regularly provides research coverage on public companies, with a focus on high-growth small capitalization companies in several industries, including the medical technology and healthcare services industry. In the course of its research, EGE may have published analyst reports on etrials or Merge Healthcare. EGE has instituted customary processes to prevent its analysts from knowing of any investment banking services being provided to any company for which EGE might provide analyst coverage.

EGE acted as financial advisor and investment banker to etrials in connection with the Offer and the Merger. For its financial advisory services, etrials pays EGE a cash fee of \$5,000 per month, the aggregate of which will be credited against any success fee payable upon the completion of the Offer and also of the Merger. The success fee will range from 2.375% to 3.50% of the transaction value. Based on the Merger Consideration and assuming the Offer and the Merger are completed with 100% of the Shares being acquired by Merge Healthcare, etrials estimates that the success fee payable to EGE will be approximately \$600,000. EGE also received fees of \$400,000 from etrials for providing its opinion regarding the Merge Healthcare offer and its prior opinions regarding the Bio-Imaging offers. The opinion fees were not contingent upon the consummation of the Offer or the Merger. etrials expects to pay EGE approximately \$17,500 in out-of-pocket expenses associated with EGE's services as financial advisor and investment banker. etrials

has also agreed to indemnify EGE against certain liabilities in connection with its services and to reimburse it for certain expenses in connection with its services. In the ordinary course of its business, EGE and its affiliates may actively trade securities of etrials for its own account or the accounts of its customers and, accordingly, EGE may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities. Other than as set forth above, EGE has not had any material relationship with etrials (nor are any understood or contemplated) during the prior two years.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare's Reasons for the Merger

The Merge Healthcare board of directors unanimously approved the Merger Agreement and has determined that the Merger Agreement and the Merger are in the best interests of Merge Healthcare and its stockholders. In reaching this decision, the Merge Healthcare board considered, among other matters, the financial performance and condition, business operations and prospects individually for both Merge Healthcare and etrials; the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement and the ancillary documents; and the results of the due diligence investigation conducted by Merge Healthcare's personnel and management and Merge Healthcare's legal advisors.

The Merge Healthcare board of directors consider there to be a number of potential benefits to this transaction, including the following:

- the Merger will extend Merge Healthcare's breadth of offerings and further Merge Healthcare's positioning in the clinical trials market space;
- the Merger is preferable to alternatives available at this time for furthering Merge Healthcare's strategy to seek out opportunities that expand or complement Merge Healthcare's current business;
- the Merger may strengthen Merge Healthcare's position against larger companies with which Merge Healthcare competes in the clinical trials market space;
 - the Merger will provide Merge Healthcare with clinical trial data capture and workflow capabilities;
- the Merger will provide Merge Healthcare with relationships with pharmaceutical, biomedical, medical device and contract research organization companies to whom there may be the opportunity to sell additional products and services;
- the Merger may provide Merge Healthcare with the opportunity to enhance relationships with companies that are customers of etrials through the ability to offer a more robust and complete clinical solution; and
- the Merger is expected to provide opportunities for cost reduction through collaboration in product development and the elimination of redundant overhead expenses and public company costs.

The Merge Healthcare board of directors also consider there to be a number of potentially negative factors, including the following:

- the risk that, notwithstanding Merge Healthcare's history in integrating prior acquisitions, the potential benefits of the Merger would not be realized fully as a result of challenges the combined companies might face in integrating their customers, technology, personnel and operations;
- the risk associated with general industry-wide or economic conditions, particularly worsened conditions or volatility;
- the risk that, if the Merger is not consummated, Merge Healthcare's management would have devoted substantial time and resources to the combination at the expense of attending to and growing Merge Healthcare's business or other business opportunities; and
 - the risk associated with the additional demands that the acquisition of etrials would place on management.

The foregoing list comprises the material factors considered by the Merge Healthcare board of directors in its consideration of the Merger and does not include all of the factors considered by the Merge Healthcare board of directors. In view of the variety of factors and information considered, the Merge Healthcare board did not find it practicable to, and did not, make specific assessments of, quantify or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors considered in reaching its decision. Rather, the decision was made after consideration of all of the factors as a whole. In addition, individual members of the Merge Healthcare board of directors may have given different weight to different factors.

Table of Contents

Interests of etrials Management and Board of Directors

In considering the recommendations of the etrials board of directors with respect to the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Offer and the Merger, and the fairness of the consideration to be received in the Offer and the Merger, etrials stockholders should be aware that certain executive officers and directors and officers of etrials have interests in the Offer and the Merger which may constitute conflicts of interest, as described below and in more detail in etrials' Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9, including the Information Statement attached as Appendix II to the Schedule 14D-9. The etrials board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in recommending the tender of Shares in the Offer and approval of the Merger. For purposes of all of the etrials agreements and plans described below, the consummation of the Offer will constitute a "change in control."

If each of the etrials directors and executive officers were to tender the Shares each owns pursuant to the Offer as each has agreed to pursuant to the Stockholder Support Agreements, each would receive the same consideration on the same terms and conditions as the other stockholders of etrials. As of May 31, 2009, the etrials directors and executive officers beneficially owned in the aggregate 3,621,299 Shares (excluding 978,350 Shares issuable upon the exercise of options to purchase etrials common stock, but including 397,313 restricted Shares). If the directors and executive officers were to tender all of their shares pursuant to the Offer, and such Shares were purchased by Offeror at the Consideration, the etrials directors and their affiliates and the executive officers would receive an aggregate of approximately \$2.9 million in cash and approximately 1,248,625 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, without interest and less any required withholding taxes.

If the Offer is consummated, a "change in control" will have occurred, which could trigger the following cash payments for the etrials executive officers pursuant to their employment and executive bonus agreements:

Name	Salary	Bonus; Commission	Estimated Benefits
M. Denis Connaghan	\$ 325,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 32,500
Jay Trepanier	\$ 90,000	\$ 48,750	\$ 9,000
Michael Mickens	\$ 90,000	18,000; \$ 66,500	\$ 9,000
James Emerson	\$ 90,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 9,000

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger any then-outstanding restricted Shares shall become fully vested and all restrictions thereon shall lapse. Such Shares shall then be immediately converted into the right to receive the Consideration.

etrials' non-employee directors do not hold any restricted shares. As of May 31, 2009, executive officers of etrials held an aggregate of 397,313 restricted Shares, of which an aggregate of 50,256 Shares were vested as of that date. If the Merger is consummated, the following accelerated vesting of restricted shares will occur for the etrials executive officers pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement:

Name	Accelerated Restricted Shares and Value(1)
M. Denis Connaghan	214,312; \$364,330
Jay Trepanier	59,783; \$101,631
Michael Mickens	26,087; \$44,348
James Emerson	46,875; \$79,688

(1) Value is based on the number of restricted shares multiplied by \$1.70, which is the Cash Value of the Offer Price.

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, all outstanding options (whether or not then exercisable) shall become fully vested and exercisable immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger. To the extent not exercised, each option shall be cancelled at the effective time of the Merger, and the holder thereof shall be entitled to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the excess, if any, of (1) the Cash Value of the Offer Price, over (2) the exercise price per share subject to such option, and (ii) the total number of shares subject to such fully vested and exercisable option as in effect immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger that has not been exercised. If such amount is negative, no payment shall be made and such options shall be cancelled.

Table of Contents

As of May 31, 2009, etrials' non-employee directors held no options to purchase Shares with an exercise price of less than \$1.70 per share, and an aggregate of 353,350 Shares with an exercise price of greater than or equal to \$1.70 per share, of which an aggregate of 80,166 were unvested as of that date. As of May 31, 2009, etrials' executive officers held options to purchase an aggregate of 575,000 Shares with an exercise price of less than \$1.70 per share, of which an aggregate of 516,875 were unvested as of that date, and an aggregate of 50,000 Shares with an exercise price of greater than or equal to \$1.70 per share, of which an aggregate of 37,500 were unvested as of that date.

If the Merger is consummated, the following accelerated vesting of stock options will occur for etrials' executive officers and directors pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement:

Name	Accelerated Stock Options and Value(1)
M. Denis Connaghan	306,250 options; \$183,750
Jay Trepanier	15,000 options; \$2,850
	80,000 options; \$12,800
Michael Mickens	37,500 options; no value
	40,625 options; \$6,500
James Emerson	75,000 options; \$77,250
Robert Brill	15,083 options; no value
Peter Collins	12,500 options; no value
Kenneth Jennings	25,000 options; no value
Hans Lindroth	15,083 options; no value
Donald Russell	12,500 options; no value

(1) Value is based on the difference between \$1.70 and the exercise price of the option multiplied by the number of options.

Table of Contents

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following discussion sets forth the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger. This discussion does not address any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction, or under any U.S. federal laws other than those pertaining to income tax. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and currently in effect (the "Code"), the Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code and court and administrative rulings and decisions, all as in effect on the date of this Prospectus. These laws may change, possibly retroactively, and any change could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this discussion.

This discussion applies only to etrials stockholders that hold their Shares as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. Further, this discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to holders of Shares in light of their particular circumstances or that may be applicable to them if they are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including, without limitation:

- a bank or other financial institution;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- a holder who owns Shares indirectly through partnerships, trusts or other entities that may be subject to special treatment;
 - an insurance company;
 - a mutual fund;
 - a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust;
 - a dealer or broker in stocks and securities, or currencies;
 - a trader in securities that elects mark-to-market treatment;
 - a holder subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code;
- a holder of Shares that prior to the Merger will own more than an immaterial amount of stock in Merge Healthcare;
 - a holder who is a foreign person;
 - a holder who has a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar;
- a holder who acquired Shares through stock option or stock purchase programs or otherwise as compensation;
 - a holder of Shares as part of a position in a "straddle" or as part of a "hedging" or "conversion" transaction; or
 - a U.S. expatriate.

The discussion in this section is included for general information only. etrials stockholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to specific tax consequences to them of the Offer and the Merger, including the applicability and effect of any state, local or foreign tax laws and of changes in applicable tax laws.

Consequences of the Offer and the Merger Generally

The receipt of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and cash in exchange for etrials stock in the Offer or the Merger generally will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A U.S. holder of etrials stock that holds etrials stock as a capital asset and receives Merge Healthcare Common Stock and cash in the Offer or the Merger generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the sum of the fair market value of Merge Healthcare Common Stock at the effective time of the exchange and cash, including any cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock, received in the Offer or the Merger, and (2) such holder's adjusted tax basis in its etrials stock exchanged therefor. Gain or loss and holding period will be determined separately for each block of etrials stock, i.e., shares acquired at the same cost in a single transaction, exchanged in the Offer or the Merger. Any capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for its etrials stock is more than one year at the time of the exchange. Currently, long-term capital gain for non-corporate taxpayers is taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate of 15%. If the U.S. holder has held its etrials stock for one year or less at the time of the exchange, any capital gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations. A U.S. holder's aggregate tax basis in its Merge Healthcare Common Stock received in the Offer or the Merger will equal the fair market value of such stock at the effective time of the exchange, and the holder's holding period for such stock will begin on the day after the exchange.

Table of Contents

Although not currently contemplated, a merger of etrials with and into Merge Healthcare or one of its affiliates after the Merger, if viewed as occurring as part of an integrated plan with the Offer and the Merger, could cause the Offer and the Merger to be treated as an overall tax-free reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Exercise of Appraisal Rights

An etrials stockholder who exercises appraisal rights with respect to the Merger and receives cash for Shares will generally recognize capital gain (or loss) measured by the difference between the amount of cash received and the stockholder's basis in those Shares, provided that (i) the Shares are capital assets in the hands of such stockholder and (ii) the payment is treated as a redemption pursuant to Section 302 of the Code, and not otherwise equivalent to a dividend with respect to the stockholder. A sale of all Shares held by an etrials stockholder, based on an exercise of appraisal rights, will not be treated as a dividend if the stockholder exercising appraisal rights owns no shares of etrials or Merge Healthcare stock immediately after the Merger, after giving effect to the constructive ownership rules pursuant to the Code. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the holder's holding period for the surrendered Shares is more than one year. If a stockholder exercising appraisal rights will own shares in Merge Healthcare immediately following the Merger, the stockholder should consult his/her own tax advisers as to the tax consequences to the stockholder of the Merger.

Consequences to Merge Healthcare and etrials

None of Merge Healthcare, Offeror or etrials will recognize any gain or loss solely as a result of the Merger.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information reporting and backup withholding may apply to payments made in connection with the Offer or the Merger. Backup withholding will not apply, however, to a holder of etrials stock who (1) furnishes a correct taxpayer identification number ("TIN"), certifying that such holder is not subject to backup withholding on the substitute Form W-9 (or appropriate successor form) included in the letter of transmittal that such holder will receive, and otherwise complies with all applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules; or (2) provides proof that such holder is otherwise exempt from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax, and any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that such holder furnishes the required information to the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner. The Internal Revenue Service may impose a penalty upon any taxpayer that fails to provide the correct TIN.

This summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger to holders of etrials stock is for general information only and is not tax advice. The determination of the actual tax consequences of the Offer or the Merger to a holder of etrials stock will depend on the holder's specific situation. Holders of etrials stock should consult their own tax advisers as to the tax consequences of the Offer and the Merger in their particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local, foreign or other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

Table of Contents

Accounting Treatment

Merge Healthcare intends to treat the merger as an acquisition by Merge Healthcare of etrials under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Under the acquisition method of accounting, the assets and liabilities of etrials will be recorded, as of the completion of the merger, at their respective fair values in the financial statements of Merge Healthcare. Financial statements and reported results of operations of Merge Healthcare issued after the completion of the Merger will reflect these values, but will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of etrials.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

Except for the declaration by the SEC of the effectiveness of the registration statement on Form S-4 registering the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and the filing of a certificate of merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware at or before the effective time of the Merger, Merge Healthcare and etrials are not aware of any material federal, state or foreign regulatory requirements or approvals required for execution of the Merger Agreement, commencement and consummation of the Offer or completion of the Merger.

Delisting and Termination of Registration

If etrials qualifies for termination of registration under the Exchange Act after the Offer is consummated, Merge Healthcare intends to seek to have etrials withdraw the Shares from listing on the NASDAQ Global Market and to terminate the registration of Shares under the Exchange Act. See “The Offer — Effect of the Offer on the Market for Shares; NASDAQ Listing; Registration Under the Exchange Act; Margin Regulations.”

Quotation on the NASDAQ Global Market

Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market. Merge Healthcare intends to submit an application to list on the NASDAQ Global Market the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock that Merge Healthcare will issue in the Offer and the Merger.

Appraisal Rights

The Offer does not entitle etrials stockholders to appraisal rights with respect to the Shares.

The Merger does entitle etrials stockholders to appraisal rights with respect to their Shares. If the Merger is consummated, holders of Shares at the effective time of the Merger will have certain rights pursuant to the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL to demand appraisal of their Shares. Under Section 262, etrials stockholders who comply with the applicable statutory procedures will be entitled to receive a judicial determination of the fair value of their Shares (exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the Merger) and to receive payment of such fair value in cash, together with interest, if any, at a rate equal to 5% over the federal reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) compounded quarterly, unless the court in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown. Any such judicial determination of the fair value of Shares could be based upon factors other than, or in addition to, the price per Share to be paid in the Merger or the market value of the Shares. The value so determined could be more or less than the price per share of Shares to be paid in the Merger.

The foregoing summary of Section 262 of the DGCL does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of Section 262 of the DGCL, which is set forth in Appendix E to this Prospectus. etrials stockholders who may wish to exercise appraisal rights under Delaware law are urged to consult legal counsel for assistance in exercising their rights. Failure to comply completely and on a timely basis with all requirements of

Section 262 for perfecting appraisal rights will result in the loss of those rights.

Holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the Offer or the Merger.

Table of Contents

MERGER AGREEMENT

The following summary describes certain material provisions of the definitive Merger Agreement entered into by Merge Healthcare, Offeror and etrials and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Merger Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix A and incorporated herein by reference. This summary may not contain all of the information about the Merger Agreement that is important to etrials stockholders, and etrials stockholders are encouraged to read the Merger Agreement carefully in its entirety. The legal rights and obligations of the parties are governed by the specific language of the Merger Agreement and not this summary.

