

BLACKROCK DEBT STRATEGIES FUND, INC.  
Form N-CSR  
May 01, 2012  
UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-08603

Name of Fund: BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc. (DSU)

Fund Address: 100 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19809

Name and address of agent for service: John M. Perlowski, Chief Executive Officer, BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc., 55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (800) 882-0052, Option 4

Date of fiscal year end: 02/29/2012

Date of reporting period: 02/29/2012

Item 1 – Report to Stockholders

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February 29, 2012

# Annual Report

BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc. (COY)

BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc. (CYE)

BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc. (DSU)

BlackRock Floating Rate Income Strategies Fund II, Inc. (FRB)

BlackRock Senior High Income Fund, Inc. (ARK)

**Not FDIC Insured** § No

**Bank Guarantee** § May  
Lose Value

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Dear Shareholder

Risk assets were advancing at this time last year despite a wave of geopolitical revolutions, soaring oil prices and natural disasters in Japan. Markets reversed sharply in May, however, when escalating political strife in Greece rekindled fears about sovereign debt problems spreading across Europe. Concurrently, global economic indicators signaled that the recovery had slowed. Confidence was further shaken by the prolonged debt ceiling debate in Washington, DC. On August 5, 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded the US government's credit rating and turmoil erupted in financial markets around the world. Extraordinary levels of volatility persisted in the months that followed as Greece teetered on the brink of default, debt problems escalated in Italy and Spain, and exposure to European sovereign bonds stressed banks globally. Financial markets whipsawed on hopes and fears. Macro news flow became a greater influence on trading decisions than the fundamentals of the securities traded. By the end of the third quarter, equity markets had fallen nearly 20% from their April peak while safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold had rallied to historic highs.

October brought enough positive economic data to assuage fears of a global double-dip recession. Additionally, European leaders began to show progress toward stemming the region's debt crisis. Investors began to reenter the markets and risk assets recovered through the month. But a lack of definitive details about Europe's rescue plan eventually raised doubts among investors and thwarted the rally at the end of October. The last two months of 2011 saw more political instability in Greece, unsustainable yields on Italian government bonds, and US policymakers in gridlock over budget issues. Global central bank actions and improving economic data invigorated the markets, but investor confidence was easily tempered by sobering news flow.

Investors showed more optimism at the start of 2012. Risk assets rallied through January and February as economic data grew stronger and debt problems in Europe stabilized. In the United States, jobs data signaled solid improvement in the labor market and the Federal Reserve indicated that it would keep short-term interest rates low through 2014. In Europe, policymakers made significant progress toward securing a Greek bailout plan and restructuring the nation's debt. Nevertheless, considerable head-winds remain. Europe faces a prolonged recession, the US economy still remains somewhat shaky and the risks of additional flare ups of euro-zone debt problems and slowing growth in China weigh heavily on the future of the global economy.

Risk assets, including equities and high yield bonds, recovered their late-summer losses and posted strong returns for the 6-month period ended February 29, 2012. On a 12-month basis, US large-cap stocks and high yield bonds delivered positive results, while small-cap and emerging-market stocks finished slightly negative. International markets, which experienced some significant downturns in 2011, lagged the broader rebound. Fixed income securities, which benefited from declining yields, advanced over the 6- and 12-month periods. Despite their quality rating downgrade, US Treasury bonds performed particularly well. Municipal bonds also delivered superior results. Continued low short-term interest rates kept yields on money market securities near their all-time lows.

Many of the themes that caused uncertainty in 2011 remain. For investors, the risks appear daunting, but this challenging environment offers new opportunities. BlackRock was built for these times. Visit [blackrock.com/newworld](http://blackrock.com/newworld) for more information.

Sincerely,

**Rob Kapito**  
President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

*For investors, the risks appear daunting, but this challenging environment offers new opportunities. BlackRock was built for these times.*

**Rob Kapito**  
President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

**Total Returns as of February 29, 2012**

	<b>6-month</b>	<b>12-month</b>
	13.31%	5.12%

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US large cap equities (S&P 500® Index)		
US small cap equities (Russell 2000® Index)	12.40	(0.15)
International equities (MSCI Europe, Australasia, Far East Index)	4.13	(7.45)
Emerging market equities (MSCI Emerging Markets Index)	5.27	(0.11)
3-month Treasury bill (BofA Merrill Lynch 3-Month Treasury Bill Index)	0.00	0.08
US Treasury securities (BofA Merrill Lynch 10- Year US Treasury Index)	3.70	17.22
US investment grade bonds (Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index)	2.73	8.37
Tax-exempt municipal bonds (S&P Municipal Bond Index)	5.93	12.88
US high yield bonds (Barclays US Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Capped Index)	8.62	6.92

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

THIS PAGE NOT PART OF YOUR FUND REPORT

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Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc.**

### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc. s (COY) (the Fund )** investment objective is to provide shareholders with current income by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of fixed income securities, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BB or lower by Standard & Poor s Corporation ( S&P s ) or Ba or lower by Moody s Investors Service, Inc. ( Moody s )) or are unrated securities considered by BlackRock to be of comparable quality. As a secondary objective, the Fund also seeks to provide shareholders with capital appreciation. The Fund invests, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its assets in high yield debt instruments, including high yield bonds (commonly referred to as junk bonds) and corporate loans which are below investment grade quality. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

### **Portfolio Management Commentary**

#### **How did the Fund perform?**

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 20.39% based on market price and 7.15% based on net asset value ( NAV ). For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund moved from a discount to NAV to a premium by period end, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

#### **What factors influenced performance?**

The Fund s positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among higher-quality and non-rated credits. The Fund s exposure to Charter Communications, Inc. boosted returns, as did holdings of Delphi Automotive Plc stock received in connection with the company s reorganization in 2009. Overall, risk assets performed well over the period despite sharp volatility in the latter half of 2011.

