

STEC, INC.
Form S-3ASR
August 03, 2009
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 3, 2009

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

STEC, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

33-0399154
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

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3001 Daimler Street

Santa Ana, CA 92705-5812

(949) 476-1180

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number

including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Manouch Moshayedi

Chief Executive Officer and

Chairman of the Board of Directors

STEC, Inc.

3001 Daimler Street

Santa Ana, CA 92705-5812

(949) 476-1180

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

Copies to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> " | Accelerated filer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x |
| Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> " <i>(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)</i> | Smaller reporting company | <input type="checkbox"/> " |

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered (1) | Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Unit (1) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1) | Amount of Registration Fee (1) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share | | | | |
| Preferred Stock, par value \$.001 per share | | | | |
| Debt Securities | | | | |
| Depositary Shares | | | | |
| Securities Warrants | | | | |
| Stock Purchase Contracts | | | | |
| Stock Purchase Units | | | | |

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate offering price or number of securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

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PROSPECTUS

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEBT SECURITIES

DEPOSITARY SHARES

SECURITIES WARRANTS

STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS

STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may offer from time to time common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares, securities warrants, stock purchase contracts, or stock purchase units. This prospectus provides a general description of these securities. Specific terms of these securities will be provided in supplements to and/or free writing prospectuses accompanying this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement and/or free writing prospectus accompanying this prospectus carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol STEC. On July 31, 2009, the closing sale price of STEC common stock was \$34.09 per share.

Investment in any securities offered by this prospectus involves risk. See Risk Factors on page 1 of this prospectus and the risk factors disclosed in our periodic reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus or related free writing prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission 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 August 3, 2009.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any information about the terms of securities offered conveyed to you by us, our underwriters or our agents. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any information that is different or to make any different or additional representations. We are not making any offer to sell these or any securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each such document.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to STEC, we, us, our or similar references mean STEC, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell any combination of securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we or parties acting on our behalf will provide a prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being sold in that offering. The applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf, together with additional information described immediately below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

The registration statement references exhibits and other information that is not contained in this prospectus. In particular, the registration statement includes as exhibits forms of our senior indenture and subordinated indenture, forms of our senior debt security and subordinated debt security and specimen common stock certificates. We will file a form of underwriting agreement, preferred stock certificate, deposit agreement, depositary share, warrant agreement for warrants sold separately, warrant for warrants sold separately, warrant agreement for warrants sold attached to securities, warrant for warrants sold attached to securities, purchase contract agreement, and unit agreement, under cover of a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with any issuance of such securities. Any statements in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus concerning the provisions of any document are intended to be summaries. In each instance, reference is made to the copy of that document filed or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or otherwise filed with the SEC. Each statement concerning the provisions of any document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the document so filed. If you want a complete description of the content of the documents, you should obtain the documents by following the procedures described below.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are currently subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and in accordance therewith file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any such reports, proxy statements and other information at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. For further information concerning the SEC's Public Reference Room, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Some of this information may also be accessed through the SEC's Internet address at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information contained in the documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings (other than filings or portions of filings that under applicable SEC rules are furnished instead of filed) we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until this prospectus is no longer deemed effective.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009, and June 30, 2009.

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 5, 2009, February 19, 2009, and March 4, 2009.

The description of STEC common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed September 26, 2000, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

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Any information contained in this prospectus or in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to have been modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained in any other document we subsequently file with the SEC that also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in an applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus modifies or supersedes the original statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to be a part of this prospectus.

We encourage you to read our periodic and current reports. We think these reports provide additional information about our company which prudent investors will find important. You may request a copy of these filings as well as any future filings incorporated by reference, at no cost, by writing to us at the following address: Investor Relations, STEC, Inc., 3001 Daimler Street, Santa Ana, California 92705 or via telephone at (949) 476-1180.

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THE COMPANY

STEC, Inc. is a leading global provider of enterprise-class Flash solid-state drives, or SSDs, that are designed to increase the performance of storage systems and servers enterprises use to retain and access their critical data. Our products are designed specifically for storage systems and servers that run applications requiring a high level of input/output per second, or IOPs, performance, capacity, reliability and a low amount of latency, with the added benefits of consuming a lower quantity of power and occupying a smaller footprint.

We design and develop our SSD controllers, enhance them with proprietary firmware and combine them with third-party Flash memory, to form high-performance SSDs which provide a level of IOPs performance not currently possible with traditional hard disk drives, or HDDs. We sell our SSDs to the leading global storage and server original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, which integrate them into storage systems and servers used by enterprises in a variety of industries including financial services, government, transportation, defense and aerospace, and transaction processing. We also manufacture small form factor Flash SSDs, cards and modules, as well as custom high density dynamic random access memory, or DRAM, modules for networking, communications and industrial applications. We are headquartered in Santa Ana, California and have manufacturing operations in Penang, Malaysia.

Our principal executive offices are located at 3001 Daimler Street, Santa Ana, CA 92705-5812. Our telephone number is (949) 476-1180. We maintain a website at <http://www.stec-inc.com> where general information about us is available. We are not incorporating the contents of the website into this prospectus.

Our business strategy

We market our products to OEMs, leveraging our comprehensive design capabilities to offer custom storage solutions to address their specific needs.

We are focusing on several revenue growth initiatives, including:

continuing to develop and qualify customized Flash-based SSDs, including our Zeus^{IOPS} and Mach8^{IOPS} product lines, for enterprise-storage and enterprise-server applications, respectively; and

expanding our international business in Asia and Europe.