This Prospectus contains a description of representations, warranties and covenants made in the Merger Agreement. These representations, warranties and covenants were made only for the purpose of the Merger Agreement and solely for the benefit of the parties to the Merger Agreement as of specific dates, and may be subject to important limitations and qualifications (including exceptions thereto set forth in a Schedule of Exceptions to the Merger Agreement or Merge Healthcare's or etrials' public filings with the SEC) agreed to by the contracting parties, and may not be complete. Furthermore, these representations, warranties and covenants may have been made for the purposes of allocating contractual risk between the parties to the Merger Agreement instead of establishing these matters as facts, and may or may not have been accurate as of any specific date, and do not purport to be accurate as of the date of this Prospectus. Accordingly, you should not rely upon the descriptions of representations, warranties and covenants contained in this Prospectus or the actual representations, warranties and covenants contained in the Merger Agreement as statements of factual information.

The Offer

Under the terms of the Offer, each etrials stockholder may elect to receive, for each outstanding Share validly tendered in the Offer and not withdrawn:

- \$0.80 in cash, without interest, plus
- 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (collectively, the "Consideration"),

subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal.

Offeror's obligation to accept for exchange and to exchange Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the Offer is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Offeror of certain conditions, including the valid tender of at least a majority of the outstanding Fully Diluted Shares. See "The Offer — Conditions to the Offer."

Subject to the provisions of the Merger Agreement and the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, Offeror may, without the consent of etrials, from time to time extend the Offer (A) in increments of not more than five (5) business days for one or more periods if, at the scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer shall not have been satisfied or waived until the time as such conditions are satisfied or waived or (B) for any period required by any rule, regulation, interpretation or position of the SEC or the staff thereof applicable to the Offer. Offeror shall, at the request of etrials, extend the Offer for not less than five (5) business days if, at the initial Expiration Date or any subsequent scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer have not been satisfied or waived. Offeror shall, if requested by etrials or Merge Healthcare, make available a subsequent offering period of not less than ten (10) business days; but Offeror shall not be required to make available a subsequent offering period if, prior to such period, Merge Healthcare and Offeror own more than 80% of the Shares outstanding on a Fully Diluted Basis. See "The Offer — Extension, Termination and Amendment."

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, etrials granted to Merge Healthcare and Offeror an irrevocable Top-Up Option to purchase up to that number of Shares that, when added to the number of Shares, directly or indirectly, owned collectively by Merge Healthcare and Offeror immediately following consummation of the Offer, shall constitute one Share more than 90% of the Shares then outstanding (calculated on a fully diluted basis, after giving effect to any exercise of such option) at a purchase price per Share equal to the greater of \$1.70 and an amount equal to the highest price per Share pursuant to the Offer, paid in cash by wire transfer or cashier's check. The Top-Up Option is exercisable only once, at such time as Merge Healthcare and Offeror, directly or indirectly, own at least 80% of the Shares on a fully-diluted basis, and prior to the fifth business day after the Expiration Date of the Offer or the Expiration Date of any subsequent offering period. The Top-Up Option will not be exercisable to the extent the number of Shares subject thereto (taken together with the number of Shares outstanding on a fully-diluted basis at such time) exceeds the number of authorized Shares available for issuance. The obligation of etrials to deliver the Top-Up Shares is further subject to there being no law or rule of the NASDAQ Global Market, and no judgment, injunction, order or decree, that prohibits the exercise of the Top-Up Option or the delivery of the Top-Up Shares upon exercise.

Table of Contents

The Merger

The Merger Agreement provides for the merger of Offeror with and into etrials. As a result of the Merger, Offeror will cease to exist and etrials will continue as the Surviving Corporation in the Merger. After the Merger, the Surviving Corporation will be a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare and the former etrials stockholders will not have any direct equity ownership interest in the Surviving Corporation.

Completion and Effectiveness of the Merger

Under the Merger Agreement, the closing of the Merger must occur no later than the second business day after all of the conditions to completion of the Merger contained in the Merger Agreement, including the condition that the Offer shall have been completed, are satisfied or waived, unless the parties agree otherwise in writing (see “Merger Agreement — Conditions to the Merger” below). The Merger will become effective at such time as the certificate of merger is duly filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware unless a later date is specified therein.

Merger Consideration

General

In the Merger, etrials stockholders will receive \$0.80 in cash, without interest, and 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

Appraisal Rights

The Offer does not entitle etrials stockholders to appraisal rights with respect to the Shares.

The Merger does entitle etrials stockholders to appraisal rights with respect to their Shares. If the Merger is consummated, holders of Shares at the effective time of the Merger will have certain rights pursuant to the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL to demand appraisal of their Shares. Under Section 262, etrials stockholders who comply with the applicable statutory procedures will be entitled to receive a judicial determination of the fair value of their Shares (exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the Merger) and to receive payment of such fair value in cash, together with interest, if any, at a rate equal to 5% over the federal reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) compounded quarterly, unless the court in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown. Any such judicial determination of the fair value of Shares could be based upon factors other than, or in addition to, the price per Share to be paid in the Merger or the market value of the Shares. The value so determined could be more or less than the price per share of Shares to be paid in the Merger.

The foregoing summary of Section 262 of the DGCL does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of Section 262 of the DGCL, which is set forth in Appendix E to this Prospectus. etrials stockholders who may wish to exercise appraisal rights under Delaware law are urged to consult legal counsel for assistance in exercising their rights. Failure to comply completely and on a timely basis with all requirements of Section 262 for perfecting appraisal rights will result in the loss of those rights.

Holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the Offer or the Merger.

Exchange of etrials Stock Certificates for the Merger Consideration

Merge Healthcare has retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC as the depositary and exchange agent for the Offer and the Merger to handle the exchange of Shares for the Consideration.

Table of Contents

To effect the exchange of Shares, as soon as reasonably practicable after the effective time of the Merger, the exchange agent will mail to each record holder of Shares a letter of transmittal and instructions for surrendering the stock certificates that formerly represented Shares for the Merger Consideration.

After surrender to the exchange agent of certificates that formerly represented Shares for cancellation, together with an executed letter of transmittal, the record holder of the surrendered certificates will be entitled to receive the Merger Consideration.

After the effective time of the Merger, each stock certificate formerly representing Shares that has not been surrendered will represent only the right to receive upon such surrender the Merger Consideration to which such holder is entitled by virtue of the Merger and any dividends or other distributions payable to such holder upon such surrender.

Fractional Shares

Merge Healthcare will not issue fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock in the Offer or the Merger. Instead, each holder of Shares who otherwise would be entitled to receive fractional shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will be entitled to an amount of cash (without interest) equal to cash in the amount of such fraction multiplied by \$2.610, rounded to the nearest cent.

Conditions to the Merger

Merge Healthcare's and etrials' respective obligations to complete the Merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of various conditions, including the following:

- Stockholder Approval. If required by law, the etrials stockholders having approved the Merger Agreement.
- No Injunction or Restraint. The absence of any federal, state, local or foreign statute, law, ordinance, rule, regulation, order, judgment, decree or legal requirement, or any injunction by any United States or state court or United States Governmental Entity (as defined in the Merger Agreement) prohibiting, restraining or enjoining the completion of the Merger.
- Registration Statement Effective. This Prospectus having become effective under the Securities Act and not being the subject of any stop order or proceedings seeking a stop order.

Merge Healthcare's and Offeror's obligations to complete the Merger are also subject to the condition that Merge Healthcare or Offeror shall have accepted Shares for payment pursuant to the Offer.

etrials' obligation to complete the Merger is also subject to:

- Merge Healthcare's and Offeror's representations and warranties in the Merger Agreement being true and correct to the extent set forth in the Merger Agreement;
- compliance by Merge Healthcare and Offeror with their covenants and agreements in the Merger Agreement to the extent set forth in the Merger Agreement;
- Merge Healthcare Common Stock issuable to the holders of the etrials Shares pursuant to the Merger Agreement being included for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market upon official notice of issuance; and

- receipt of certificates executed by the chief executive officer or chief financial officer of Merge Healthcare that the conditions have been met.

Representations and Warranties

The Merger Agreement contains customary representations and warranties of the parties. These include representations and warranties of etrials with respect to:

- due organization, valid existence, good standing and qualifications to do business;

Table of Contents

- disclosure of corporate documents (including its certificate of incorporation, bylaws and board of directors' meeting minutes) none of the terms of which are currently being violated by etrials;
 - capital structure;
- corporate power and authority to enter into the Merger Agreement and authorization, execution, delivery and enforceability of the Merger Agreement;
 - governmental consents and filings required for the Offer or the Merger;
- absence of conflicts caused by the Merger with corporate governance documents, contracts or laws;
 - compliance with any and all government permits and applicable law;
 - accuracy of its SEC reports and financial statements;
 - absence of certain adverse changes or events since December 31, 2008;
 - absence of undisclosed litigation;
 - employee benefits matters;
 - labor and employment matters;
 - insurance matters;
 - title to property;
 - tax matters;
- accuracy of information provided for inclusion in this Prospectus or any other documents filed with the SEC in connection with the Offer and/or Merger by etrials;
 - receipt of a fairness opinion from a financial advisor;
 - brokers' fees;
 - the effect of applicable takeover laws on the Offer or Merger;
 - intellectual property matters;
 - environmental matters;
 - disclosure of material contracts in connection with the business; and
 - affiliate transactions.

The Merger Agreement also contains customary representations and warranties of Merge Healthcare and Offeror, including among other things:

- due organization, valid existence, good standing and qualifications to do business;
- disclosure of corporate documents (including certificates of incorporation, bylaws and board of directors' meetings minutes) none of the terms of which are currently being violated by Merge Healthcare or Offeror;
 - capital structure of Merge Healthcare;
- corporate power and authority to enter into the Merger Agreement and authorization, executing, delivery and enforceability of the Merger Agreement;
 - governmental consents and filings required for the Offer or the Merger;
- absence of conflicts caused by the Merger with corporate governance documents, contracts or laws;
 - compliance with any and all government permits and applicable law;

Table of Contents

- accuracy of Merge Healthcare’s SEC reports and financial statements;
- absence of certain adverse changes or events since December 31, 2008;
- accuracy of the information provided for inclusion in this Prospectus or any other documents filed with the SEC in connection with the Offer and/or Merger by Merge Healthcare and Offeror;
 - brokers’ fees;
 - absence of activities of Offeror prior to the Merger;
- absence of ownership by Merge Healthcare, Offeror or any of Merge Healthcare’s affiliates of etrials Shares;
 - absence of significant litigation;
 - disclosure of certain material contracts of Merge Healthcare; and
 - availability of funds to complete the Offer and the Merger.

The representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement expire at the effective time of the Merger. The representations, warranties and covenants in the Merger Agreement were made in part to allocate contractual risk between the parties and not as a means of establishing facts. The Merger Agreement might have a different standard of materiality than securities laws, and the representations, warranties and covenants are qualified by information contained in schedules of exceptions. Stockholders are not third-party beneficiaries under the Merger Agreement and should not rely on the representations, warranties and covenants or any descriptions thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or condition of etrials or any of its affiliates or of Merge Healthcare or any of its affiliates.

No Solicitation of Other Offers by etrials

Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, subject to certain exceptions described below, etrials has agreed that it and its officers and directors will not (and that it will use reasonable best efforts to ensure that its representatives will not) directly or indirectly:

- initiate, solicit or knowingly encourage or facilitate any inquiries or the making of any “acquisition proposal,” as defined below; or
- engage in any negotiations concerning, or provide access to its properties, books and records or any confidential information or data to, any person relating to, an acquisition proposal.

In addition, under the Merger Agreement, etrials has agreed that it will, and it will cause its agents and representatives to, promptly cease and cause to be terminated any existing activities, discussions or negotiations with respect to any acquisition proposal.

However, if etrials receives an unsolicited bona fide written proposal for an acquisition proposal, etrials may:

- provide access or furnish information with respect to etrials to the person that made such proposal pursuant to a customary confidentiality agreement; and
 - engage in discussions and negotiations with the person that made such proposal;

but only if:

- the etrials board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with its financial advisors, that the proposal constitutes a “superior proposal” as defined below; and
 - the acquisition proposal did not result from a breach of etrials’ covenant not to initiate, solicit or knowingly encourage or facilitate any inquiries or the making of any acquisition proposal, or engage in any negotiations concerning, or provide access to its properties, books and records or any confidential information or data to any person relating to, an acquisition proposal.

58

Table of Contents

An “acquisition proposal” means any proposal or offer with respect to the acquisition, including by way of a tender offer, exchange offer, merger, consolidation or other business combination, of:

- an equity interest representing a 15% or greater economic or voting interest in etrials; or
- the assets, securities or other ownership interests of or in etrials representing 15% or more of the consolidated assets of etrials, other than the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement.

A “superior proposal” means any written offer made by a third party that the etrials board of directors reasonably determines to be bona fide for a transaction that (a) if consummated, would result in such third party (or in the case of a direct merger between such third party and etrials, the stockholders of such third party) acquiring, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the voting power of the common stock of etrials (or, in the case of a direct merger, the common stock of the resulting company) or all or substantially all the consolidated assets of etrials and its subsidiaries for consideration consisting of consideration payable to holders of etrials common stock that the etrials board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with its financial advisors, to be more favorable to holders of the Shares than the Merger with Merge Healthcare, taking into account all financial, regulatory, legal and other aspects of such offer and transaction (including the likelihood of completion) and any changes to the terms of the Merger Agreement proposed by Merge Healthcare in response to such superior proposal or otherwise.

Additionally, subject to the right of etrials to withhold information where such disclosure would contravene any law or binding agreement entered into prior to the date of the Merger Agreement, etrials is required to promptly provide Merge Healthcare any non-public information that is provided to the person making an acquisition proposal or its representatives that was not previously provided to Merge Healthcare or Offeror. etrials has agreed to promptly (within two (2) business days) notify Merge Healthcare of the receipt of any acquisition proposal after the date of the Merger Agreement, including the identity of the person making such acquisition proposal and the material terms and conditions of such acquisition proposal, and to keep Merge Healthcare apprised of any related material developments, discussions and negotiations related to such acquisition proposal.

Changes of Recommendation

The Merger Agreement requires the etrials board of directors:

- to recommend that its stockholders tender their Shares pursuant to the Offer and approve the Merger Agreement;
- not to withdraw or modify, or to propose publicly to withdraw or modify, its recommendation to tender into the Offer or of the Merger in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or Offeror;
- not to recommend, adopt or approve any acquisition proposal or propose publicly to recommend, adopt or approve any acquisition proposal; and
- not to cause or permit etrials to enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, agreement in principle, acquisition agreement, Merger Agreement, option agreement, joint venture agreement, partnership agreement or other agreement constituting or related to, or which is intended to lead to any acquisition proposal.

However, the etrials board of directors may withdraw its recommendation to tender into the Offer or of the Merger or recommend a superior proposal, prior to the acceptance for payment of Shares pursuant to the Offer (an “etrials Recommendation of Change”), if:

-

the board of directors determines in good faith, after consulting its legal advisors, that failure to take such action would reasonably likely be a breach of its fiduciary duties; and

- it provides Merge Healthcare two business days' prior written notice specifying the material terms and conditions of the superior proposal, including the identification of the person making the superior proposal.

Table of Contents

Stockholder Approval

etrial has agreed to convene a meeting of its stockholders as soon as practicable after the consummation of the Offer, if required by Merge Healthcare, in order to approve the Merger Agreement.