Assets with higher duration (greater sensitivity to interest rate movements) benefited most from the drop in interest rates over the period. Accordingly, the high yield market underperformed US Treasuries, investment grade corporate bonds and emerging market debt securities. The Fund s performance was negatively impacted by security selection within the mid-tier credit quality range. On a sector basis, selection within automotive, independent energy and paper detracted. The Fund reduced its allocation to floating rate loan interests (bank loans) during the period as the asset class underperformed relative to high yield bonds and higher quality investments.

The Fund uses credit default swaps to express a particular view in an individual credit name and as a means of managing risk. It also utilizes credit default swaps on a basket of securities in order to put cash to work or quickly increase or decrease the portfolio s exposure to market movements. The Fund may also use stock futures and options to hedge the equity risk inherent within an individual position or group of positions. Stock futures are an efficient mechanism for reducing risk under certain market conditions. The Fund also uses forward contracts on foreign currencies to hedge the currency risk of non-dollar denominated bonds. During the period, the use of derivatives had an overall positive impact on Fund returns.

#### **Describe recent portfolio activity.**

During the 12-month period, the Fund s positioning grew more conservative as the outlook for global growth deteriorated. The Fund migrated toward more resilient, higher-quality issuers paying attractive yields while reducing exposure to lower-quality issuers and higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) that are more vulnerable to the economic cycle.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the

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Fund started selectively adding back some risk in names with appealing risk-reward characteristics. Despite this modest shift to risk-on, the Fund maintained its higher-quality, income-oriented bias throughout the period. The Fund continued to seek issuers with superior fundamentals (solid cash flows, earnings visibility and attractive downside protection), while generally remaining cautious of higher-beta credits and the more cyclical sectors.

### **Describe portfolio positioning at period end.**

At period end, the Fund held 80% of its total portfolio in corporate bonds, 12% in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), with the remainder in common stocks, preferred securities and other interests. The Fund's largest sector exposures included non-cable media, wireless and independent energy, while its portfolio holdings reflected less emphasis on the more cyclical segments of the market such as gaming, building materials and technology. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 21% of its total managed assets.

The views expressed reflect the opinions of BlackRock as of the date of this report and are subject to change based on changes in market, economic or other conditions. These views are not intended to be a forecast of future events and are no guarantee of future results.

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc.****Fund Information**

Symbol on New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE )	COY
Initial Offering Date	June 25, 1993
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$7.76) <sup>1</sup>	7.89%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.051
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.612
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	21%

<sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

<sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund's market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$7.76	\$7.03	10.38%	\$7.82	\$5.99
Net Asset Value	\$7.29	\$7.42	(1.75)%	\$7.56	\$6.45

The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund's long-term investments and credit quality allocations of the Fund's corporate bond investments:

**Portfolio Composition**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Corporate Bonds	80%	85%
Floating Rate Loan Interests	12	7
Common Stocks	5	5
Preferred Securities	2	1
Other Interests	1	2

**Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
A	1%	1%
BBB/Baa	6	4
BB/Ba	42	31
B	40	46
CCC/Caa	10	13
Not Rated	1	5

<sup>4</sup> Using the higher of S&P's or Moody's ratings.





Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc.**

### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc. s (CYE) (the Fund )** primary investment objective is to provide current income by investing primarily in fixed-income securities, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BBB or lower by S&P s or Baa or lower by Moody s) or are unrated securities of comparable quality. The Fund s secondary investment objective is to provide capital appreciation. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

### **Portfolio Management Commentary**

#### **How did the Fund perform?**

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 18.62% based on market price and 7.11% based on NAV. For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund moved from a discount to NAV to a premium by period-end, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

#### **What factors influenced performance?**

The Fund s positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among higher-quality credits. The Fund s exposure to Charter Communications, Inc. boosted returns, as did holdings of Delphi Automotive Plc stock received in connection with the company s reorganization in 2009. Overall, risk assets performed well over the period despite sharp volatility in the latter half of 2011.

Assets with higher duration (greater sensitivity to interest rate movements) benefited most from the drop in interest rates over the period. Accordingly, the high yield market underperformed US Treasuries, investment grade corporate bonds and emerging market debt securities. The Fund s performance was negatively impacted by security selection within the mid-tier credit quality range. On a sector basis, selection within automotive, independent energy and paper detracted. The Fund reduced its allocation to floating rate loan interests (bank loans) during the period as the asset class underperformed relative to high yield bonds and higher-quality investments.

The Fund uses credit default swaps to express a particular view in an individual credit name and as a means of managing risk. It also utilizes credit default swaps on a basket of securities in order to put cash to work or quickly increase or decrease the portfolio s exposure to market movements. The Fund may also use stock futures and options to hedge the equity risk inherent within an individual position or group of positions. Stock futures are an efficient mechanism for reducing risk under certain market conditions. The Fund also uses forward contracts on foreign currencies to hedge the currency risk of non-dollar denominated bonds. During the period, the use of derivatives had an overall positive impact on Fund returns.