Conduct of Business Before Completion of the Merger

Restrictions on etrial's Operations

etrial has agreed that, until the earlier of completion of the Merger and the earlier termination of the Merger Agreement, except as contemplated by the Merger Agreement or approved by Merge Healthcare, it will conduct its business in the ordinary course of business and, to the extent consistent herewith, will use reasonable efforts to preserve substantially intact its business organization, and to preserve its present relationships with customers, suppliers, employees, licensees, licensors, partners and other persons with which it has significant business relations. In addition, until the Merger is completed or the Merger Agreement is terminated, etrial has agreed that it will be subject to specific restrictions relating to:

- changes in its certificate of incorporation, bylaws or other governing instruments;
- the issuance, delivery, sale, pledge, disposition or encumbrance of any capital stock (including through the issuance or granting of options, warrants or otherwise), except pursuant to the exercise of etrial's stock options outstanding on the date of the Merger Agreement and grant of new options to employees within limits set forth in the Merger Agreement;
- the declaration, setting aside, making or payment of any dividend or other distribution, payable in cash, stock, property or otherwise, with respect to any of its capital stock;
- adjusting, recapitalizing, reclassifying, combining, splitting, subdividing, redeeming, purchasing or otherwise acquiring any shares of capital stock of etrial that is not wholly-owned (except as provided in the Merger Agreement);
- acquiring (whether by merger, consolidation or acquisition of stock or assets or otherwise) any corporation, partnership or other business organization or division (whether by acquisition of assets or otherwise), or entering into any new line of business;
 - selling or otherwise disposing of (whether by merger, consolidation or acquisition of stock or assets or otherwise) any corporation, partnership or other business organization or division thereof or any assets, other than sales or dispositions of inventory in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;
- (a) entering into or renewing or amending (i) any contract or arrangement with revenues or payments in excess of \$100,000 per annum, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, unless such contract or arrangement is terminable without penalty upon etrial giving no more than ninety (90) days' notice or (ii) any joint venture, partnership or other similar arrangement or (b) engaging in any transaction or series of transactions with any affiliate that would be required to be disclosed under Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act;
- authorizing any new capital expenditures or other expenditures in amounts more than \$100,000 in the aggregate;
-

the incurrence or modification in any material respect of the terms of any indebtedness for borrowed money, or the assumption, guaranty or endorsement otherwise as an accommodation become responsible for the obligations of any person, or make any loans or advances to any person in excess of \$100,000 in the aggregate;

Table of Contents

- except to the extent required under any etrials “plan” (as defined below) or as required by applicable law or as otherwise disclosed in the schedule of exceptions to the Merger Agreement, (i) increasing the compensation or benefits of any of its directors or officers, (including the payment of bonuses and the granting of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units or performance units or shares), other than annual adjustments in 2009 to compensation and benefits in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; (ii) granting or paying any severance or termination pay not provided for under any plan, policy, guideline or agreement in effect on or prior to the date of the Merger Agreement; (iii) entering into, amending or modifying the terms of any employment, consulting, change of control, indemnification, termination or severance agreement or arrangement with any of its present or former directors or officers, or establishing, adopting, entering into or materially amending or terminating any etrials stock plan or collective bargaining agreement; or (iv) accelerating the vesting or time of payment of any compensation or benefits of any director, officer, employee or consultant or fund or make any contribution to any etrials plan or trust not required to be funded;
- changes in method or principle of accounting, except as required by a change in law or United States generally accepted accounting principles;
- materially changing any tax accounting period, adopting or changing any material tax accounting method, filing any material amended tax return, or settling a material tax claim or assessment, in each case relating to etrials or its subsidiaries, unless required by generally accepted accounting principles or applicable law;
- agreeing to or otherwise settling, compromising or otherwise resolving in whole or in part any litigation, actions, suits, actual, potential or threatened claims, investigations or proceedings, whether pending on the date of the Merger Agreement or made or brought thereafter, which settlement or compromise would, in any single case, result in (i) damages, fines or other penalties payable to or by etrials in excess of \$100,000 or (ii) non-monetary relief, including debarment, corporate integrity agreements, any other undertaking of any kind, deferred prosecution agreements, consent decrees, plea agreements or mandatory or permissive exclusion;
- abandoning, selling, licensing (except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice), assigning or granting any security interest in or to any material item of etrials’ intellectual property rights or any other material assets; or
 - taking or agreeing to take any of the above actions.

Additionally, at Merge Healthcare’s request, etrials is required to cause all amounts outstanding under a Loan and Security Agreement by and between RBC Centura Bank and etrials, dated as of February 1, 2005, to be repaid in full immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger and to cause any and all liens in respect of such credit agreement to be released prior to the effective time of the Merger and to deliver to Merge Healthcare documentation reasonably satisfactory to Merge Healthcare stating that such actions have been taken.

etrials “plans” include without limitation, employee pension and welfare plans, employment agreements, executive compensation agreements, incentive arrangements, salary continuation, stock option, stock grant or stock purchase rights, phantom rights, deferred compensation, bonus, severance policies or agreements, retention policies or agreements, change in control policies or agreements, fringe benefits or other employee benefits.

Restrictions on Merge Healthcare’s Operations

Except as contemplated by the Merger Agreement, Merge Healthcare has agreed that, between the date of the Merger Agreement and the effective time of the Merger, it will not, without the prior written consent of etrials (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed):

- declare, set aside, make or pay any dividend or other distribution, payable in cash, stock, property or otherwise, with respect to any of its capital stock; or
 - adjust, recapitalize, reclassify, combine, split, or subdivide any shares of its capital stock.

Table of Contents

Access

The Merger Agreement provides that from the date of the Merger Agreement to the effective time of the Merger or the earlier termination of the Merger Agreement, etrials will afford to Merge Healthcare and its representatives reasonable access at all reasonable times to all of etrials' employees, properties, plants, offices and other facilities and to all of etrials' books and records, except that etrials is not required to provide any information that it reasonably believes it cannot deliver due to contractual or legal restrictions.

Additional Agreements

The Merger Agreement contains a number of other covenants by etrials and Merge Healthcare, including:

- Preparation of Registration Statement and Proxy Statement. Merge Healthcare agreed to promptly prepare and file a registration statement registering the Merge Healthcare Common Stock issued as part of the Offer Price or Merger Consideration, as applicable, following the execution of the Merger Agreement. If the approval of the etrials stockholders is required to consummate the Merger, then as soon as practicable following the execution of the Merger Agreement, etrials shall prepare and file with the SEC a preliminary proxy statement to be sent to the etrials stockholders in connection with the etrials stockholders meeting and other solicitation materials of Merge Healthcare and etrials constituting a part of such proxy statement and related documents. Both parties also agreed to use reasonable best efforts to have the registration statement declared effective by the SEC as promptly as practicable, and Merge Healthcare agreed to take any action required by applicable federal and state securities laws. etrials will furnish information regarding etrials and its stockholders as reasonably requested.
- Meetings of Stockholders. As soon as practicable following expiration of the Offer, but no later than 20 business days following mailing of the definitive etrials proxy statement, etrials will take all actions necessary to hold the etrials special meeting to consider and vote upon the approval of the Merger Agreement, the Merger and related transactions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Offeror or any other subsidiary of Merge Healthcare has acquired at least 90% of the Shares (including the Top-Up Shares), the parties shall, at the request of Merge Healthcare, take all necessary and appropriate action to cause the Merger to become effective as soon as practicable after the expiration of the Offer without a stockholders meeting in accordance with Section 253 of the DGCL.
- Reasonable Best Efforts. Merge Healthcare, Offeror and etrials will use reasonable best efforts to (among other things):
 - take all actions and to do all things necessary, proper or advisable, including making any filings or obtaining any approvals or waivers, under applicable laws to complete the Offer, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement as promptly as practicable; and
 - contest and resist any administrative or judicial investigation, suit, action or other proceeding instituted (or threatened to be instituted) by a governmental entity or private party challenging the Offer, the Merger or any other transaction contemplated by the Merger Agreement, or any other agreement contemplated by the Merger Agreement, or that otherwise would reasonably be expected to prevent, impede or delay the Offer, the Merger or any such transaction contemplated by the Merger Agreement, and to have vacated, lifted, reversed or overturned any decree, judgment, injunction or court order that is in effect and that prohibits, prevents or restricts consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement.

Table of Contents

- Public Announcements. etrials, Offeror and Merge Healthcare have agreed to consult with one another before issuing any public release or otherwise making any public statements about the Offer or the Merger or related transactions, and will not release any such public release without prior consultation, unless otherwise required by applicable laws or regulations.
 - Notification of Matters. The parties agree to promptly notify one another of the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event that, individually or in the aggregate, would make the timely satisfaction of certain conditions of the Merger Agreement (set forth in "Merger Agreement – Conditions to Merger") impossible or unlikely.
- Transfer Taxes. All stock transfer, real estate transfer, documentary, stamp, recording and other similar taxes (including interest, penalties and additions to any such taxes) incurred in connection with the Merger shall be paid by either Offeror or the Surviving Corporation, and etrials shall cooperate with Offeror and Merge Healthcare in preparing, executing and filing any tax returns with respect to such transfer taxes.
- Takeover Laws. If any anti-takeover statute is or may become applicable to the Offer or the Merger, etrials, Merge Healthcare and Offeror and their respective boards of directors shall grant all approvals and take all actions as are necessary so that such transactions may be consummated as promptly as practicable on the terms contemplated by the Merger Agreement and otherwise act to eliminate or minimize the effects of such statute or regulation on such transactions.
- Directors. Promptly upon the acceptance for payment of, and payment by Merge Healthcare or Offeror for, any Shares pursuant to the Offer, Merge Healthcare or Offeror are entitled to designate such number of members of the board of directors of etrials as will give Offeror, subject to compliance with Section 14(f) of the Exchange Act, representation equal to at least that number of directors, rounded up to the next whole number, which is the product of (i) the total number of directors (giving effect to the directors elected pursuant to this sentence) multiplied by (ii) the percentage that (A) such number of Shares so accepted for payment and paid for pursuant to the Offer plus the number of Shares otherwise owned by Merge Healthcare, Offeror or any other subsidiary of Merge Healthcare bears to (B) the number of Shares outstanding, and etrials will, at such time, cause such designees to be so elected; provided, however, that in the event that such designees are appointed or elected to the board of directors of etrials, until the effective time of the Merger, the etrials board of directors must have at least three directors who are directors on the date of the Merger Agreement and who will be independent for purposes of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act (the "Independent Directors"); and provided further that, if the number of Independent Directors is reduced below three for any reason whatsoever, any remaining Independent Directors (or Independent Director, if there is only one remaining) are entitled to designate persons to fill such vacancies who will be deemed to be Independent Directors for purposes of the Merger Agreement or, if no Independent Directors then remain, the other directors will designate three persons to fill such vacancies who will be independent for purposes of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act, and such persons will be deemed to be Independent Directors for purposes of the Merger Agreement. Subject to applicable law, etrials is required to take all action requested by Merge Healthcare necessary to effect any such election, including mailing to its stockholders the Information Statement containing the information required by Section 14(f) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14f-1 promulgated thereunder, and etrials shall make such mailing with the mailing of the Schedule 14D-9 (provided that Merge Healthcare or Offeror shall have provided to etrials on a timely basis all information required to be included in the Information Statement with respect to such designees). etrials has also agreed promptly, at the option of Merge Healthcare, to use reasonable efforts to either increase the size of its board of directors or obtain the resignation of such number of its current directors as is necessary to enable such designees to be elected or appointed to the etrials board of directors as provided above. Following the election or appointment of Merge Healthcare's or Offeror's designees and prior to the effective time of the Merger, any amendment or termination of the Merger Agreement approved by etrials, extension for the performance or waiver of the obligations of Merge Healthcare or Offeror or waiver of the etrials'

rights under the Merger Agreement requires the concurrence of a majority of the Independent Directors.

Table of Contents

- Rule 14d-10(c). Prior to the Expiration Date of the Offer or any subsequent offering period, as applicable, etrials (acting through its board of directors or its compensation committee) will take all steps required to cause to be exempt under amended Rule 14d-10(c) promulgated under the Exchange Act any employment compensation, severance or employee benefit arrangements that have been entered into by etrials, Merge Healthcare or any of their respective affiliates with current or future directors, officers or employees of etrials and its affiliates and to insure that any such arrangements fall within the safe harbor provisions of Rule 14d-10(c).

etrials' Benefit Plans

Stock Options

Immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger, all options to purchase Shares granted under any etrials plan ("Options") that are outstanding and unexercised (whether or not then exercisable), shall become fully vested and exercisable, and to the extent not exercised, shall be cancelled at, the effective time of the Merger, and the holder will be entitled to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the excess, if any, of (1) \$1.70, over (2) the exercise price per Share subject to such Option, and (ii) the total number of Shares subject to such fully vested and exercisable Option as in effect immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger (the "Option Consideration") that have not been exercised, without interest and subject to withholding. The Option Consideration shall be paid in a lump sum within five business days following the effective time of the Merger. No later than five days prior to the effective time of the Merger, etrials shall notify all holders of Options ("Option Holders") that such Options will become fully vested and exercisable immediately prior to consummation of the Merger and the Options will be cancelled in exchange for the right to receive the Option Consideration if not exercised prior to the effective time of the Merger. No Option Consideration will be paid with respect to any Option that has an exercise price equal to or greater than the Option Consideration.

Restricted Shares

Immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger, any then-outstanding restricted Shares issued pursuant to any etrials plans or otherwise shall become fully vested and all restrictions thereon shall lapse, and such Shares shall prior to the effective time of the Merger be converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration, subject to withholding.

Directors' and Officers' Indemnification

The Merger Agreement provides that all rights to indemnification and exculpation from liabilities occurring at or prior to the effective time of the Merger (including rights for advancement of expenses) in favor of then current or former directors or officers of etrials provided in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws and any indemnification or other agreements of etrials in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement shall be assumed by the Surviving Corporation and shall survive the Merger and continue in full force and effect in accordance with their terms.

Prior to the effective time of the Merger, etrials intends to obtain a "tail" insurance policy to continue to provide coverage to etrials' directors and officers on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided under etrials' directors and officers liability insurance policy in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement for a period of six years after the completion of the Merger; provided, however, that etrials shall not pay more than 150% of the current premium to purchase such policy without Merge Healthcare's consent. Merge Healthcare may also substitute such tail policy with an insurance policy having terms no less favorable in any material respect to such officers and directors than etrials' policy in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement.

Table of Contents

Termination of the Merger Agreement

The Merger Agreement may be terminated at any time before completion of the Merger in any of the following ways:

- by mutual written consent of Merge Healthcare, Offeror and etrials; or
- by either Merge Healthcare or etrials if:
 - if Offeror has not initially accepted Shares for payment pursuant to the Offer on or before (a) July 29, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the “termination date”), or (b) August 28, 2009 if the transaction is delayed due to (i) failure to obtain regulatory approval under the applicable antitrust laws or (ii) a review by the SEC of any of the regulatory filings required to be filed by Merge Healthcare and etrials with the SEC prior to two business days before the date set forth in (a) above; provided further that the Merger Agreement cannot be terminated pursuant to this provision after Merge Healthcare or Offeror accepts Shares for payment pursuant to the Offer; or
 - any court or governmental order, decree or ruling enjoining or prohibiting the Merger has become final and nonappealable; or
 - by Merge Healthcare (so long as neither Merge Healthcare nor Offeror has materially breached any of its obligations contained in the Merger Agreement):
 - if etrials breaches any of its representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement (except where such breach would not be expected to have an etrials material adverse effect), or any of its covenants or agreements contained in the Merger Agreement, and such breach cannot be cured by the earlier of (a) the termination date and (b) 15 days after notice of the breach to etrials; or
 - etrials board of directors withdraws or modifies in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or Offeror, or proposes publicly to withdraw or modify in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or Offeror, its recommendation that its stockholders tender into the Offer or vote to approve and adopt the Merger Agreement, as applicable, or resolves or agrees to take any such action; or
- by etrials (so long as etrials has not materially breached any of its obligations contained in the Merger Agreement):
 - Merge Healthcare or Offeror breaches any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement contained in the Merger Agreement, which breach would result in a failure of any of the conditions to the obligation of etrials to effect the Merger under the Merger Agreement and such breach cannot be cured by the earlier of (a) the termination date and (b) 15 days after notice of the breach to Merge Healthcare; or
 - in connection with the receipt of a superior proposal under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement.

Should any of these potential grounds for termination occur, Merge Healthcare’s and etrials’ board of directors may elect to exercise their respective rights to terminate the Merger Agreement.

Termination Fees and Expenses

Except as set forth below, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the Merger Agreement, the Offer, and the Merger will be paid by the party incurring the same.

etrial has agreed to pay Merge Healthcare a termination fee equal to \$500,000, plus reimburse Merge Healthcare for reasonable out of pocket expenses up to \$250,000, if:

65

Table of Contents

- etrials terminates the Merger Agreement in connection with the receipt of a superior proposal under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement; or
- Merge Healthcare terminates the Merger Agreement because etrials' board of directors withdraws or modifies in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or Offeror, or proposes publicly to withdraw or modify in a manner adverse to Merge Healthcare or Offeror, its recommendation that its stockholders tender into the Offer or vote to approve and adopt the Merger Agreement, as applicable, or resolves or agrees to take any such action.

Effect of Termination

In the event of termination of the Merger Agreement prior to the effective time of the Merger in accordance with the terms of the Merger Agreement, the Merger Agreement will become void, and there shall be no liability or further obligation on the part of Merge Healthcare, Offeror or etrials other than:

- the payment of fees and expenses described above under "Merger Agreement — Termination Fees and Expenses";
 - liability for brokerage or finder's fees incurred by it;
- the parties' mutual obligations with respect to confidentiality and public announcements, which survive termination, under the terms of the Merger Agreement; and
 - liability for any breach of the Merger Agreement.

Amendments, Extensions and Waivers

The parties may amend the Merger Agreement in writing by action taken by their respective boards of directors at any time prior to the effective time of the Merger; provided, however, that after approval of the Merger Agreement by etrials' stockholders, the parties may not make any amendment that by law requires further approval by etrials' stockholders without such approval.

At any time before the effective time of the Merger, each party may:

- extend the time for the performance of any obligations or other acts of the other party;
- waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement or in any document delivered pursuant to the Merger Agreement; and
- waive compliance by the other party with any of the agreements or conditions contained in the Merger Agreement, subject to the requirements of applicable laws.

The Stockholder Support Agreements

In connection with the execution and delivery of the Merger Agreement, Merge Healthcare entered into a Stockholder Support Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2009 (each a "Stockholder Support Agreement"), with each officer and director of etrials, as well as certain stockholders of etrials (each a "Supporting Stockholder"). Pursuant to each Stockholder Support Agreement, each of the Supporting Stockholders has agreed, among other things (a) to tender (and not withdraw) all Shares beneficially owned or thereafter acquired by them and (b) to vote such Shares in support of the Merger and against any competing transaction unless such Stockholder Support Agreement is otherwise terminated.

Table of Contents

Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement

Merge Healthcare and etrials entered into a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement dated as of May 6, 2009 (the “Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement”). Pursuant to the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement, as a condition to being furnished confidential information by etrials, Merge Healthcare agreed, among other things, to use such confidential information solely for the purpose of evaluating a transaction between etrials and Merge Healthcare. Merge Healthcare also agreed (i) not to purchase, sell or otherwise trade in etrials’ securities or any derivatives of such securities until Merge Healthcare, based on the advice of counsel, determined that any material provided pursuant to the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement did not constitute material, non-public information and (ii) not to propose to any person or entity other than etrials any transaction between Merge Healthcare and etrials and/or its security holders involving etrials’ securities or security holders unless etrials requested, in writing, that Merge Healthcare make such a proposal. In addition, Merge Healthcare agreed that, as of the date thereof and for a period of two years from the date of the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement, Merge Healthcare would not acquire, or assist, advise or encourage any other persons in acquiring, directly or indirectly, (i) control of etrials, including but not limited to acquiring control by nominating person(s) to serve on etrials’ board of directors, (ii) more than 2% of any outstanding class of securities of etrials or any voting or economic interest therein, or (iii) substantially all of etrials’ business or assets.

Table of Contents

THE OFFER

Offeror is offering to exchange each outstanding Share for the Consideration subject to the conditions contained in this Prospectus and the accompanying letter of transmittal.

Offeror is making the Offer in order for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrials. The Offer is the first step in Merge Healthcare's acquisition of etrials and is intended to facilitate the acquisition of all of the outstanding Shares. Merge Healthcare intends to complete the Merger as soon as possible after completion of the Offer.

Consideration

Under the terms of the Offer, each etrials stockholder may elect to receive, for each outstanding Share validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the Offer:

- \$0.80 in cash, without interest, plus
- 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock (collectively, the "Consideration"),

subject to the procedures described in this Prospectus and the related letter of transmittal. etrials stockholders who otherwise would be entitled to receive a fractional share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock will instead receive an amount in cash (without interest) equal to the amount of such fraction multiplied by \$2.610, rounded to the nearest cent.

etrials stockholders should obtain current market quotations for shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and the Shares before deciding whether to tender pursuant to the Offer. Please also see the section of this Prospectus entitled "Risk Factors."

Top-Up Option

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, etrials granted to Merge Healthcare and Offeror an irrevocable Top-Up Option to purchase up to that number of Shares that, when added to the number of Shares, directly or indirectly, owned collectively by Merge Healthcare and Offeror immediately following consummation of the Offer, shall constitute one Share more than 90% of the Fully Diluted Shares at a purchase price per Share equal to the greater of \$1.70 and an amount equal to the highest price per Share pursuant to the Offer, paid in cash, by wire transfer or cashier's check. The Top-Up Option is exercisable only once, at such time as Merge Healthcare and Offeror, directly or indirectly, own at least 80% of the Fully Diluted Shares, and prior to the fifth business day after the Expiration Date of the Offer or the Expiration Date of any subsequent offering period. The Top-Up Option will not be exercisable to the extent the number of Shares subject thereto (taken together with the number of Shares outstanding on a fully-diluted basis at such time) exceeds the number of authorized Shares available for issuances. The obligation of etrials to deliver the Top-Up Shares is further subject to there being no law or rule of the NASDAQ Global Market, and no judgment, injunction, order or decree, that prohibits the exercise of the Top-Up Option or the delivery of the Top-Up Shares upon exercise.

Distribution of Offering Materials

This Prospectus, the related letter of transmittal and other relevant materials will be delivered to record holders of Shares and to brokers, dealers, commercial banks, trust companies and similar persons whose names, or the names of whose nominees, appear on etrials' stockholder list or, if applicable, who are listed as participants in a clearing

agency's security position listing, so that they can in turn send these materials to beneficial owners of Shares.

Expiration of the Offer

The Offer is scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, at the end of July 14, 2009, which is the "Initial Expiration Date," unless further extended by Offeror. "Expiration Date" means the Initial Expiration Date, unless and until Offeror has extended the period during which the Offer is open, subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, in which event the term "Expiration Date" means the latest time and date at which the Offer, as so extended by Offeror, will expire.

Table of Contents

Extension, Termination and Amendment

Offeror may, without the consent of etrials, from time to time extend the Offer (A) in increments of not more than five (5) business days for one or more periods if, at the scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer shall not have been satisfied or waived until the time as such conditions are satisfied or waived or (B) for any period required by any rule, regulation, interpretation or position of the SEC or the staff thereof applicable to the Offer. Offeror shall, at the request of etrials, extend the Offer for not less than five (5) business days if, at the initial Expiration Date or any subsequent scheduled Expiration Date, any of the conditions of the Offer have not been satisfied or waived. Offeror shall, if requested by etrials or Merge Healthcare, make available a subsequent offering period of not less than ten (10) business days; but Offeror shall not be required to make available a subsequent offering period if, prior to such period, Merge Healthcare and Offeror own more than 80% of the Shares outstanding on a Fully Diluted Basis.

Except as described above, Offeror is not required under the Merger Agreement to exercise its right to extend the Offer, although it currently intends to do so until all conditions of the Offer have been satisfied or waived. During any extension, all Shares previously tendered and not withdrawn will remain subject to the Offer, subject to each tendering etrials stockholder's right to withdraw its Shares. etrials stockholders should read the discussion under "The Offer — Withdrawal Rights" for more details.

To the extent legally permissible, Offeror also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, at any time or from time to time:

- to delay acceptance for exchange of any Shares pursuant to the Offer, or to terminate the Offer and not accept or exchange any Shares not previously accepted or exchanged, if any of the conditions of the Offer are not satisfied or waived prior to the Expiration Date or to the extent required by applicable laws;
- to waive any condition, other than those not subject to waiver as set forth in "The Offer — Conditions of the Offer"; and
- to otherwise amend the Offer in any respect;

provided, however, that Offeror may not, without the prior written consent of etrials, (i) reduce the number of Shares subject to the Offer, (ii) reduce the Consideration payable in the Offer, (iii) waive the Minimum Tender Condition, add to the conditions comprising the Offer Conditions or modify any condition comprising the Offer Conditions in any manner adverse to the holders of Shares, (iv) except as described above, extend the Offer, (v) change the form of consideration payable in the Offer, (vi) otherwise amend the Offer in any manner that is adverse to the holders of Shares.

Offeror will effect any extension, termination, amendment or delay by giving oral or written notice to the exchange agent and by making a public announcement as promptly as practicable thereafter. In the case of an extension, any such announcement will be issued no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day following the previously scheduled Expiration Date. Subject to applicable law (including Rules 14d-4(d) and 14d-6(c) under the Exchange Act, which require that any material change in the information published, sent or given to stockholders in connection with the Offer be promptly disseminated to stockholders in a manner reasonably designed to inform them of such change) and without limiting the manner in which Offeror may choose to make any public announcement, Offeror assumes no obligation to publish, advertise or otherwise communicate any such public announcement of this type other than by issuing a press release.

If Offeror materially changes the terms of the Offer or the information concerning the Offer, or if Offeror waives a material condition of the Offer, Offeror will extend the Offer to the extent legally required under the Exchange

Act. If, prior to the Expiration Date, Offeror changes the percentage of Shares being sought or the consideration offered, that change will apply to all holders whose Shares are accepted for exchange pursuant to the Offer. If at the time notice of that change is first published, sent or given to etrials stockholders, the Offer is scheduled to expire at any time earlier than the tenth business day from and including the date that such notice is first so published, sent or given, Offeror will extend the Offer until the expiration of that ten business day period. For purposes of the Offer, a “business day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday and consists of the time period from 12:01 a.m. through 12:00 midnight, New York City time.

Table of Contents

Subsequent Offering Period

Offeror may elect to provide subsequent offering periods of not less than ten (10) and no more than twenty (20) business days after the acceptance of Shares in the Offer in accordance with Rule 14d-11 under the Exchange Act provided that Offeror shall not be required to make a subsequent offering period if, prior to such period, Merge Healthcare and Offeror directly or indirectly own more than 80% of the Fully Diluted Shares. If Offeror exercises its right to use a subsequent offering period, Offeror will consummate the exchange with respect to the Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the initial offer period as soon as practicable after the initial offer period. etrials stockholders will not have the right to withdraw any Shares that etrials stockholders tender in the subsequent offering period. If Offeror elects to provide a subsequent offering period, Offeror will make a public announcement to that effect no later than 9:00 a.m. New York City time on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration.

Exchange of Shares; Delivery of Cash and Shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock

Merge Healthcare has retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC as the depository and exchange agent for the Offer to handle the exchange of Shares for the Consideration.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Offer (including, if the Offer is extended or amended, the terms and conditions of any such extension or amendment), Offeror will accept for exchange, and will exchange, Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn promptly after the Expiration Date. In all cases, exchanges of Shares tendered and accepted for exchange pursuant to the Offer will be made only after timely receipt by the exchange agent of certificates for those Shares, or a confirmation of a book-entry transfer of those Shares into the exchange agent's account at The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal, or an agent's message in connection with a book-entry transfer, and any other required documents.

For purposes of the Offer, Offeror will be deemed to have accepted for exchange Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn if and when it notifies the exchange agent of its acceptance of those Shares pursuant to the Offer. The exchange agent will deliver any cash and shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock issuable in exchange for Shares validly tendered and accepted pursuant to the Offer as soon as practicable after receipt of such notice. The exchange agent will act as the agent for tendering etrials stockholders for the purpose of receiving cash and shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock from Offeror and transmitting such cash and stock to the tendering etrials stockholders. etrials stockholders will not receive any interest on any cash that Offeror pays in the Offer, even if there is a delay in making the exchange.

If Offeror does not accept any tendered Shares for exchange pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Offer for any reason, or if certificates are submitted representing more Shares than are tendered for, Offeror will return certificates for such unexchanged Shares without expense to the tendering stockholder or, in the case of Shares tendered by book-entry transfer into the exchange agent's account at DTC pursuant to the procedures set forth below in "The Offer — Procedure for Tendering," the Shares to be returned will be credited to an account maintained with DTC as soon as practicable following expiration or termination of the Offer.

Withdrawal Rights

etrials stockholders can withdraw tendered Shares at any time until the Expiration Date and, if Offeror has not agreed to accept the Shares for exchange on or prior to the 60th day after the commencement date of the Offer, which is August 15, 2009, etrials stockholders can thereafter withdraw their Shares from tender at any time after such date until Offeror accepts Shares for exchange.

For the withdrawal of Shares to be effective, the exchange agent must receive a written notice of withdrawal from the etrials stockholder at one of the addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus, prior to the Expiration Date. The notice must include the stockholder's name, address, social security number, the certificate number(s), the number of Shares to be withdrawn and the name of the registered holder, if it is different from that of the person who tendered those Shares, and any other information required pursuant to the Offer or the procedures of DTC, if applicable.

Table of Contents

A financial institution must guarantee all signatures on the notice of withdrawal, unless the Shares to be withdrawn were tendered for the account of an eligible institution. Most banks, savings and loan associations and brokerage houses are able to provide signature guarantees. An “eligible institution” is a financial institution that is a participant in the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program.

If Shares have been tendered pursuant to the procedures for book-entry transfer discussed under the section entitled “The Offer — Procedure for Tendering,” any notice of withdrawal must specify the name and number of the account at DTC to be credited with the withdrawn Shares and must otherwise comply with DTC’s procedures. If certificates have been delivered or otherwise identified to the exchange agent, the name of the registered holder and the serial numbers of the particular certificates evidencing the Shares withdrawn must also be furnished to the exchange agent, as stated above, prior to the physical release of such certificates.

Offeror will decide all questions as to the form and validity (including time of receipt) of any notice of withdrawal in its sole discretion, and its decision shall be final and binding. None of Offeror, Merge Healthcare, etrials, the exchange agent, the information agent or any other person is under any duty to give notification of any defects or irregularities in any tender or notice of withdrawal or will incur any liability for failure to give any such notification. Any Shares properly withdrawn will be deemed not to have been validly tendered for purposes of the Offer. However, an etrials stockholder may re-tender withdrawn Shares by following the applicable procedures discussed under the section “The Offer — Procedure for Tendering” or “The Offer — Guaranteed Delivery” at any time prior to the Expiration Date.

Procedure for Tendering

For an etrials stockholder to validly tender Shares pursuant to the Offer:

- a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal, along with any required signature guarantees and any other documents required by the letter of transmittal, and certificates for tendered Shares held in certificate form must be received by the exchange agent at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus before the Expiration Date;
- an agent’s message in connection with a book-entry transfer, and any other required documents, must be received by the exchange agent at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus, and the Shares must be tendered into the exchange agent’s account at DTC pursuant to the procedures for book-entry tender set forth below (and a confirmation of receipt of such tender, referred to as a “book-entry confirmation” must be received), in each case before the Expiration Date; or
- the terms and conditions of the guaranteed delivery procedure set forth below under “The Offer — Guaranteed Delivery” must be met.

The term “agent’s message” means a message transmitted by DTC to, and received by, the exchange agent and forming a part of a book-entry confirmation, which states that DTC has received an express acknowledgment from the DTC participant tendering the Shares that are the subject of such book-entry confirmation, that such participant has received and agrees to be bound by the terms of the letter of transmittal and that Offeror may enforce that agreement against such participant.

The exchange agent has established an account with respect to the Shares at DTC in connection with the Offer, and any financial institution that is a participant in DTC may make book-entry delivery of Shares by causing DTC to transfer such Shares prior to the Expiration Date into the exchange agent’s account in accordance with DTC’s procedure for such transfer. However, although delivery of Shares may be effected through book-entry transfer at DTC, the

letter of transmittal with any required signature guarantees, or an agent's message, along with any other required documents, must, in any case, be received by the exchange agent at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus prior to the Expiration Date, or the guaranteed delivery procedures described below under "The Offer — Guaranteed Delivery" must be followed. Book-entry delivery of Shares may not be available. If book-entry delivery is not available, etrials stockholders must tender Shares by means of delivery of Share certificates or pursuant to the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth below under "The Offer — Guaranteed Delivery."

Table of Contents

Signatures on all letters of transmittal must be guaranteed by an eligible institution, except in cases in which Shares are tendered either by a registered holder of Shares who has not completed the box entitled “Special Issuance Instructions” or the box entitled “Special Delivery Instructions” on the letter of transmittal or for the account of an eligible institution.

If the certificates for Shares are registered in the name of a person other than the person who signs the letter of transmittal, or if certificates for unexchanged Shares are to be issued to a person other than the registered holder(s), the certificates must be endorsed or accompanied by appropriate stock powers, in either case signed exactly as the name or names of the registered owner or owners appear on the certificates, with the signature(s) on the certificates or stock powers guaranteed by an eligible institution.

The method of delivery of Share certificates and all other required documents, including delivery through DTC, is at the option and risk of the tendering etrials stockholder, and delivery will be deemed made only when actually received by the exchange agent. If delivery is by mail, Offeror recommends registered mail with return receipt requested, properly insured. In all cases, etrials stockholders should allow sufficient time to ensure timely delivery.

Certain holders of Shares may be subject to U.S. federal backup withholding (currently, at a rate of 28%) of the amount payable to such holder pursuant to the Offer or the Merger. To prevent such backup withholding, each etrials stockholder, other than a stockholder exempt from backup withholding as described below, must provide the exchange agent with its correct taxpayer identification number, certify that it is not subject to backup withholding of U.S. federal income tax by completing the Substitute IRS Form W-9 included in the letter of transmittal, and otherwise comply with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Certain stockholders (including, among others, all corporations and certain foreign persons) are not subject to these backup withholding and reporting requirements. In order for a foreign person to qualify as an exempt recipient, the stockholder must submit an IRS Form W-8BEN, or other applicable IRS Form W-8, signed under penalties of perjury, attesting to such person’s exempt status.