#### **Describe recent portfolio activity.**

During the 12-month period, the Fund s positioning grew more conservative as the outlook for global growth deteriorated. The Fund migrated toward more resilient, higher-quality issuers paying attractive yields while reducing exposure to lower-quality issuers and higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) that are more vulnerable to the economic cycle.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the Fund started selectively adding back some risk in names with appealing risk-reward characteristics. Despite this modest shift to risk-on, the Fund maintained its higher-quality, income-oriented bias throughout the period. The Fund continued to seek issuers with superior fundamentals (solid cash flows, earnings visibility and attractive downside protection), while generally remaining cautious of

higher-beta credits and the more cyclical sectors.

**Describe portfolio positioning at period end.**

At period end, the Fund held 77% of its total portfolio in corporate bonds, 15% in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), with the remainder in common stocks and preferred securities. The Fund's largest sector exposures included non-cable media, wireless and independent energy, while its portfolio holdings reflected less emphasis on the more cyclical segments of the market such as gaming, building materials and technology. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 24% of its total managed assets.

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**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc.****Fund Information**

Symbol on NYSE	CYE
Initial Offering Date	January 30, 1998
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$7.75) <sup>1</sup>	7.90%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.051
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.612
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	24%

<sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

<sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund's market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$7.75	\$7.14	8.54%	\$7.75	\$6.08
Net Asset Value	\$7.41	\$7.56	(1.98)%	\$7.70	\$6.54

The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund's long-term investments and credit quality allocations of the Fund's corporate bond investments:

**Portfolio Composition**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Corporate Bonds	77%	80%
Floating Rate Loan Interests	15	11
Common Stocks	6	5
Preferred Securities	2	2
Other Interests		2

**Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
A	1%	
BBB/Baa	7	4%
BB/Ba	38	31
B	43	46
CCC/Caa	10	14
Not Rated	1	5

<sup>4</sup> Using the higher of S&P's or Moody's ratings.



Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

**BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.**

### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.'s (DSU) (the Fund)** primary investment objective is to provide current income by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of US companies' debt instruments, including corporate loans, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BBB or lower by S&P's or Baa or lower by Moody's) or unrated debt instruments, which are in the judgment of the investment adviser of equivalent quality. The Fund's secondary objective is to provide capital appreciation. Corporate loans include senior and subordinated corporate loans, both secured and unsecured. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved.

### **Portfolio Management Commentary**

#### **How did the Fund perform?**

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 10.47% based on market price and 4.53% based on NAV. For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund began the period with a discount to NAV, and ended the period with neither a discount nor a premium, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

#### **What factors influenced performance?**

The Fund's positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among non-rated credits. On a sector basis, selection in non-cable media, chemicals and electric names boosted returns. The Fund's tactical exposure to convertible bonds had a positive impact on performance and the use of leverage was an additional contributor.

The Fund invests roughly half of its assets in high yield bonds and half in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), while most funds in the Lipper category invest primarily in high yield bonds. While the Fund's allocation to bank loans did not detract from performance on an absolute basis, the asset class underperformed high yield bonds for the period. Security selection in the paper and technology sectors pared the Fund's gains for the period.

#### **Describe recent portfolio activity.**

As the outlook for global growth deteriorated and the European debt crisis intensified during the period, the Fund shifted to a more conservative stance by reducing exposure to higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) while implementing hedging strategies and increasing its allocation to cash.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the Fund added some risk back into the portfolio. The Fund removed hedges and returned to a fully invested posture amid the liquidity-driven credit rally as global sentiment improved and tail risk for financial markets declined. Though the Fund shifted to a more risk-on stance, it continued to favor higher-quality issuers and sought those with stable cash flows and visible earnings, while generally remaining cautious of higher-beta credits with greater sensitivity to the economic cycle.

#### **Describe portfolio positioning at period end.**

At period end, the Fund held 54% of its total portfolio in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), 43% in corporate bonds, with the remainder in common stocks, asset-backed securities and other interests. The Fund's largest sector exposures included cable media, independent energy and chemicals. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 25% of its total managed assets.

The views expressed reflect the opinions of BlackRock as of the date of this report and are subject to change based on changes in market, economic or other conditions. These views are not intended to be a forecast of future events and are no guarantee of future results.

**BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.****Fund Information**

Symbol on NYSE	DSU
Initial Offering Date	March 27, 1998
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$4.13) <sup>1</sup>	7.85%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.027
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.324
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	25%

<sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

<sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund's market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$4.13	\$4.05	1.98%	\$4.43	\$3.45
Net Asset Value	\$4.13	\$4.28	(3.50)%	\$4.31	\$3.79

The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund's long-term investments and credit quality allocations of the Fund's corporate bond investments:

**Portfolio Composition**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Floating Rate Loan Interests	54%	53%
Corporate Bonds	43	43
Common Stocks	1	1
Asset-Backed Securities	1	2
Other Interests	1	1

**Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>**



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**The Government of Ghana has the right to increase its interest in certain subsidiaries.**

In accordance with the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), the Government of Ghana has a 10% carried interest in the mineral operations of Ghanaian mining companies. The carried interest comes into existence at the time the government issues a mining license. As such, the Government of Ghana currently has a 10% carried interest in our subsidiaries that own the Bogoso/Prestea mine, the HBB properties, the Wassa mine and the Prestea Underground property.

Under Act 703, the Government has the right to acquire a special share or golden share in such subsidiaries at any time for no consideration or such consideration as the Government of Ghana and such subsidiaries might agree, and a pre-emptive right to purchase all gold and other minerals produced by such subsidiaries. A golden share carries no voting rights and does not participate in dividends, profits or assets.

While the Government of Ghana has not sought to exercise any of these rights at our properties, any such attempts to do so in the future could adversely affect our financial results.