Each etrials stockholder should read the discussion under “The Merger — Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” and should consult its own tax advisor for a full understanding of the application of the backup withholding rules to them as a result of the Offer and the Merger.

The tender of Shares pursuant to any of the procedures described above will constitute a binding agreement between Offeror and the tendering etrials stockholder upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Offer.

Guaranteed Delivery

etrials stockholders desiring to tender Shares pursuant to the Offer but whose certificates are not immediately available or cannot otherwise be delivered with all other required documents to the exchange agent prior to the Expiration Date or who cannot complete the procedure for book-entry transfer on a timely basis, may nevertheless tender Shares, as long as all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the tender is by or through an eligible institution;
- a properly completed and duly executed notice of guaranteed delivery, substantially in the form made available by Offeror, is received by the exchange agent as provided below on or prior to the Expiration Date; and
- the certificates for all tendered Shares (or a confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such shares into the exchange agent’s account at DTC as described above), in proper form for transfer, together with a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal with any required signature guarantees (or, in the case of a book-entry transfer, an

agent's message) and all other documents required by the letter of transmittal are received by the exchange agent at one of its addresses on the back cover of this prospectus within three trading days after the date of execution of such notice of guaranteed delivery.

Table of Contents

An etrials stockholder may deliver the notice of guaranteed delivery by hand, facsimile transmission or mail to the exchange agent at one of its addresses on the back cover of this Prospectus. The notice must include a guarantee by an eligible institution in the form set forth in the notice.

In all cases, Offeror will exchange Shares tendered and accepted for exchange pursuant to the Offer only after timely receipt by the exchange agent of certificates for Shares (or timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such shares into the exchange agent's account at DTC as described above), a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal (or an agent's message in connection with a book-entry transfer) and any other required documents.

Grant of Proxy

By executing a letter of transmittal as set forth above, an etrials stockholder irrevocably appoints Offeror's designees as such stockholder's attorneys-in-fact and proxies, each with full power of substitution, to the full extent of such stockholder's rights with respect to its Shares tendered and accepted for exchange by Offeror and with respect to any and all other Shares and other securities issued or issuable in respect of those Shares on or after the Expiration Date. That appointment is effective, and voting rights will be affected, when and only to the extent that Offeror accepts tendered Shares for exchange pursuant to the Offer and deposits with the exchange agent the cash consideration or the shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock consideration for such Shares. All such proxies shall be considered coupled with an interest in the tendered Shares and therefore shall not be revocable. Upon the effectiveness of such appointment, all prior proxies that the etrials stockholder has given will be revoked, and such stockholder may not give any subsequent proxies (and, if given, they will not be deemed effective). Offeror's designees will, with respect to the Shares for which the appointment is effective, be empowered, among other things, to exercise all of such stockholder's voting and other rights as they, in their sole discretion, deem proper at any annual, special or adjourned meeting of etrials' stockholders or otherwise. Offeror reserves the right to require that, in order for Shares to be deemed validly tendered, immediately upon the exchange of such Shares, Offeror must be able to exercise full voting rights with respect to such Shares. However, prior to acceptance for exchange by Offeror in accordance with terms of the Offer, the appointment will not be effective, and Offeror shall have no voting rights as a result of the tender of Shares.

Fees and Commissions

Tendering registered etrials stockholders who tender Shares directly to the exchange agent will not be obligated to pay any charges or expenses of the exchange agent or any brokerage commissions. Tendering etrials stockholders who hold Shares through a broker or bank should consult that institution as to whether or not such institution will charge the stockholder any service fees in connection with tendering Shares pursuant to the Offer. Except as set forth in the instructions to the letter of transmittal, transfer taxes on the exchange of Shares pursuant to the Offer will be paid by Offeror.

Matters Concerning Validity and Eligibility

Offeror will determine questions as to the validity, form, eligibility (including time of receipt) and acceptance for exchange of any tender of Shares, in its sole discretion, and its determination shall be final and binding. Offeror reserves the absolute right to reject any and all tenders of Shares that it determines are not in the proper form or the acceptance of or exchange for which may be unlawful. Offeror also reserves the absolute right to waive any defect or irregularity in the tender of any Shares. No tender of Shares will be deemed to have been validly made until all defects and irregularities in tenders of such Shares have been cured or waived. None of Offeror, Merge Healthcare, etrials, the exchange agent nor any other person will be under any duty to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the tender of any Shares or will incur any liability for failure to give any such notification. Offeror's interpretation of the terms and conditions of the Offer (including the letter of transmittal and instructions thereto) will

be final and binding.

73

Table of Contents

etrial stockholders who have any questions about the procedure for tendering Shares in the Offer should contact the Information Agent at the address and telephone number set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus.

Announcement of Results of the Offer

Merge Healthcare will announce the final results of the Offer, including whether all of the conditions to the Offer have been satisfied or waived and whether Offeror will accept the tendered Shares for exchange, as promptly as practicable following the Expiration Date. The announcement will be made by a press release in accordance with applicable NASDAQ requirements.

Ownership of Merge Healthcare After the Offer and the Merger

Assuming that:

- all outstanding restricted shares, of which there were 473,165 represented by etrials to be outstanding as of May 31, 2009, become vested prior to the expiration of the Offer;
- Offeror exchanges, pursuant to the Offer, 3,814,916 shares, which number is the product of (i) 11,064,142 Shares outstanding, including 473,165 restricted shares outstanding, each as of May 31, 2009 (as set forth by etrials in its Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9, filed June 16, 2009) and (ii) 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock; and
- 56,772,006 shares (including 15,414 shares held in treasury) of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are issued immediately prior to the consummation of the Offer;

former etrials stockholders would own in the aggregate 6.3% of the outstanding shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

Conditions to the Offer

Offeror's obligation to accept for exchange and to exchange Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in the Offer is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Offeror of certain conditions, including the valid tender of at least a majority of the outstanding Shares on a fully diluted basis. Neither Merge Healthcare nor Offeror shall be required to accept for payment or, subject to any applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, including Rule 14e-1(c) under the Exchange Act (relating to Merge Healthcare's or Offeror's obligation to pay for or return tendered shares promptly after the termination or withdrawal of the Offer), to pay for any Shares tendered pursuant to the Offer unless the number of Shares which have been validly tendered and not withdrawn prior to the expiration of the Offer represent at least a majority of the Fully Diluted Shares (the "Minimum Tender Condition"), this Form S-4 has become effective under the Securities Act, and etrials has terminated the earlier merger agreement with BITI and no amounts or other obligations are due thereunder. Fully Diluted Shares, under the Merger Agreement, means all outstanding securities entitled generally to vote in the election of directors of etrials on a fully diluted basis, after giving effect to the exercise or conversion of all options, rights and securities exercisable or convertible into such voting securities having an exercise price or conversion price less than the Cash Value of the Offer price.

Neither Merge Healthcare nor Offeror will be required to accept for payment or to pay for any Shares not previously accepted for payment or paid for, and may terminate or amend the Offer, with the consent of etrials or if, at any time on or after May 30, 2009 and before the Offer expires, any of the following conditions exists:

-

Any law, (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) is enacted, entered, promulgated or enforced, or any injunction shall have been issued and be in effect, by any United States or state court or United States governmental entity which prohibits restrains or enjoins the consummation of the Offer;

- There shall have occurred any change, occurrence or development that, individually or in the aggregate has had or would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on etrials;

Table of Contents

- The representations and warranties of etrials as set forth in the Merger Agreement are not true and correct at such time except where such would not be expected to have a material adverse effect on etrials;
- etrials fails to perform in any material respect any obligation or to comply in any material respect with any agreement or covenant of etrials required to be performed or complied with by it under the Merger Agreement;
- The Merger Agreement has been terminated in accordance with its terms which, in the sole and reasonable judgment of Offeror or Merge Healthcare, makes it inadvisable to proceed with such acceptance for payment or payment; or

- This Form S-4 is subject to any stop order or proceeding seeking stop order.

A “material adverse effect” with respect to etrials means any change, effect, event or occurrence that has a material adverse effect on the assets, business, financial condition or results of operations of etrials taken as a whole; provided, however, that no change, effect, event or occurrence to the extent arising or resulting from any of the following, either alone or in combination, shall constitute or be taken into account in determining whether there has been or will be, an etrials material adverse effect:

- general economic or market conditions or general changes or developments in the pharmaceutical industry or affecting participants in the pharmaceutical industry,
 - acts of war or terrorism or natural disasters,
- the announcement or performance of the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated under the Merger Agreement, including compliance with the covenants set forth in the Merger Agreement and the identity of Merge Healthcare as the acquirer of etrials, or any action taken or omitted to be taken by etrials at the written request or with the prior written consent of Merge Healthcare or Offeror,
 - changes in any applicable accounting regulations or principles or the interpretations thereof,
- changes in the price or trading volume of etrials’ stock (provided that any etrials material adverse effect that may have caused or contributed to such change in market price or trading volume shall not be excluded), or
- any failure by etrials to meet earnings or loss projections, in and of itself (provided that any etrials material adverse effect that may have caused or contributed to such failure to meet published earnings or loss projections shall not be excluded unless covered by another exclusion such as the announcement or performance of the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated under the Merger Agreement, including compliance with the covenants set forth in the Merger Agreement and the identity of Merge Healthcare as the acquirer of etrials, or any action taken or omitted to be taken by etrials at the written request or with the prior written consent of Merge Healthcare or Offeror), unless, in the case of (i) general economic or market conditions or general changes or developments in the pharmaceutical industry or affecting participants in the pharmaceutical industry or (ii) acts of war or terrorism or natural disasters, such change, effect, event or occurrence has a materially disproportionate effect on etrials, taken as a whole, compared with other companies operating in the eClinical software and services industry.

The foregoing conditions are for the sole benefit of Merge Healthcare and Offeror and may be asserted by Merge Healthcare or Offeror regardless of the circumstances (including any action or inaction by Merge Healthcare or Offeror) giving rise to such condition or may be waived by Merge Healthcare or Offeror, by express and specific action to that effect, in whole or in part at any time and from time to time in each case except for the Minimum Tender Condition, which may be waived by Merge Healthcare or Offeror only with the prior written consent of etrials. The

failure by Offeror at any time to exercise any of the foregoing rights will not be deemed a waiver of any such right, the waiver of any such right with respect to particular facts and other circumstances will not be deemed a waiver with respect to any other facts and circumstances and each such right will be deemed an ongoing right that may be asserted at any time and from time to time.

Table of Contents

Purpose of the Offer; the Merger

Purpose of the Offer; the Merger

The purpose of the Offer is for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrials. The Offer, as the first step in the acquisition of etrials, is intended to facilitate the acquisition of etrials. The purpose of the Merger is for Merge Healthcare to acquire all outstanding Shares not tendered and purchased pursuant to the Offer. If the Offer is successful, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate the Merger as promptly as practicable. Upon consummation of the Merger, the Surviving Corporation would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare.

If Offeror owns 90% or more of the outstanding Shares following consummation of the Offer and any subsequent offering period and exercise of the Top-Up Option, if exercised, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate the Merger as a “short-form” merger pursuant to Section 253 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (“DGCL”). In this case, neither the approval of any holder of Shares nor the approval of the etrials board of directors would be required.

If Offeror owns less than 90% of the outstanding Shares following the consummation of the Offer and does not exercise the Top-Up Option, the etrials board of directors will submit the Merger to etrials' stockholders for approval at a stockholder meeting convened for that purpose in accordance with the DGCL. If the Minimum Tender Condition is satisfied, Merge Healthcare will, upon consummation of the Offer, have sufficient voting power to ensure approval of the Merger at the stockholders' meeting without the affirmative vote of any other etrials stockholder.

In the Merger, each Share (except for Shares held in etrials' treasury, Shares beneficially owned by any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of etrials and Shares beneficially owned directly or indirectly by Merge Healthcare or Offeror, including Shares acquired in the Offer) would be converted into the right to receive the consideration, subject to appraisal rights under Delaware law, as more fully described below.

In the Merger, etrials stockholders will receive \$0.80 in cash, without interest, and 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock for each Share owned on the effective date of the Merger.

Rule 13e-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, which Merge Healthcare does not believe would apply to the Merger if the Merger occurs within one year of the completion of the Offer, would require, among other things, that certain financial information concerning etrials, and certain information relating to the fairness of the proposed transaction and the consideration offered to stockholders of etrials, be filed with the SEC and disclosed to stockholders prior to the completion of the Merger.

Plans for etrials

In connection with the Offer and the Merger, Merge Healthcare has reviewed and will continue to review various possible business strategies that it might consider in the event that Offeror acquires control of etrials pursuant to the Merger. Following a review of additional information regarding etrials, these strategies could include, among other things, changes in etrials' business, operations, personnel, employee benefit plans, corporate structure, capitalization and management.

Board of Directors and Management

Upon consummation of the Merger, the directors of etrials as the Surviving Corporation will be the directors of Offeror immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger, and the officers of etrials as the Surviving Corporation will be the officers of Offeror immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger. After Merge Healthcare's review

of etrials and its corporate structure, management and personnel, Merge Healthcare will determine what additional changes, if any, would be desirable.

Delisting and Termination of Registration

If etrials qualifies for termination of registration under the Exchange Act after the Offer is consummated, Merge Healthcare intends to seek to have etrials withdraw the Shares from listing on the NASDAQ Global Market and to terminate the registration of Shares under the Exchange Act. See “The Offer — Effect of the Offer on the Market for Shares; NASDAQ Listing; Registration Under the Exchange Act; Margin Regulations.”

Table of Contents

Effect of the Offer on the Market for Shares; NASDAQ Listing; Registration Under the Exchange Act; Margin Regulations

Effect of the Offer on the Market for the Shares

The purchase of Shares by Offeror pursuant to the Offer will reduce the number of holders of Shares and the number of Shares that might otherwise trade publicly and could adversely affect the liquidity and market value of the remaining Shares held by the public. The extent of the public market for Shares after consummation of the Offer and the availability of quotations for such Shares will depend upon a number of factors, including the number of stockholders holding Shares, the aggregate market value of the Shares held by the public at such time, the interest of maintaining a market in the Shares, analyst coverage of etrials on the part of any securities firms and other factors.

NASDAQ Listing

The Shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market. Depending upon the number of Shares acquired pursuant to the Offer and the aggregate market value of any Shares not purchased pursuant to the Offer, Shares may no longer meet the standards for continued listing on the NASDAQ Global Market and may be delisted from NASDAQ. If the Shares are delisted from NASDAQ, the market for the Shares would be adversely affected as described above. If the Shares are not delisted prior to the Merger, then Merge Healthcare intends to delist the Shares from NASDAQ promptly following consummation of the Merger.

Registration Under the Exchange Act

The Shares currently are registered under the Exchange Act. This registration may be terminated upon application by etrials to the SEC if the Shares are not listed on a national securities exchange and there are fewer than 300 record holders. Termination of registration would substantially reduce the information required to be furnished by etrials to holders of Shares and to the SEC and would make certain provisions of the Exchange Act, such as the short-swing profit recovery provisions of Section 16(b), the requirement of furnishing a proxy statement in connection with stockholders' meetings and the requirements of Exchange Act Rule 13e-3 with respect to "going private" transactions, no longer applicable to the Shares. In addition, "affiliates" of etrials and persons holding "restricted securities" of etrials may be deprived of the ability to dispose of these securities pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act. If registration of the Shares under the Exchange Act is not terminated prior to the Merger, then Merge Healthcare intends to terminate the registration of the Shares following consummation of the Merger.

Margin Regulations

The Shares currently are a "margin security" under the regulations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, which has the effect, among other things, of allowing brokers to extend credit on the collateral of the Shares. Depending upon factors similar to those described above regarding listing and market quotations, it is possible that, following the Offer, the Shares may no longer constitute "margin securities" for purposes of the margin regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, in which event such Shares could no longer be used as collateral for loans made by brokers.

Certain Relationships With etrials

As of the date of the Offer, Merge Healthcare does not own any Shares. Neither Merge Healthcare nor Offeror have effected any transaction in securities of etrials in the past 60 days. To the best of Merge Healthcare and Offeror's knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, none of the persons listed on Appendix D hereto, nor any of their respective associates or majority-owned subsidiaries, beneficially owns or has the right to acquire any securities of etrials or has

effected any transaction in securities of etrials during the past 60 days.