**We are subject to risks relating to exploration, development and operations in various countries.**

Our assets and operations are affected by various political and economic uncertainties in the countries where we operate, including:

war, civil unrest, terrorism, coups or other violent or unexpected changes in government;

political instability and violence;

expropriation and nationalization;

renegotiation or nullification of existing concessions, licenses, permits, and contracts;

illegal mining;

changes in taxation policies;

restrictions on foreign exchange and repatriation; and

changing political conditions, currency controls, and governmental regulations that favor or require the awarding of contracts to local contractors or require foreign contractors to employ citizens of or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction.

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**Illegal mining has occurred on our properties, is difficult to control, can disrupt our business and can expose us to liability.**

We continue to experience illegal mining activity on our mining and exploration properties. Most of this activity is on our Prestea South and Hwini-Butre properties. While we are proactively working with local, regional and national governmental authorities to obtain protection of our property rights, any action on the part of such authorities may not occur, may not fully address our problems or may be delayed.

In addition to the impact on our mineral reserve and non-reserve resources, the presence of illegal miners can lead to project delays and disputes and delays regarding the development or operation of commercial gold deposits. The work performed by the illegal miners could cause environmental damage or other damage to our properties, or personal injury or death, for which we could potentially be held responsible. Illegal miners may work on other of our properties from time to time, and they may in the future increase their presence and have increased negative impacts such as those described above on such other properties.

**Our activities are subject to complex laws, regulations and accounting standards that can adversely affect operating and development costs, the timing of operations, the ability to operate and financial results.**

Our business, mining operations and exploration and development activities are subject to extensive Canadian, United States, Ghanaian and other foreign, federal, state, provincial, territorial and local laws and regulations governing exploration, development, production, exports, taxes, labor standards, waste disposal, protection of the environment, reclamation, historic and cultural resource preservation, mine safety and occupational health, toxic substances, reporting and other matters, as well as

accounting standards. Compliance with these laws, regulations and standards or the imposition of new such requirements could adversely affect operating and development costs, the timing of operations, the ability to operate and financial results.

**Failure to maintain effective internal controls in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could have a material adverse effect on our business and share price.**

We are required to annually test our internal control over financial reporting to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which requires annual management assessments of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Failure to maintain effective internal controls could have a material adverse effect on our business and share price.

**Market Risks**

**The market price of our common shares has experienced volatility and could continue to do so in the future.**

Our common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex, the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Ghana Stock Exchange. Companies with market capitalizations similar to ours have experienced substantial volatility in the past, often based on factors unrelated to the financial performance or prospects of the companies involved. These factors include macroeconomic developments in North America and globally and market perceptions of the attractiveness of particular industries. Our share price is also likely to be significantly affected by short-term changes in gold prices or in our financial condition or results of operations as reflected in our quarterly earnings reports. Other factors unrelated to our performance that could have an effect on the price of our common shares include the following:

the extent of analytical coverage available to investors concerning

our business could be limited if investment banks with research capabilities do not continue to follow our securities;

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the trading volume and general market interest in our securities could affect an investor's ability to trade significant numbers of common shares;

the size of the public float in our common shares may limit the ability of some institutions to invest in our securities; and

a substantial decline in our stock price that persists for a significant period of time could cause our securities to be delisted from the NYSE Amex and the Toronto Stock Exchange, further reducing market liquidity.

As a result of any of these factors, the market price of our common shares at any given point in time might not accurately reflect our long-term value. The stock markets in general have recently suffered major declines. Securities class action litigation often has been brought against companies following periods of market price volatility that affects the market price of particular securities without regard to the performance of the company whose stock price is affected. We could in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and damages and divert management's attention and resources.

**Investors could have difficulty or be unable to enforce certain civil liabilities on us, certain of our directors and our experts.**

Golden Star is a Canadian corporation. Substantially all of our assets are located outside of Canada and the United States, and our head office is located in the United States. It might not be possible for investors to collect judgments obtained in Canadian courts predicated on the civil liability provisions of Canadian or U.S. securities legislation. It could also be difficult for you to effect service of process in connection with any action brought in the United States upon our

directors and officers. Execution by United States courts of any judgment obtained against us, or any of the directors or executive officers, in the United States courts would be limited to our assets or the assets of such persons in the United States. The enforceability in Canada of United States judgments or liabilities in original actions in Canadian courts predicated solely upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States is doubtful.

**There are certain U.S. federal income tax risks associated with ownership of Golden Star common shares.**

Holders of our common shares, warrants or options to purchase our common shares or convertible debentures (collectively, Equity Securities) who are U.S. taxpayers should consider that we could be considered to be a passive foreign investment company ( PFIC ) for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Although we believe that we were not a PFIC for 2008, and do not expect to become a PFIC in 2009 and in the foreseeable future, the tests for determining PFIC status depend upon a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, and can be subject to uncertainties, and we cannot assure you that we will not be a PFIC. We undertake no obligation to advise holders of our Equity Securities as to our PFIC status for any year.

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If we are a PFIC for any year, any person who holds our Equity Securities who is a U.S. person for U.S. income tax purposes (a U.S. Holder ) and whose holding period for those Equity Securities includes any portion of a year in which we are a PFIC generally would be subject to a special adverse tax regime in respect of excess distributions. Excess distributions include certain distributions received with respect to PFIC shares in a taxable year. Gain recognized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other transfer of our Equity Securities (including certain transfers that would otherwise be tax free) also would be treated as an excess distributions. Such excess distributions and gains would be allocated ratably to the U.S. Holder's holding period. For these purposes, the holding period of shares acquired either through an exercise of warrants or options or the conversion of convertible debentures includes the holder's holding period in the warrant, option or convertible debt.

The portion of any excess distribution (including gains treated as excess distributions) allocated to the current year would be includible as ordinary income in the current year. The portion of any excess distribution allocated to a prior years would be taxed at the highest marginal rate applicable to ordinary income for each such year (regardless of the taxpayer's actual marginal rate for that year and without reduction by any losses or loss carryforwards) and would be subject to interest charges to reflect the value of the U.S. income tax deferral.

Elections may be available to mitigate the adverse tax rules that apply to PFICs (the so-called QEF and mark-to-market elections), but these elections may accelerate the recognition of taxable income and may result in the recognition of ordinary income. The QEF and mark-to-market elections are not available to U.S. Holders with respect to warrants or options to acquire our common shares or convertible debentures. We have not decided whether we would provide to U.S. holders of our common shares the annual information that would be



necessary to make the QEF election.

Additional special adverse rules also apply to investors who are U.S. Holders who own our common shares if we are a PFIC and have a non-U.S. subsidiary that is also a PFIC. Special adverse rules that impact certain estate planning goals could apply to our Equity Securities if we are a PFIC.

**The conversion feature of our Convertible Senior Unsecured Debentures could limit increases in the trading price of our common shares.**

The conversion price of our 4% Convertible Senior Unsecured Debentures due November 2012 is \$5.00 and represented a 31% premium over the closing price of the common shares on the NYSE Alternext US on October 23, 2007, the day prior to commencement of the debenture offering. In the event our share price is greater than this conversion price, this conversion feature may limit the increase in the price of our common shares, since any increase in the stock price above the conversion price will make it more likely that debentures will be converted, thereby exerting a downward pressure on the market price of the common shares.

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**The existence of outstanding rights to purchase or acquire common shares could impair our ability to raise capital.**

As of March 6, 2009, approximately 7.54 million common shares are issuable on exercise of options to purchase common shares at prices ranging from Cdn\$1.02 to Cdn\$9.07. In addition, 25.0 million common shares are currently issuable upon conversion of our 4% Convertible Senior Unsecured Debentures due in November 2012 (additional shares may be issuable in certain circumstances). During the life of the options, debentures and other rights, the holders are given an opportunity to profit from a rise in the market price of common shares, with a resulting dilution in the interest of the other shareholders. Our ability to obtain additional financing during the period such rights are outstanding could be adversely affected, and the existence of the rights could have an adverse effect on the price of our common shares. The holders of the options, debentures and other rights can be expected to exercise or convert them at a time when we would, in all likelihood, be able to obtain any needed capital by a new offering of securities on terms more favorable than those provided by the outstanding rights.

Current global financial conditions may impact our ability to obtain financing and may negatively affect our asset values and results of operations.

Current global financial conditions have been characterized by increased volatility and several financial institutions have either gone into bankruptcy or have had to be rescued by governmental authorities. Access to public financing has been negatively impacted by both the rapid decline in value of sub-prime mortgages and the liquidity crisis affecting the asset-backed commercial paper market. These factors may impact our ability to obtain equity or debt financing in the future on favorable terms. Additionally, these factors, as well as

other related factors, may cause decreases in asset values that are deemed to be other than temporary, which may result in impairment losses. If such increased levels of volatility and market turmoil continue, our operations could be adversely impacted and the trading price of the common shares may be adversely affected.

#### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered under this prospectus for the exploration and development of our mining properties in Ghana, acquisition, exploration and development of additional properties or interests and working capital and other general corporate purposes such as repayment of debt, if applicable.

#### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may offer the securities directly to one or more purchasers, through agents, or through underwriters or dealers designated from time to time. We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices (which may be changed from time to time), at market prices prevailing at the times of sale, at prices related to these prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We may offer securities in the same offering, or we may offer securities in separate offerings. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the offeror(s) of the securities;

the terms of the securities to which the prospectus supplement relates;

the name or names of any underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to be received

from the sale;

any underwriting discounts and  
other items constituting  
underwriters' compensation; and

any discounts or concessions  
allowed or reallocated or paid to  
dealers.

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If underwriters are used in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase securities will be subject to the conditions precedent agreed to by the parties and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of a class or series if any are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Underwriters or agents may make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on an existing trading market for our common shares, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Securities may be sold directly by our company or through agents designated by our company from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by our company to any agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by eligible institutions to purchase securities from our company at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement under delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The conditions to these contracts and the commissions payable

for solicitation of these contracts will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Agents and underwriters may be entitled to indemnification by our company against some civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents or underwriters may be required to make relating to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for, our company in the ordinary course of business.

Each class or series of securities other than the common shares will be a new issue of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriter may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. There may be limited liquidity in the trading market for any such securities.

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**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON  
SHARES**

We are authorized to issue an unlimited number of common shares, without par value. As of March 6, 2009, there were 236,005,311 common shares outstanding.

**Dividend Rights**

Holders of our common shares may receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors on the common shares, subject to the preferential dividend rights of any other classes or series of shares of our company. In no event may a dividend be declared or paid on the common shares if payment of the dividend would cause the realizable value of our company's assets to be less than the aggregate of its liabilities and the amount required to redeem all of the shares having redemption or retraction rights, which are then outstanding.

**Voting and Other Rights**

Holders of our common shares are entitled to one vote per share, and in general, matters will be determined by a majority of votes cast.

**Election of Directors**

All of the directors resign before each annual meeting of shareholders and are eligible for reelection. Directors are elected by a majority of votes cast.

**Liquidation**

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Golden Star, holders of the common shares have the right to a ratable portion of the assets remaining after payment of liabilities and liquidation preferences of any preferred shares or other securities that may then be outstanding.