77

Table of Contents

Except as described in this Prospectus, (i) there have been no contracts, negotiations or transactions between Merge Healthcare, or to the best of Merge Healthcare and Offeror's knowledge, any of their directors, executive officers or other affiliates on the one hand, and etrials or its affiliates on the other hand concerning any merger, consolidation, acquisition, tender offer, election of etrials' directors, or the sale of a material amount of etrials' assets, and (ii) neither Merge Healthcare nor Offeror, nor to the best knowledge of Merge Healthcare or Offeror, after reasonable inquiry, none of the persons listed on Appendix D hereto, nor any of their respective affiliates, have any other present or proposed material agreement, arrangement, understanding or relationship with etrials or any of its executive officers, directors, controlling persons or subsidiaries.

Source and Amount of Funds

The Offer and the Merger are not conditioned upon any financing arrangements or contingencies.

Assuming all restricted shares tender into the Offer, and all outstanding vested in-the-money stock options remain unexercised and are exchanged for cash, the Offeror estimates the amounts required to purchase the then outstanding Shares and fund transaction-related fees and expenses will approximate 3.8 million shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock and \$11.6 million of cash.

Merge Healthcare expects to have sufficient cash on hand to complete the transactions contemplated by the Offer and the Merger and to pay all fees, expenses and other related amounts related to the Offer and the Merger.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF MERGE HEALTHCARE CAPITAL STOCK

Merge Healthcare's authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, and one share of Series 3 Special Voting Stock preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of May 31, 2009, there were 56,772,006 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock issued, including 479,997 shares subject to restricted stock awards and 15,414 shares held in treasury. There are currently no shares of preferred stock outstanding. The Merge Healthcare Common Stock is held of record by approximately 284 stockholders. On May 31, 2009, 4,528,229 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock were subject to outstanding options.

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

Common Stock

Holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by the board of directors, out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock, if any. On June 19, 2008, Merge Healthcare paid a dividend of \$0.001 on each share of Merge Healthcare Common Stock as part of the termination of a rights plan. Merge Healthcare does not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Each holder of Merge Healthcare Common Stock is entitled to one vote per share. Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of its business, the holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock are entitled to share equally in all assets available for distribution after payment of all liabilities and provision for liquidation preference of any shares of preferred stock then outstanding. The holders of Merge Healthcare Common Stock have no preemptive rights and no rights to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are also no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

Merge Healthcare Common Stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "MRGE." The transfer agent and registrar for the Merge Healthcare Common Stock is American Stock Transfer and Trust Company LLC.

Preferred Stock

Merge Healthcare's board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue up to 1,000,001 shares of Merge Healthcare preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the following terms of the preferred stock:

- designations, powers, preferences, privileges;
- relative participating, optional or special rights; and
- the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences.

Any or all of these rights may be greater than the rights of the Merge Healthcare Common Stock.

Of the authorized preferred stock, one share has been designated Series 3 Special Voting Stock preferred stock ("Series 3 Stock"), \$.01 par value per share. The Series 3 Stock ranks senior to Merge Healthcare Common Stock and junior to all other classes or series of the stock of Merge Healthcare.

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

Table of Contents

Delaware Law Anti-takeover Provisions

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

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

Under Section 203, a "business combination" includes:

- any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;
- any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of a corporation's assets involving the interested stockholder;
- any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any of its stock to the interested stockholder, subject to limited exceptions;
- any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation's capital stock beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

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

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

Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions

Various provisions contained in Merge's certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date, could delay or discourage some transactions involving an actual or potential change in control of Merge Healthcare or its management and may limit the ability of Merge Healthcare stockholders to remove current management or approve transactions that Merge Healthcare stockholders may deem to be in their best interests. These provisions:

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

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

Table of Contents

- provide an advanced written notice procedure with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of Merge Healthcare's board of directors or a committee of its board of directors;
- state that special meetings of Merge Healthcare's stockholders may be called only by the chairman of its board of directors, its chief executive officer or by a majority of its board of directors then in office; and
- allow Merge Healthcare's directors to fill vacancies on its board of directors, including vacancies resulting from removal or enlargement of the board.

Table of Contents

COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS

Authorized Capital Stock

etrial. etrial has 51,000,000 authorized shares, of which 50,000,000 are shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, and 1,000,000 are shares of preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value per share. The board of directors is expressly granted authority to issue shares of the preferred stock, in one or more series, and to fix for each such series such voting powers, full or limited, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and such qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof as shall be stated and expressed in the resolution or resolutions adopted by the board of directors providing for the issue of such series (a "preferred stock designation") and as may be permitted by the DGCL. The number of authorized shares of preferred stock may be increased or decreased (but not below the number of shares thereof then outstanding) by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of all of the then outstanding shares of the capital stock of etrial entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (the "voting stock"), voting together as a single class, without a separate vote of the holders of the preferred stock, or any series thereof, unless a vote of any such holders is required pursuant to any preferred stock designation.

Merge Healthcare. Merge Healthcare has 101,000,001 authorized shares, of which 100,000,000 are shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 1,000,000 are shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share and 1 is a share of Series 3 Special Voting Stock preferred stock ("Series 3 Stock"), \$0.01 par value per share. The board of directors is expressly granted authority, without a vote of shareholders and in accordance with the DGCL, to fix or alter from time to time, the designation, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each such series, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including without limitation the dividend rights, dividend rate, conversion rights, voting rights, rights and terms of redemption (including sinking fund provisions), redemption price or prices, and the liquidation preferences of any wholly unissued series of preferred stock, and to establish from time to time the designation thereof, or any of them and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any series subsequent to the issuance of shares of that series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding. The Series 3 Stock ranks senior to Merge Healthcare Common Stock and junior to all other classes or series of stock of Merge Healthcare. The number of authorized shares may be increased or decreased (but not below the number of shares of any class or series thereof then outstanding) by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of all of the then outstanding shares of the capital stock of Merge Healthcare entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (the "voting stock"), voting together as a single class, without a separate vote of the holders of any preferred stock, or any series thereof, unless a vote of any such holders is required pursuant to any preferred stock designation.

Annual Meetings of Stockholders

etrial. Annual meetings of etrial stockholders are held each year on a date and time designated by the board of directors. Written notice of the annual meeting stating the place, date and hour of the meeting will be given to each etrial stockholder entitled to vote at such meeting not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting.

Merge Healthcare. Annual meetings of Merge Healthcare stockholders are held each year on a date and time designated by the board of directors. Written notice of the annual meeting stating the place, day and hour of the meeting will be given to each Merge Healthcare stockholder of record entitled to vote at such meeting not less than 10 (unless a longer period is required by the DGCL) nor more than 70 days before the date of such meeting.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

etials. Special meetings of etials stockholders may be called only by the board of directors, the chief executive officer or the secretary upon written request of a majority of etials stockholders. Written notice of the special meeting stating the time, place and purpose for which it is called will be given to each etials stockholder entitled to vote at such meeting not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare. Special meetings of Merge Healthcare stockholders may be called only by (i) the chairman of the board of directors, (ii) the chief executive officer, or (iii) the board of directors. Written notice of any special meeting stating the purpose, place, day and hour of the meeting will be given to each Merge Healthcare stockholder of record entitled to vote at such meeting not less than 10 (unless a longer period is required by the DGCL) nor more than 70 days before the date of such meeting.

Quorum Requirements

etrial. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares of etrial common stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote at any stockholders' meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, except as otherwise provided by statutes or the certificate of incorporation of etrial.

Merge Healthcare. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares of capital stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at any stockholders' meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, except as otherwise provided by the DGCL.

Stockholder Action by Written Consent

etrial. Unless otherwise provided by the certificate of incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of stockholders, may be taken by written action only if such written actions is signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted.

Merge Healthcare. Unless otherwise provided by the certificate of incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of stockholders, may be taken by written action only if such written actions is signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted.

Amending the Bylaws

etrial. The board of directors is expressly empowered to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws of etrial, without the approval of stockholders. The stockholders also have the power to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws of etrial.

Merge Healthcare. The board of directors is expressly empowered to adopt, amend or repeal the bylaws of Merge Healthcare, without the approval of stockholders. The stockholders also have the power to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws of Merge Healthcare and may provide that any particular bylaw so adopted, amended or repealed by the stockholders may not be amended, repealed or readopted by the board or directors absent stockholder approval.

Special Voting Requirements and Provisions

etrial. At all meetings of stockholders for the election of directors, a plurality of the votes cast is required to elect.

Merge Healthcare. At all meetings of stockholders for the election of directors, a plurality of the votes cast is required to elect.

Number and Election of Directors

etrial. The number of directors of etrial shall be not less than one nor more than nine. The exact number of directors shall be fixed from time to time, within the limits specified in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws, by the etrial board of directors. The board of directors is classified, with respect to the time for which the directors severally hold office, into 3 classes as nearly equal in number as possible. At each annual meeting of stockholders, the successors to the classes of directors whose terms then expire are elected to serve three-year terms and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

Merge Healthcare. The number of directors of Merge Healthcare shall not be less than three nor more than eleven. The specific number of directors shall be fixed from time to time, within the limits specified in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws, by the Merge Healthcare board of directors. Each director holds office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified.

Table of Contents

Notice Requirements for Stockholder Nomination of Directors and Other Proposals

etrial. Nominations of persons for election to the board of directors of etrial may be made at the direction of the board of directors, by any nominating committee or person(s) appointed by the board, or by any stockholder of the corporation entitled to vote for the election of directors at the meeting who complies with the requisite notice procedures. For stockholder nominations, a stockholder must deliver written notice to the principal executive office of etrial not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the meeting; provided, however, that if there is less than 70 days' notice or prior public disclosure of the date of the meeting is given or made to stockholders, written notice of the stockholder must be so delivered not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the earlier of such notice or disclosure to be timely. The written notice to the secretary of etrial must set forth (i) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or reelection as a director, (a) the name, age, business address and residence address of the person, (b) the principal occupation or employment of the person, (c) the class and number of shares of capital stock of the corporation which are beneficially owned by the person, and (d) any other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and (ii) as to the stockholder giving the notice (a) the name and record address of the stockholder and (b) the class and number of shares of capital stock of the corporation which are beneficially owned by the stockholder. For stockholder proposals not relating to the election of directors, the written notice must set forth: (i) as to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before the annual meeting (a) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the annual meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the annual meeting, and (b) any material interest of the stockholder in such business, and (ii) as to the stockholder giving the notice (a) the name and record address of the stockholder and (b) the class, series and number of shares of capital stock of the corporation which are beneficially owned by the stockholder.

Merge Healthcare. Nominations of persons for election to the board of directors of Merge Healthcare and the proposal of business to be considered by the stockholders may be made at an Annual Meeting (i) pursuant to Merge Healthcare's notice of meeting, (ii) by or at the direction of the board of directors of Merge Healthcare or (iii) by any stockholder of the corporation who is a stockholder of record at the time of giving of notice provided for in the bylaws of Merge Healthcare, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who complies with the following procedures. For nominations, the stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to the secretary of Merge Healthcare. To be timely, a stockholder's notice must be received by the secretary of Merge Healthcare at the principal executive offices of Merge Healthcare not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the date of the prior year's annual meeting. Such stockholder's notice shall be signed by the stockholder of record who intends to make the nomination (or his duly authorized proxy or other representative), shall bear the date of signature of such stockholder (or proxy or other representative) and shall set forth: (A) the name and address, as they appear on Merge Healthcare's books, of such stockholder and the beneficial owner or owners, if any, on whose behalf the nomination or proposal is made; (B) the class and number of shares of Merge Healthcare which are beneficially owned by such stockholder or beneficial owner or owners; (C) a representation that such stockholder is a holder of record of shares of Merge Healthcare entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to make the nomination or introduce the other business specified in the notice; (D) the name and residence address of the person or persons to be nominated; (E) a description of all arrangements or understandings between such stockholder or beneficial owner or owners and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination is to be made by such stockholder, (F) such other information regarding each nominee proposed by such stockholder as would be required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for elections of directors, or would be otherwise required to be disclosed, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including any information that would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to Regulation 14A had the nominee been nominated by the board of directors of Merge Healthcare and (G) the written consent of each nominee to be named in a proxy statement and to serve as a director of Merge Healthcare if so elected.

Table of Contents

Board Vacancy

etrial. Unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, vacancies and newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors or from any other cause may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director, and each director so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting and until such director's successor shall be duly elected and shall qualify, or until such director's earlier resignation, removal from office, death or incapacity.

Merge Healthcare. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors of Merge Healthcare, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by any of the following: (a) the stockholders; (b) the board of directors of Merge Healthcare; or (c) if the directors remaining in office constitute fewer than a quorum of the board of directors of Merge Healthcare, the directors, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all directors remaining in office. If the vacant office was held by a director elected by a voting group of stockholders, only the holders of shares of that voting group may vote to fill the vacancy if it is filled by the stockholders, and only the remaining directors elected by that voting group may vote to fill the vacancy if it is filled by the directors. A vacancy that will occur at a specific later date, because of a resignation effective at a later date or otherwise, may be filled before the vacancy occurs, but the new director may not take office until the vacancy occurs.

Removal of Directors

etrial. Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders at which his class stands for election or until such director's earlier resignation, removal from office, death or incapacity.

Merge Healthcare. Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified, or until there is a decrease in the number of directors which takes effect after the expiration of his or her term, or until his or her prior death, resignation or removal. A director may be removed by the stockholders only at a meeting called for the purpose of removing the director, and the meeting notice must state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is the removal of the director. A director may be removed from office only for cause (as defined in the bylaws) if the number of votes cast to remove the director exceeds the number of votes cast not to remove him or her; provided, however, that, if the board of directors of Merge Healthcare, by resolution, has recommended the removal of a director, then the stockholders may remove such director without cause by the vote referred to above.

Indemnification and Liability of Directors and Officers

etrial. The certificate of incorporation of etrial provides that a director of etrial shall not be personally liable to etrial or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to etrial or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the DGCL is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as so amended. etrial, to the full extent permitted by Section 145 of the DGCL, as amended from time to time, shall indemnify all persons whom it may indemnify pursuant thereto. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by an officer or director in defending any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit or proceeding for which such officer or director may be entitled to indemnification shall be paid by etrial in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by etrial as authorized by the certificate of incorporation.

Table of Contents

The bylaws of etrials provide that etrials shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of etrials) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of etrials, or is or was serving at the request of etrials as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of etrials, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Additionally, the bylaws provide that etrials shall indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of etrials to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of etrials, or is or was serving at the request of etrials as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of etrials and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to etrials unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of etrials has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to above, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by an officer or director in defending any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative action, suit or proceeding may be paid by etrials in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by etrials.

Merge Healthcare. The bylaws of Merge Healthcare provide that a director of Merge Healthcare shall not be personally liable to Merge Healthcare or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to Merge Healthcare or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, as the same exists or hereafter may be amended, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the DGCL is amended to authorize further elimination or limitation of the liability of directors, then the liability of directors of Merge Healthcare shall be eliminated or limited to the full extent authorized by the DGCL, as so amended.

The bylaws further provide that each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any threatened, pending or completed action, investigation, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (a "proceeding"), by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director of Merge Healthcare or is or was serving at the request of Merge Healthcare as a director of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to an employee benefit plan (an "indemnitee"), whether the basis of such proceeding is an alleged action in an official capacity as a director or in any other capacity while serving as a director, shall be indemnified and held harmless by the corporation to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL, as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than permitted prior thereto), against all cost, expense, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such indemnitee in connection therewith and such indemnification shall continue as to an indemnitee who has ceased to be a director

and shall inure to the benefit of the indemnitee's heirs, executors and administrators. Furthermore, any person entitled to indemnification will also be reimbursed by Merge Healthcare for all expenses incurred in defending or preparing to defend any proceeding which such right to indemnification is applicable in advance of its final disposition.

Table of Contents

Business Combinations

etrial. The certificate of incorporation and bylaws of etrial do not address whether, how and under what circumstances stockholder approval is required for any business combination.

Merge Healthcare. The certificate of incorporation and bylaws of Merge Healthcare do not address whether, how and under what circumstances stockholder approval is required for any business combination.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

General

Merge Healthcare is not aware of any governmental license or regulatory permit that appears to be material to etrials' business that might be adversely affected by Offeror's acquisition of Shares pursuant to the Offer of any approval or other action by any government or governmental administrative or regulatory authority or agency, domestic or foreign, that would be required to permit Offeror's acquisition or ownership of Shares pursuant to the Offer and the Merger. There can be no assurance that (a) any of these approvals or other actions, if needed, will be obtained (with or without substantial conditions), or (b) if these approvals were not obtained or these other actions were not taken adverse consequences would not result to etrials' business. Offeror's obligation under the Offer to accept for exchange and pay for Shares is subject to certain conditions. See "The Offer — Conditions of the Offer."