**Redemption**

Golden Star common shares are not redeemable or convertible.

### **Rights Agreement**

Rights to purchase our common shares have been issued to holders of common shares under a rights agreement between Golden Star and CIBC Mellon Trust Company. One right is attached to each common share. Prior to the occurrence of certain triggering events, each right will entitle the holder, within certain limitations, to purchase one common share at an exercise price equal to three times the market price of the common share, as determined under the terms of the agreement. In certain events (including when a person or group becomes the beneficial owner of 20% or more of any class of our voting shares without complying with the permitted bid provisions of the rights agreement or without the approval of Golden Star's Board of Directors), exercise of the rights would entitle the holders of the rights (other than the acquiring person or group) to acquire that number of common shares having an aggregate market price on the date of the event equal to twice the exercise price of the rights for an amount in cash equal to the exercise price. Accordingly, exercise of the rights may cause substantial dilution to a person who attempts to acquire Golden Star. The rights, which expire at the close of business on the date of our 2010 annual shareholders meeting (unless extended as provided in the rights agreement), may be redeemed at a price of Cdn.\$0.00001 per right at any time until a person or group has acquired 20% of our common shares, except as otherwise provided in the rights agreement. The rights agreement may have certain anti-takeover effects.



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**Other Provisions**

All outstanding common shares are, and the common shares offered by this prospectus or obtainable on exercise or conversion of other securities offered hereby, if issued in the manner described in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

You should read the prospectus supplement relating to any offering of common shares, or of securities convertible, exchangeable or exercisable for common shares, for the terms of the offering, including the number of common shares offered, any initial offering price and market prices relating to the common shares.

This section is a summary and may not describe every aspect of our common shares that may be important to you. We urge you to read our Articles of Arrangement and our bylaws, because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of our common shares. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain copies of these documents.

CIBC Mellon Trust Company, The Oceanic Plaza, 1066 West Hastings Street, Suite 1600, Vancouver, BC V6E 3X1, Canada, is the transfer agent and registrar for our common shares.

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SHARES**

We are authorized to issue an unlimited number of preferred shares, without par value. As of the date of this prospectus, there were no preferred shares outstanding. Preferred shares are issuable in such classes or series as are determined by the board of directors, who have the authority to determine the relative rights and preferences of each such class or series. The board of directors has not designated any class or series of preferred shares.

The issuance of preferred shares could adversely affect the voting power of holders of our common shares, and the

likelihood that preferred holders will receive dividend and liquidation preferences may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Golden Star, which could depress the market price of our common shares. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, all preferred shares to be issued from time to time under this prospectus will be fully paid and nonassessable.

The prospectus supplement relating to the preferred shares offered will contain a description of the specific terms of that series as fixed by our board of directors, including, as applicable:

the number of preferred shares offered and the offering price of the preferred shares;

the title and stated value of the preferred shares;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation of such rates, periods or dates applicable to the preferred shares;

the date from which dividends on the preferred shares will accumulate, if applicable;

the liquidation rights of the preferred shares;

the procedures for auction and remarketing, if any, of the preferred shares;

the sinking fund provisions, if applicable, for the preferred shares;

the redemption provisions, if applicable, for the preferred shares;

whether the preferred shares will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions of the conversion or exchange, including the conversion price or exchange ratio and the conversion or exchange period (or the method of determining the same);

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whether the preferred shares will have voting rights and the terms of any voting rights, if any;

whether the preferred shares will be listed on any securities exchange;

whether the preferred shares will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of these securities; and

any other specific terms, preferences or rights of, or limitations or restrictions on, the preferred shares.

The applicable prospectus supplement will also contain a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations relevant to the purchase and ownership of the preferred shares offered by the prospectus supplement.

The transfer agent for each series of preferred shares will be described in the prospectus supplement.

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**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

As of the date of this prospectus, we have no warrants outstanding.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred shares, common shares or units consisting of any combination of the foregoing securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants offered, including but not limited to the following:

the number of warrants offered;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies in which the prices of the warrants may be payable;

the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

whether the warrants will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of these securities;

the amount of securities purchasable upon exercise of each warrant and the price at which and the currency or currencies in which the securities may be purchased upon such exercise, and the events or conditions under which the amount of securities may be subject to adjustment;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which

such right shall expire;

the circumstances, if any, which will cause the warrants to be deemed to be automatically exercised;

any material risk factors relating to such warrants;

if applicable, the identity of the warrant agent; and

any other terms of such warrants. Prior to the exercise of any warrants, holders of such warrants will not have any rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of dividends, or the right to vote such underlying securities.

Prospective purchasers of warrants should be aware that special United States federal income tax, accounting and other considerations may be applicable to instruments such as warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe such considerations, to the extent they are material, as they apply generally to purchasers of such warrants.

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**DESCRIPTION OF  
CONVERTIBLE DEBT  
SECURITIES**

This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of the convertible debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below; however, no prospectus supplement shall fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness. As of the date of this prospectus, we have no outstanding registered debt securities.

The debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and a duly qualified financial institution as trustee. The indenture will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or Trust Indenture Act.

The following summaries of material provisions of the convertible debt securities, and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the indenture that contains the terms of the debt securities.

**General**

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and set forth or determined in the manner provided in an officer's certificate or by a supplemental indenture. The particular terms of each

series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series.