Litigation

On Monday, June 1, 2009, Merge Healthcare was served with a Summons and Complaint in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, State of Wisconsin, captioned William C. Mortimore and David M. Nosay v. Merge Technologies Inc. n/k/a Merge Healthcare Inc. [sic], Case Number 09CV008356, Case Code 30301. The Complaint includes a demand for a jury trial and alleges that the corporation unreasonably refused Mortimore and Noshay's request for indemnification; requests the court order that they are entitled to indemnification under Wisconsin Statute Section 180.0851(2); alleges breaches of certain employment agreements; and a breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Monetary damages are unspecified. Merge Healthcare is in the process of identifying counsel, has notified its appropriate insurers and intends to vigorously defend the action.

Antitrust

Under the HSR Act and the rules that have been promulgated thereunder by the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") some acquisition transactions may not be consummated unless information has been furnished to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the FTC and waiting period requirements have been satisfied. The purchase of Shares pursuant to the Offer is not subject to such requirements because the size of the transaction falls below the current statutory thresholds for pre-merger notification under the HSR Act.

Under the laws of some foreign nations and multinational authorities, the transaction may not be completed or control may not be exercised unless filings are made with these nations' antitrust regulatory authorities or multinational antitrust authorities, and these antitrust authorities approve or clear closing of the transaction. Other foreign nations and multinational authorities have voluntary and/or post-merger notification systems.

Private parties (including individual states) may also bring legal actions under the antitrust laws. Merge Healthcare does not believe that the consummation of the Offer will result in a violation of any applicable antitrust laws. However, a challenge to the Offer on antitrust grounds may be made, and if such a challenge is made, the result of any such challenge is not known. See "The Offer — Conditions of the Offer" for certain conditions to the Offer, including conditions with respect to litigation and certain governmental actions.

Validity of Merge Healthcare Common Stock

The validity of the Merge Healthcare Common Stock offered by this Prospectus will be passed upon for Merge Healthcare by McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The financial statements of Merge Healthcare as of December 31, 2008 and for the year then ended incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of BDO Seidman, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of Merge Healthcare as of December 31, 2007, and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2007, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report, dated March 31, 2008, of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of KPMG LLP as experts in accounting and auditing. KPMG LLP's report covering the December 31, 2007 consolidated financial statements contains an explanatory paragraph that states that Merge Healthcare's recurring losses from operations and negative cash flows raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. The consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. KPMG LLP's report covering the December 31, 2007 consolidated financial statements also contains an explanatory paragraph relating to the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, as of January 1, 2007, and the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, as of January 1, 2006.

The consolidated financial statements of etrials Worldwide, Inc. at December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for the years then ended, appearing in this Prospectus have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing elsewhere herein, and are included in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are based upon the historical financial statements of Merge Healthcare and etrials after giving effect to Merge Healthcare's proposed acquisition of all of the issued and outstanding shares of etrials. The acquisition is structured as a two-step transaction, consisting of a tender offer and a follow-on merger. The purpose of the Offer is for Merge Healthcare to acquire control of, and ultimately the entire equity interest in and all the outstanding shares of, etrials. The Offer is the first step in Merge Healthcare's plan to acquire all of the outstanding Shares. Under the terms of the Offer, each etrials stockholder may elect to receive, for each outstanding Share validly tendered, (i) \$0.80 in cash, without interest, plus (ii) 0.3448 shares of Merge Healthcare Common Stock. Promptly after completion of the Offer, Merge Healthcare intends to consummate a merger of Offeror with and into etrials, with etrials surviving the merger. The purpose of the Merger is for Merge Healthcare to acquire all Shares not acquired in the Offer. After the Merger, the Surviving Corporation will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merge Healthcare and the former etrials stockholders will no longer have any direct ownership interest in the Surviving Corporation. The acquisition will be accounted as a business combination using the acquisition method with Merge Healthcare identified as the acquirer, pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 141(R), Business Combinations ("SFAS No. 141(R)").

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2009 is presented as if the acquisition of etrials occurred on March 31, 2009. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 are presented as if the acquisition of etrials had taken place on January 1, 2008 and was carried forward through to March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively.

As of the date of this Prospectus, Merge Healthcare has not performed the detailed valuation analyses necessary to arrive at the final estimates of the fair market value of the assets to be acquired and the liabilities to be assumed in connection with the proposed acquisition of etrials. The preliminary allocation of the purchase price of the acquisition (the preliminary PPA) used in these unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements is based upon Merge Healthcare's preliminary estimates at the date of preparation of these pro forma financial statements. As a result of the finalization of this allocation after the acquisition's final completion (the final PPA), Merge Healthcare expects to make material adjustments to the preliminary PPA. Differences between the preliminary PPA and the final PPA could have a material impact on Merge Healthcare's pro forma results of operations. Actual allocations will be based on the final appraisals of fair value of, among other things, identifiable tangible and intangible assets and tax-related assets and liabilities, at the acquisition date.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to represent or be indicative of the consolidated results of operations or financial position of Merge Healthcare that would have been recorded had the acquisition of etrials been completed as of the dates presented, and should not be taken as representative of future results of operations or financial position of the company. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations do not reflect the impacts of any potential operational efficiencies, cost savings or economies of scale that Merge Healthcare may achieve with respect to the combined operations of Merge Healthcare and etrials and do not include any costs directly attributed to the acquisition, which, based upon information available at the date of preparation of the pro forma financial statements, are expected to be at least \$2.2 million (including investment bank, legal, accounting, and valuation service fees, as well as approximately \$0.8 million in fees related to etrials' termination of a prior Merger Agreement). The pro forma statements of operations also do not include any non-recurring charges or credits directly related to the transaction.

Table of Contents

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes contained in both Merge Healthcare's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, and etrials historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included herein.

Unless otherwise indicated all amounts included herein are in expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars.

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare Incorporated
 Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet
 As of March 31, 2009
 (In thousands except for share data)

ASSETS	Historical Merge Healthcare (unaudited)	Historical Retirements (unaudited)	Reclassifications (Note 3)	Pro Forma Adjustments (Note 3)	Pro Forma Combined
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,690	\$ 9,061	\$ -	\$ (13,626) (E)	\$ 15,125
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts and sales returns	13,387	3,854	(1,892) (A)	-	15,349
Inventory	114	136	-	-	250
Prepaid expenses	1,456	506	-	-	1,962
Deferred income taxes	217	-	-	-	217
Other current assets	278	-	1,892 (A)	-	2,170
Total current assets	35,142	13,557	-	(13,626)	35,073
Net property and equipment	1,730	2,003	(555) (B)	-	3,178
Purchased and developed software, net of accumulated amortization	5,003	-	555 (B)	2,545 (F)	8,103
Customer relationships, net of accumulated amortization	2,054	-	-	150 (G)	2,204
Goodwill	-	-	-	3,021 (H)	3,021
Deferred income taxes	4,585	-	-	-	4,585
Investments	5,527	-	-	-	5,527
Other assets	775	119	-	550 (I)	1,444
Total assets	\$ 54,816	\$ 15,679	\$ -	\$ (7,360)	\$ 63,135
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 2,760	\$ 708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,468
Accrued wages	1,759	929	-	-	2,688
Restructuring accrual	673	-	-	-	673
Bank line of credit and other short-term borrowings	-	1,916	-	(1,916) (J)	-
Other accrued liabilities	2,760	1,104	-	-	3,864
Deferred revenue	14,324	1,215	-	-	15,539
Total current liabilities	22,276	5,872	-	(1,916)	26,232
Note payable	14,358	135	-	(135) (J)	14,358
Deferred income taxes	39	-	-	1,330 (K)	1,369
Deferred revenue	466	-	-	-	466
Income taxes payable	5,435	-	-	-	5,435
Other	177	45	-	-	222
Total liabilities	42,751	6,052	-	(721)	48,082

Edgar Filing: MERGE HEALTHCARE INC - Form S-4

Shareholders' equity:						
Preferred Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common stock	556	1	-	37	(L)	594
Common stock subscribed	26	-	-	-		26
Additional paid-in capital	465,638	56,298	-	(51,148)	(M)	470,788
Accumulated deficit	(455,799)	(46,672)	-	44,472	(N)	(457,999)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,644	-	-	-		1,644
Total shareholders' equity	12,065	9,627	-	(6,639)		15,053
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 54,816	\$ 15,679	\$ -	\$ (7,360)		\$ 63,135

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare Incorporated
 Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations
 For the Three Month Period ended March 31, 2009
 (In thousands except for share data)

	Historical Merge Healthcare (unaudited)	Historical Operations (unaudited)	Reclassifications (Note 3)	Pro Forma Adjustments (Note 3)	Pro Forma Combined
Net sales:					
Software and other	\$ 8,684	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,684
Services and maintenance	6,625	3,638	-	-	10,263
Total net sales	15,309	3,638	-	-	18,947
Cost of sales:					
Software and other	1,230	-	-	-	1,230
Services and maintenance	2,150	2,052	(59) (C)	(11) (O)	4,132
Amortization	650	-	59 (C)	66 (P)	775
Total cost of sales	4,030	2,052	-	55	6,137
Gross margin	11,279	1,586	-	(55)	12,810
Operating costs and expenses:					
Sales and marketing	1,672	791	(34) (C)	(9) (O)	2,420
Product research and development	2,271	490	(37) (C)	11 (O)	2,735
General and administrative	3,252	1,221	(34) (C)	(86) (O)	4,353
Restructuring and other expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortization	548	-	105 (C)	8 (Q)	661
Total operating costs and expenses	7,743	2,502	-	(76)	10,169
Operating income (loss)	3,536	(916)	-	21	2,641
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense	(761)	(18)	-	18 (R)	(761)
Interest income	8	28	-	-	36
Other, net	81	(58)	-	-	23
Total other income (expense)	(672)	(48)	-	18	(702)
Income (loss) before income taxes	2,864	(964)	-	39	1,939
Income tax expense	22	-	-	-	22
Net income (loss)	\$ 2,842	\$ (964)	\$ -	\$ 39	\$ 1,917
Net income (loss) per share - basic	\$ 0.05				\$ 0.03
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - basic	56,304,568			3,814,916 (W)	60,119,484
Net income (loss) per share - diluted	\$ 0.05				\$ 0.03
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding -	57,189,532			3,814,916 (W)	61,004,448

diluted

93

Table of Contents

Merge Healthcare Incorporated
 Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2008
 (In thousands except for share data)

	Historical Merge Healthcare	Historical Adjustments	Reclassifications (Note 3)	Pro Forma Adjustments (Note 3)	Pro Forma Combined
Net sales:					
Software and other	\$ 27,561	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,561
Services and maintenance	29,174	16,242	-	-	45,416
Total net sales	56,735	16,242	-	-	72,977
Cost of sales:					
Software and other	5,121	-	-	-	5,121
Services and maintenance	11,672	11,022	(283)	(20)	22,391
Amortization and impairment	3,279	-	283	217	3,779
Total cost of sales	20,072	11,022	-	197	31,291
Gross margin	36,663	5,220	-	(197)	41,686
Operating costs and expenses:					
Sales and marketing	9,313	4,736	(162)	(66)	13,821
Product research and development	13,240	2,102	(92)	(17)	15,233
General and administrative	20,461	6,385	(84)	(1,255)	25,507
Goodwill and trade name impairment, restructuring and other expenses	11,816	8,011	-	-	19,827
Depreciation, amortization and impairment	3,530	-	338	30	3,898
Total operating costs and expenses	58,360	21,234	-	(1,308)	78,286
Operating income (loss)	(21,697)	(16,014)	-	1,111	(36,600)
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense	(1,750)	(120)	-	120	(1,750)
Interest income	268	350	-	-	618
Other, net	(564)	(33)	-	-	(597)
Total other income (expense)	(2,046)	197	-	120	(1,729)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(23,743)	(15,817)	-	1,231	(38,329)
Income tax expense	(60)	-	-	-	(60)
Net income (loss)	\$ (23,683)	\$ (15,817)	\$ -	\$ 1,231	\$ (38,269)
Net income (loss) per share - basic	\$ (0.51)				\$ (0.76)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - basic	46,717,546			3,814,916	(W) 50,532,462
Net income (loss) per share - diluted	\$ (0.51)				\$ (0.76)

Weighted average number of
common shares outstanding -
diluted

46,717,546

3,814,916 (W)

50,532,462

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

Note 1. Basis of Pro Forma Presentation

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements are based on the historical financial statements of Merge Healthcare and etrials after giving effect to the cash to be paid and the stock to be issued by Merge Healthcare to consummate the etrials acquisition, as well as certain reclassifications and pro forma adjustments.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet assumes that the pending acquisition of etrials occurred on March 31, 2009. The pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet combines the historical balances of Merge Healthcare and etrials as of March 31, 2009, plus reclassifications and pro forma adjustments.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations assume that the pending acquisition of etrials occurred on January 1, 2008. The pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations combine the historical results of Merge Healthcare and etrials for the year ended December 31, 2008 and for the three months ended March 31, 2009, respectively, plus reclassifications and pro forma adjustments.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements assume that the pending acquisition is accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting for business combinations in accordance with SFAS No. 141(R) and represents the current pro forma information based upon available information of the combining companies' results of operations during the periods presented. As the final PPA will be based on information at the acquisition date, it will not be determinable before that date. As of the date of this document, Merge Healthcare has not completed the detailed valuation studies necessary to arrive at the required estimates of the fair market value of the assets of etrials to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed and the related allocations of the purchase price, nor has it identified all the adjustments necessary to conform the information of etrials to Merge Healthcare's accounting policies. However, Merge Healthcare has made certain adjustments to the historical book values of the assets and liabilities of etrials, based on currently available information, to reflect certain preliminary estimates of the fair values, in preparing unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial data. The preliminary PPA assigns values to certain identifiable intangible assets, including customer relationships, and core technology. Actual results may differ from this unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated information once Merge Healthcare has determined the final purchase price for etrials, completed the detailed valuation studies necessary to finalize the required final PPA, and identified any necessary conforming accounting policy changes for etrials. Accordingly, the final PPA, which will or may be determined subsequent to the closing of the Merger, and their effects on the results of operations, may differ materially from the preliminary PPA and the unaudited pro forma combined amounts presented herein.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial data are presented for informational purposes only and are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations or financial position for future periods or the results that actually would have been realized had the acquisition described above been consummated as of March 31, 2009 (for the pro forma balance sheet) or January 1, 2008 (for the pro forma statements of operations).

Note 2. Preliminary Purchase Price and Preliminary Purchase Price Allocation

Based upon Merge Healthcare's share price as of March 31, 2009, the estimated total preliminary purchase price is approximately \$14,563 (as further detailed below), but will fluctuate based upon the price of Merge Healthcare's stock and the number of outstanding etrials shares at the actual closing date. The preliminary purchase price also assumes etrials option holders with vested in-the-money shares do not elect to exercise such options and, therefore, receive cash consideration only.

Table of ContentsNotes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

The preliminary purchase price (based upon Merge Healthcare's closing share price of \$1.36 as of March 31, 2009) is approximately \$14,563 and is comprised of:

Cash consideration payable on closing:

11,064,142 etrials shares at \$0.80 (including 473,165 in restricted stock awards)	\$	8,852
--	----	-------

804,385 etrials employee options at \$1.70 less \$1.05 (average exercise price of these options)	523	\$	9,375
--	-----	----	-------

Share consideration payable on closing:

11,064,142 etrials shares at \$0.47 (including 473,165 in restricted stock awards)	5,188
--	-------

Preliminary purchase price	\$	14,563
----------------------------	----	--------

In order to fund the cash portion of the purchase price, Merge Healthcare expects to use its own cash resources.

Merge Healthcare's stock price may materially differ from the closing price as of March 31, 2009. The table below illustrates the potential impact to the preliminary purchase price resulting from a stock price of Merge Healthcare common stock of \$3.14 (closing price as of May 29, 2009, the trading day prior to announcement of the Merger Agreement) as well as a 50% increase or decrease from this level.

	Merge Healthcare share price as of May 29, 2009	50% decrease in Merge Healthcare share price	50% increase in Merge Healthcare share price
Cash consideration payable on closing (no change)	\$ 9,375	\$ 9,375	\$ 9,375
Share consideration payable on closing	11,979	5,989	17,968
Preliminary purchase price	\$ 21,354	\$ 15,365	\$ 27,344

Note that any change to the preliminary purchase price as a result of a change in the share price has no impact on profit or loss, since the resulting change is allocated to goodwill, and thus not subject to amortization.