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue under the indenture. The debt securities may be issued in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium, or at a discount. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the aggregate principal amount, prices and terms of the debt securities. These terms may include:

the title of the debt securities;

the price or prices (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount) at which we will sell the debt securities;

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

the date or dates on which we will pay the principal on the debt securities;

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum or the method used to determine the rate or rates (including any commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index) at which the debt securities will bear interest, the date or dates from which interest will accrue, the date or dates on which interest will commence and be payable and any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where principal, premium and interest payments may be made on the debt securities;



the currency or currencies in which  
the debt securities are issued and  
payable;

the conversion or exchange  
provisions applicable to the debt  
securities;

any mandatory or optional  
redemption provisions applicable to  
the debt securities;

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any sinking fund or analogous provisions applicable to the debt securities;

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

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities or global debt securities;

the portion of principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the entire principal amount;

any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;

any additions or changes to, or deletions from, the events of default, covenants or acceleration provisions applicable to the debt securities;

the trustee for the series of debt securities and any depositories, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities, which may modify or delete any provision of the indenture as it applies to that series.

We may issue debt securities that provide for an amount less than their stated principal amount to be due and payable upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity pursuant to the terms of the indenture.

If we denominate the purchase price of any of the debt securities in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, or if the principal of and any premium and interest on any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, we will provide you with information on the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to that issue of debt securities and such foreign currency or currencies or foreign currency unit or units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ( DTC ) or Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee), as depositary, or a nominee (we will refer to any debt security represented by a global debt security as a book-entry debt security ), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (we will refer to any debt security represented by a certificated security as a certificated debt security ) as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as set forth under the heading Book-Entry Debt Securities below, debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

#### **Book-Entry Debt Securities**

Each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the depositary, and registered in the name of the depositary or a nominee of the depositary.

Ownership of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities will be limited to persons that have accounts with the depositary for the related global debt security, which we refer to as participants, or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a global debt security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal amounts of the book-entry debt securities represented by such global debt security

beneficially owned by such participants. The accounts to be credited will be designated by any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the book-entry debt securities. Ownership of book-entry debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary for the related global debt security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants). The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities.

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So long as the depositary for a global debt security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of that global debt security, the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the book-entry debt securities represented by such global debt security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as described below, beneficial owners of book-entry debt securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of a certificate in definitive form representing securities and will not be considered the owners or holders of those securities under the indenture. Accordingly, each person beneficially owning book-entry debt securities must rely on the procedures of the depositary for the related global debt security and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture.

We understand, however, that under existing industry practice, the depositary will authorize the persons on whose behalf it holds a global debt security to exercise certain rights of holders of debt securities, and the indenture provides that we, the trustee and our respective agents will treat as the holder of a debt security the persons specified in a written statement of the depositary with respect to that global debt security for purposes of obtaining any consents or directions required to be given by holders of the debt securities pursuant to the indenture.

We will make payments of principal of, and premium and interest on, book-entry debt securities to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the related global debt security. Golden Star, the trustee and any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will not have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining,

supervising or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary, upon receipt of any payment of principal of, or premium or interest on, a global debt security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to the respective amounts of book-entry debt securities held by each participant as shown on the records of such depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities held through those participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

We will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for each global debt security if the depositary is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have the book-entry debt securities of any series represented by one or more global debt securities and, in that event, will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for the global debt securities of that series. Global debt securities will also be exchangeable by the holders for certificated debt securities if an event of default with respect to the book-entry debt securities represented by those global debt securities has occurred and is continuing. Any certificated debt securities issued in exchange for a global debt security will be registered in such name or names as the depositary shall instruct the trustee. We expect that such instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of book-entry debt securities relating to such global debt security.



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We have obtained the foregoing information concerning the depositary and the depositary's book-entry system from sources we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

### **Certificated Debt Securities**

*Transfer or Exchange of Certificated Debt Securities.* You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at any office we maintain for this purpose in accordance with the terms of the indenture. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

You may effect the transfer of certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal of, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the certificate representing those certificated debt securities and either reissuance by us or the trustee of the certificate to the new holder or the issuance by us or the trustee of a new certificate to the new holder.

### **No Protection In the Event of a Change of Control**

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions which may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control) which could adversely affect holders of debt securities.

### **Covenants**

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement any restrictive covenants applicable to any issue of debt securities. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following covenant



will apply to all debt securities.

*Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets*

We may not, unless the terms of debt securities provide otherwise, consolidate with or merge with or into, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, any person, which we refer to as a successor person, unless:

we are the surviving corporation, or the surviving entity (if other than Golden Star) or the acquiror of our properties and assets is a corporation organized and validly existing under the laws of any U.S. domestic jurisdiction and expressly assumes our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture;

immediately prior to and after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing under the indenture; and

certain other conditions are met.

**Events of Default**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture defines an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities, as one or more of the following:

default in the payment of any interest upon any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable, and continuance of that default for a period of 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of any debt security of that series when due and payable;



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an event of default occurs and is continuing, or the failure by us to comply with any of the agreements contained in the debt securities of that series or the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default continues uncured for a period of 60 days after we receive written notice from the trustee or from the holders of not less than 50% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company; and

any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of that series that is described in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus.

No event of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities (except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization) necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities. The occurrence of an event of default may constitute an event of default under our bank credit agreements in existence from time to time. In addition, the occurrence of certain events of default or an acceleration under the indenture may constitute an event of default under certain of our other indebtedness outstanding from time to time.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series at the time outstanding occurs and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 50% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, by a notice in writing to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), declare to be due and payable immediately the principal (or, if the debt securities of that series are

discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all debt securities of that series. In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal (or such lesser amount) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all outstanding debt securities will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may rescind the acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and interest, if any, with respect to debt securities of that series, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of such discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default.

Subject to certain rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series. The indenture provides that the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any holder of outstanding debt securities if the request conflicts with law or the indenture, is unduly prejudicial to the rights of another holder of debt securities of that series, or may involve the trustee in personal liability.

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No holder of any debt security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

that holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series; and

the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee, and the trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request and has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any debt security's right to receive payment of the principal of, premium and any interest on that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of the holder.

The indenture requires us, within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture. The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

**Modification and Waiver**

Golden Star and the trustee as to any series of debt securities may modify and amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments. The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of the series affected may also waive compliance in a particular instance with any provision of the indenture. Nevertheless, in no event may a modification, amendment or waiver, without the consent of the holders of each series of affected debt security then outstanding:

reduce the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver;

reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the payment of a sinking fund or analogous provision;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest (including default interest) on any debt security;

reduce the principal of or premium on or change the fixed maturity of any debt security or waive a redemption payment or alter the redemption provisions with respect thereto;

make the principal of or premium or interest on any debt security payable in a currency other than that stated in the debt security;

reduce the principal amount of original issue discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, the right of holders of debt securities to receive payment of the principal of, premium and interest on those debt securities and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment and to waivers or amendments; or

waive a default in the payment of the principal of, premium or interest on any debt security (except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such acceleration).

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Subject to the limitations discussed above, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of the holders of all the debt securities of such series waive any existing or past default or event of default under the indenture with respect to that series and its consequences, except a default or event of default in the payment of the principal of, premium or any interest on any debt security of that series or in respect of a covenant or provision which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the series affected; provided, however, that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind an acceleration and its consequences, including any related payment default that resulted from the acceleration.

**Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances**

*Legal Defeasance.* The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of such series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of such series, and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by paying agents). We will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or United States government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than United States dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking



fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

*Covenant Defeasance.* The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, upon compliance with certain conditions:

we may omit to comply with the covenant described under the heading "Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets" and certain other covenants set forth in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants which may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement; and

any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series, or an event of covenant defeasance.

The conditions include:

depositing with the trustee money and/or United States government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than United States dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will

provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal of, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities; and

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delivering to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred.

*Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default.* In the event we exercise our option to effect covenant defeasance with respect to any series of debt securities, and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and/or United States government obligations or foreign government obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. However, we shall remain liable for those payments.

For purposes of this discussion, foreign government obligations means, with respect to debt securities of any series that are denominated in a currency other than United States dollars:

direct obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued such currency for the payment of which obligations its full faith and credit is pledged which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof; or

obligations of a person controlled or supervised by or acting as an agency or instrumentality of that government the timely payment of

which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by that government which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

**Federal Income Tax Consequences and Other Special Considerations**

We will provide you with information on the federal income tax and other special considerations applicable to any of these debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

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

**FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
9x	(1)	11x	(1)	(1)

(1) For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, 2007 and 2008, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges.

We have computed the ratio of fixed charges by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings consist of income/(loss) from operations before income tax, minority interest adjustments and changes in accounting principles and fixed charges, and fixed charges consists of the interest portion of rental expense and interest incurred. Please refer to Exhibit 12 filed with the registration statement of which this prospectus constitutes a part for additional information regarding the ratio of earnings to cover fixed charges.

**LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION**

We have entered into agreements with our directors and officers indemnifying such directors and officers to the extent permitted by the *Canada Business Corporations Act*, or CBCA, and our by-laws. Our by-laws provide that we will indemnify any such person in such circumstances as the CBCA or law permits or requires.

Our ability to indemnify our directors and officers is governed by section 124 of the CBCA. Under this provision, we may indemnify a director or officer, a former director or officer or another individual who acts or acted at our request as a director or officer or in a similar capacity, of another entity (the individual ) against all costs, charges, and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the

individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the individual is involved by reason of their association with us or such other entity. However, we may not indemnify an individual unless the individual:

a. acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of our or such other entity for which the individual acted as director or officer or in a similar capacity at our request, as the case may be; and

b. in the case of criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that the individual's conduct was lawful.

We may advance funds to a director, officer or other individual for the costs, charges and expenses of a proceeding referred to above. The individual shall repay the amount advanced if the individual does not fulfill the conditions of sections (a) and (b) above.

With the approval of a court, we may indemnify an individual, or advance funds, in respect of an action by or on our behalf or by or on behalf of another entity to procure a judgment in our favor to which the individual is made a party because of the individual's association with us or such other entity against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with such action if the individual fulfills the conditions in clauses (a) and (b) above.

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In addition to the right to indemnification set forth in the agreements with our directors and our by-laws, the CBCA provides that an individual is entitled to indemnification from us in respect of all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with the defense of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which the individual is subject because of the individual's association with us or such other entity, if the individual seeking indemnity:

- a. was not judged by the court of other competent authority to have committed any fault or omitted to do anything that the individual ought to have done; and
- b. fulfills the conditions set out in clauses (a) and (b) above.

We maintain a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy which insures directors and officers for losses as a result of claims based upon the acts or omissions of our directors and officers, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act, and also reimburses us for payments made pursuant to the indemnity provisions under the CBCA.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP of Toronto, Ontario, has provided its opinion on the validity of the securities offered by this prospectus.

**EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over

financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.



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**GOLDEN STAR  
RESOURCES  
LTD.**

**\$300,000,000**

**Common Shares**

**Preferred Shares**

**Warrants**

**Convertible Debt Securities**

**The date of this prospectus is March  
31, 2009**