The preliminary purchase price will be allocated to tangible and identifiable intangible assets of etrials acquired and liabilities assumed, based on their estimated fair values as of the acquisition date. The excess of the purchase price over the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets will be recorded as goodwill. Based upon a preliminary valuation, as of March 31, 2009, the preliminary purchase price would be allocated as follows:

Current assets	\$13,557
Non-current assets	1,567
Intangible assets	3,800
Goodwill	3,021
Total assets acquired	21,945
Liabilities assumed	(7,382)

Net assets acquired	\$14,563
---------------------	----------

The preliminary allocation of the purchase price is based upon management's estimates. These estimates and assumptions are subject to change upon final valuation.

Deferred Revenues: For the purpose of these pro forma condensed consolidated statements only, the carrying value of deferred revenue has been assumed to approximate its fair value, primarily due to the fact that customers of etrials generally have the ability to terminate contracts on 30 days notice to etrials. Therefore, the pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet and statements of operations do not reflect the adverse impact on deferred revenue and revenue that will occur as a result of any potential reduction in deferred revenue on the opening balance sheet pursuant to final valuation of deferred revenue.

Table of ContentsNotes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

Cash and other net tangible assets/liabilities: Cash and other net tangible assets were recorded at their respective carrying amounts and, for the purpose of these unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements only, the carrying value of these assets/liabilities has been assumed to approximate their fair values and should be treated as preliminary values.

Goodwill: Goodwill represents the excess of the preliminary purchase price over the estimated fair value of tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired. Goodwill includes amounts assignable to acquired workforce which are also intangible assets not subject to amortization.

Trade names. Trade names represent the fair value of marketing-related acquired assets. Trade names are classified as intangible assets not subject to amortization.

In-Progress Research and Development: In-progress R&D costs are capitalized developed software costs for products that have not reached technological feasibility. These costs are not currently subject to amortization.

Identifiable intangible assets subject to amortization: Identifiable intangible assets acquired include developed software and customer relationships. Developed software is comprised of products that have reached technological feasibility. Customer relationships represent the underlying relationships and agreements with customers of etrials.

The fair value of intangible assets is based on management's preliminary valuation, and is subject to change based on review by independent valuation professionals. Estimated useful lives for the purposes of these pro forma statements are based on historical experience.

Total Consideration	\$14,563
Allocation of purchase price:	
Current assets	13,557
Non-current assets	1,567
Liabilities assumed	(6,052)
Unallocated purchase price	\$5,491
Preliminary allocation to identified intangibles and goodwill:	
Proprietary Technology	2,500
In-Progress R&D	600
Customer Relationships	150
Trade Names	550
Deferred Tax Liability	(1,330)
Goodwill (including acquired workforce)	3,021
	\$5,491

Deferred Tax Balances: As of December 31, 2008 etrials had deferred tax assets that were subject to a full valuation allowance, including deferred tax assets relating to domestic federal net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards of approximately \$14,000. Internal Revenue Code Section 382 imposes substantial restrictions on the utilization of these NOLs in the event of an "ownership change" of the corporation. Merge Healthcare has currently not assessed its ability to utilize these tax attributes prior to their expiration. For the purposes of these pro forma statements, the deferred tax liability arising from the acquisition of identifiable intangible assets has been estimated using a statutory tax rate of

35%. The final valuation of the deferred tax assets is expected to have a material impact on the preliminary PPA and may result in a material change in the above indicated amount of goodwill.

Pre-acquisition contingencies: Merge Healthcare has currently not identified any pre-acquisition contingencies where a liability is probable and the amount of the liability can be reasonably estimated. If information becomes available prior to the end of the purchase price measurement period, which would indicate that a liability which existed at the acquisition date is probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated, such items will be included in the purchase price allocation and result in additional goodwill.

Table of ContentsNotes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

Note 3. Reclassifications and Pro Forma Adjustments

The following reclassifications have been reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial statements:

- (A) To reclassify etrials unbilled accounts receivable to other assets to conform to Merge Healthcare's presentation.
- (B) To reclassify etrials capitalized internal software development costs to conform to Merge Healthcare's presentation.
- (C) To adjust etrials presentation of amortization and depreciation to conform to Merge Healthcare's presentation for the period presented:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2009
Cost of sales:	
Software and other	\$ -
Services and maintenance	(59)
Amortization	59
Total cost of sales	-
Gross margin	-
Operating costs and expenses:	
Sales and marketing	(34)
Product research and development	(37)
General and administrative	(34)
Restructuring and other expenses	-
Depreciation and amortization	105
Total operating costs and expenses	\$ -

- (D) To adjust etrials presentation of amortization and depreciation to conform to Merge Healthcare's presentation for the period presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2008
Cost of sales:	
Software and other	\$ -
Services and maintenance	(283)
Amortization	283
Total cost of sales	-
Gross margin	-
Operating costs and expenses:	
Sales and marketing	(162)
Product research and development	(92)

Edgar Filing: MERGE HEALTHCARE INC - Form S-4

General and administrative	(84)
Restructuring and other expenses	-
Depreciation and amortization	338
Total operating costs and expenses	\$ -

The following adjustments have been reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated balance sheet:

(E) Represents, as of March 31, 2009, the total cash consideration payable by Merge Healthcare upon the consummation of the acquisition to the stockholders of etrials, the repayment of the short term borrowings of etrials per the change of control provisions contained in the loan and line of credit agreements, and the payment of non-recurring acquisition-related transaction costs:

Cash consideration payable by Merge Healthcare per the acquisition agreement	\$(9,375)
Repayment of loans and line of credit of etrials	(2,051)
Estimated acquisition-related transaction costs, including \$0.8 million in fees related to etrials termination of a prior merger agreement	(2,200)
	\$(13,626)

Table of ContentsNotes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

(F) To record the preliminary valuation of purchased and developed software related to the acquisition of etrials:

Proprietary Technology	\$2,500
In-Progress R&D	600
Elimination of historical capitalized software development costs of etrials	(555)
	\$2,545

(G) To record the preliminary valuation of customer relationships.

(H) To record the preliminary valuation of goodwill.

(I) To record the preliminary valuation of tradenames related to the acquisition of etrials.

(J) To record repayment of the borrowings of etrials based on terms of the line of credit and loan agreements.

(K) To record the estimated deferred tax liability on identified intangible assets at a statutory tax rate of 35%.

(L) To record the Merge Healthcare common stock issued as part of the acquisition consideration, and to eliminate the common stock of etrials:

To record the issuance of 3,814,916 Merge Healthcare shares in connection with the acquisition	\$38
To eliminate the common stock of etrials	(1)
	\$37

(M) To record the additional paid-in capital ("APIC") related to the Merge Healthcare common stock issued as part of the acquisition consideration, and to eliminate the APIC of etrials:

To record the APIC related to the issuance of 3,814,916 Merge Healthcare shares in connection with the acquisition as of March 31, 2009	5,150
To eliminate the historical APIC of etrials in connection with the acquisition as of March 31, 2009	(56,298)
	(51,148)

(N) To record the elimination of the accumulated deficit of etrials and record Merge Healthcare's estimated non-recurring acquisition-related transaction costs:

To eliminate the accumulated deficit of etrials	46,672
Estimated acquisition-related transaction costs, including \$0.8 million in fees related to termination of a prior merger agreement by etrials	(2,200)
	44,472

The following adjustments have been reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2009:

(O)

To record elimination of stock-based compensation expense as the outstanding options and restricted stock awards of etrials fully vest and are paid out in connection with the business combination.

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

(in thousands of dollars, other than share and per share information)

(P) To record amortization relating to the purchased and developed software recognized at the time of the acquisition of etrials and to eliminate the historical amortization by etrials of developed software:

To eliminate the historical intangible asset amortization of etrials	\$(59)
Amortization of acquired intangible assets relating to etrials acquisition	125
	\$66

(Q) To record amortization relating to the customer relationships recognized at the time of the acquisition of etrials. The useful lives of the acquired technology-based and acquired customer-based intangible assets have been estimated to be five years each. These are being amortized on a straight line basis, which is consistent with Merge Healthcare's historical treatment of such assets.

(R) To record the elimination of etrials interest expense as a result of the repayment of the short term borrowings of etrials per the change of control provisions contained in the loan and line of credit agreements.

The following adjustments have been reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2008:

(S) To record amortization relating to the purchased and developed software recognized at the time of the acquisition of etrials and to eliminate the historical amortization by etrials of developed software:

To eliminate the historical intangible asset amortization of etrials	\$(283)
Amortization of acquired intangible assets relating to etrials acquisition	500
	\$217

(T) To record elimination of stock-based compensation expense as the outstanding options and restricted stock awards of etrials fully vest and are paid out in connection with the business combination.

(U) To record amortization relating to the customer relationships recognized at the time of the acquisition of etrials. The useful lives of the acquired technology-based and acquired customer-based intangible assets have been estimated to be five years each. These are being amortized on a straight line basis, which is consistent with Merge Healthcare's historical treatment of such assets.

(V) To record the elimination of etrials interest expense as a result of the repayment of the short term borrowings of etrials per the change of control provisions contained in the loan and line of credit agreements.

The following adjustment is reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008:

(W) To record the issuance of Merge Healthcare common stock in connection with the acquisition and assumes such shares are outstanding during the period presented.

Table of Contents

ETRIALS BUSINESS

Overview

etrials Worldwide, Inc. is a provider of eClinical software technology and services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and contract research organizations, or CROs. etrials offers a broad range of clinical trial technology and services including electronic data capture, handheld devices, and interactive voice and Web response software designed to speed and improve the process of collecting data in clinical trials performed for drug and medical device development. etrials's primary focus is on the costly and time-consuming clinical trial phase of drug development. etrials provides pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device companies and CROs with integrated software technology and services designed to significantly reduce the time spent collecting clinical trials data, and managing clinical trials performance, using an automated and easy-to-use mechanism to collect data directly from clinical investigators and patients. etrials believes that its automated data collection software enables its customers to reduce overall clinical trial research costs, enhance data quality and reduce the time it takes to close a study database.

History and Merger

etrials's subsidiary, etrials, Inc., which operates its business, was incorporated in 1999 in the State of Delaware under the name Pharmacentric Technologies, Inc., for the purpose of managing certain assets acquired from Persimmon IT, Inc. In March 2000, Pharmacentric acquired Expidata, and in January 2003, Aracel Corporation merged into etrials, Inc. Aracel primarily provided eClinical electronic patient reported outcomes, or ePRO, solutions that capture, analyze, distribute, manage and report clinical trial data from patients. Prior to the merger with Aracel, etrials, Inc. was in the business of primarily providing electronic data capture, or EDC, software and services for clinical trials.

CEA Acquisition Corporation was incorporated in Delaware in October 2003 as a blank check company, the objective of which was to effect a merger, capital stock exchange, asset acquisition or other similar business combination in the entertainment, media and communications industry. In February 2004, CEA consummated an initial public offering and raised net proceeds of \$21,390,100. In February 2006, etrials Acquisition, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of CEA, consummated a merger with etrials in which etrials became CEA's wholly owned subsidiary. At that time CEA changed its name to etrials Worldwide, Inc.

General

etrials is a single source global provider of each of the three key clinical software technologies used to optimize the clinical trial process – EDC, interactive voice and Web response systems, or IVRS/IWRS, and electronic patient diaries, or eDiaries – along with professional services and support as part of an integrated or individual software as a service, or SaaS, platform.

Adaptive, Web-based tools work together to coordinate data capture, logistics, patient interaction and trial management – turning data into intelligence and shortening the pathway to an actionable study endpoint.

Value Proposition

Recognizing that successful clinical trials rely on the speed in which actionable decisions can be made, etrials provides innovative data collection, end-to-end trial visibility and tightly managed control mechanisms that:

- Capture clinical and patient reported information through multiple modalities, including the Web, personal digital assistants, or PDAs, smartphones, tablet personal computers, or PCs, and phones;

- Integrate clinical trial information from different sources such as labs, electrocardiogram, or ECG/EKG, diagnostic images, in-home testing devices such as blood glucose monitors and other sources;

Table of Contents

- Provide centralized control and management of the trial, at the site and patient levels to enhance data quality;
- Provide an integrated solution of eClinical services, technologies (EDC, IVR and ePRO) and expertise that provides etrials's clients real time visibility into and across the clinical trial process; and
 - Offer value-added services such as consultative program development, project management, training options, hosting services, in-house help desk support, ad hoc reporting and medical coding.

etrials supports these value propositions by leveraging the following key strengths:

- **Advanced Solutions on an Integrated Platform.** etrials is one of a limited number of eClinical technology vendors that offer a fully integrated eClinical solution to meet complex data collection requirements from a secure and centralized system.
- **Experience.** As an experienced industry leader, etrials has facilitated more than 900 trials involving more than 400,000 patients in over 70 countries. Approximately 42 of those studies resulted in approximately 14 new drug and regulatory approvals. Having partnered with more than 100 different clients, etrials intends to lead the way towards future industry innovations such as Adaptive Clinical Trials and integration between eClinical and electronic health records and disease management.
- **Process Excellence.** From fast study start-up to strategic implementation of mid-study changes, etrials's project teams have deep clinical research knowledge and technical expertise necessary for effective and efficient management of its clients' clinical trials.

Products

etrials's Web-based architecture and integrated eClinical solutions enable customers to efficiently capture, integrate, manage and analyze key clinical and patient reported information in one data repository. Real-time Web-based access allows clinical trial sponsors and CROs to analyze actionable information based on high quality data an estimated eight to twelve weeks earlier than traditional paper-based methods, enhancing and speeding decision-making and supporting adaptive trial design.

etrials's eClinical solutions include:

- **EDC.** etrials's EDC is a Web-based, globally proven solution for collecting, managing, and analyzing real-time clinical trial information. etrials's EDC solution allows clinicians, researchers and business executives to drive data quality and make more informed decisions faster by more effectively managing and monitoring trial progress, site and clinical research associate performance, compliance, and data reconciliation virtually in real-time. With etrials's configurable electronic case report forms, or eCRF, study information is more accurate, timely and accessible, for better collaboration and communication. etrials's dynamic business process engine supports multiple workflows and ensures that information collected in the field is verified and complete. Real-time reporting supports adaptive study designs by enabling integration of study information and knowledge as the trial progresses.
- **eDiaries.** etrials's eDiaries is a multiple modality electronic patient reported outcomes, or ePRO solution for patient intelligence. Sponsors can drive high compliance and data quality across different therapeutic areas, patient populations, and global locations, while ensuring optimal control, simplicity, reporting and flexibility. etrials's eDiaries minimize problems associated with paper-based collection such as patient compliance, transcription errors and limited data analysis. Information is stored on the local device (handheld, tablet, or smartphone) and a central database through wired and wireless connectivity.

- **IVRS/IWRS.** etrials's IVRS/IWRS solutions go well beyond traditional IVRS systems, providing a powerful trial and site monitoring and control tool. Real-time patient enrollment, dynamic randomization and comprehensive drug supply management systems are accessible via a single, convenient site logistics administration console. The solution enables sponsors to easily manage site or stratum-based patient enrollment, the compliance of sites and subjects, and what supplies have shipped.

Table of Contents

Technology Platform

The etrials eClinical Software-as-a-Service, or SaaS, Web-based platform is more capable of meeting the diverse needs of each clinical trial than traditional enterprise software. etrials's SaaS architecture, built on an Oracle foundation, enables its customers to focus their time on managing their trials and not on running servers, databases and applications. This model reduces the costs associated with deploying a clinical trial. All etrials's solutions include design, testing, and deployment to enable its customers to rapidly conduct and closeout their studies. These supporting applications are essential to etrials's subscription licensing strategy and software services.

Professional Services

To support the on-going implementation of etrials's technology solutions throughout the course of its clients' clinical trials, etrials offers its customers services that include: software implementation, project management, training, system performance and maintenance, knowledge transfer, and global customer support.

- Software implementation. etrials develops with its client database specifications, designs the screen forms and backend data structure, determines the data transformations and configures the required infrastructure, including both hardware and communications systems.
- Project management. When awarded a project, etrials will assign an experienced project team to the initiative, led by an expert clinical project manager. The team works closely with clients to develop project specifications and to understand the expectations for etrials's conduct of the proposed project. Ongoing management of the technical aspects of a clinical trial is provided, from start-up, to deployment, to conduct and close-out. These services typically involve consulting and managing how the technology and services are used in the clinical trial. Project managers also monitor the study's budgeted hours, ensure milestones are hit, and coordinate changes to the database when necessary.
- Training. etrials's training staff provides on-site investigator training courses, online training modules, Web-based instructor-led training and train-the-trainer options to ensure investigator sites and clinical researchers are effectively educated in the u