Over the past several years, we have expanded our custom design capabilities of Flash products for OEM applications. We have invested significantly in the design and development of customized Flash controllers, firmware and hardware and made strategic acquisitions that have expanded our Flash controller design capabilities. In 2008, we derived \$150.3 million in revenues from the sale of Flash products, which represented 66% of our total revenues. For the six months ended June 30, 2009, we derived \$132.7 million in revenues from the sale of Flash products, which represented 89% of our total revenues. We expect continued growth in the sales of our Flash-based SSD Zeus^{IOPS} products through 2009 based on the accelerated adoption of our Zeus^{IOPS} SSDs by most of our major enterprise-storage and enterprise-server OEM customers into their systems. As part of this expected growth, on July 16, 2009 we announced an agreement with one of our largest enterprise-storage customers for sales of \$120 million of Zeus^{IOPS} SSDs to be delivered in the second half of 2009.

We also offer both monolithic DRAM modules and DRAM modules based on our proprietary stacking technology. In 2008, we derived \$71 million in revenues from the sale of DRAM products, which represented 31% of our total revenues. For the six months ended June 30, 2009, we derived \$16 million in revenues from the sale of DRAM products, which represented 11% of our total revenues. We expect sales of DRAM modules to decline as a percentage of our total revenues over time as we continue to focus on growing our Flash-based product lines.

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Our industry

For the past half century, computing system OEMs have relied primarily on two storage technologies: DRAM and HDDs. Over time, microprocessor capabilities in their computing systems have dramatically outpaced the performance capabilities of HDDs, thus creating the need for faster access to storage; DRAM is cost- and power- prohibitive for many such applications. As a result, we have developed SSDs that represent a new tier of storage that allow users to access data faster, more reliably and on a more efficient basis than DRAM and HDDs.

A well-designed SSD delivers a valuable and unique set of characteristics, which are a combination of faster performance, better reliability and improved energy efficiency compared to an HDD. We believe that, across the range of enterprise-storage and enterprise-server OEMs, SSDs are viewed as a vital, permanent tier of storage which renders compelling value to the end-users of those storage and server systems by delivering unprecedented performance and significant power savings, at lower cost than comparative systems built only with HDDs and DRAM.

We believe that we are a technology leader in solid-state storage due to our nearly 20 years of focus on advanced memory solutions. Throughout our history, we have delivered advanced memory and storage solutions to a wide range of customers in various market segments, and we continue to develop products to meet the need of enterprises to constantly improve the retention of, and access to, critical data at high performance levels.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risk. Our business, operating results and cash flows can be impacted by a number of factors, any one of which could cause our actual results to vary materially from recent results or from our anticipated future results. You should carefully consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions described in this prospectus, as well as other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus and related free writing prospectus, including those described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements often can be, but are not always, identified by the use of words such as assume, expect, intend, plan, project, believe, estimate, predict, anticipate, may, might, should, could, goal, pote

our revenue growth initiatives;

continued growth in the sales of our Flash product line;

changes in the average selling prices of our products;

the loss of, or reduction in sales to, any of our key customers;

our ability to deliver new and enhanced products on a timely basis;

our sales, operating results and anticipated cash flows;

our ability to forecast customer demand;

the availability of certain components in our products which we obtain from a limited number of suppliers;

competition from other companies in our industry;

changes in political and economic conditions and local regulations, particularly outside of the United States; and

our ability to protect our intellectual property rights.

We base these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events, our assumptions regarding these events and our knowledge of facts at the time the statements are made. These forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties that may be outside our control and our actual results could differ materially from our projected results. Please see our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and the other information contained and incorporated by

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reference in this prospectus, and any a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus for a further discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties applicable to our business. We are not able to predict all the factors that may affect future results. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or the date of the document incorporated by reference. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities by us will be used for general corporate purposes.

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The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

| | Year ended December 31, | | | | | Six months ended |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | June 30, 2009 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 28x | 18x | 110x | 31x | 13x | 138x |

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing (a) earnings by (b) fixed charges. Earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and the portion of rental expense we believe is a reasonable approximation of the interest factor. No shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, and we did not pay preferred stock dividends during these periods. Consequently, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends are the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the same periods listed above.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

This section describes the general terms of our common and preferred stock. A prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus may provide information that is different from this prospectus. If the information in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus with respect to our capital stock being offered differs from this prospectus, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus. A copy of our amended articles of incorporation has been incorporated by reference from our filings with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement. Our capital stock and the rights of the holders of our capital stock are subject to the applicable provisions of the California law, our amended articles of incorporation, and our amended bylaws.

The authorized capital stock of STEC consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock with \$0.001 par value and 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock with \$0.001 par value. As of July 28, 2009, we had 49,515,107 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of preferred stock issued or outstanding. We have no options, warrants or other rights authorized, issued or outstanding other than options and rights granted under our equity compensation plans.

Common Stock*Dividends*

Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. Since becoming a public company, we have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock and do not expect to do so in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain all available funds for use in the operation and expansion of our business. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend principally upon our results of operations, financial conditions, capital requirements, contractual and legal restrictions and other factors the board deems relevant.

Voting Rights

Until we issue any preferred stock with voting rights, the holders of shares of common stock have exclusive voting rights. Each holder of shares of common stock has one vote for each share held. Shareholders cannot cumulate votes in the election of directors.

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STEC common stock currently trades on The NASDAQ Global Select Market of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC. Under the Nasdaq Stock Market's rules, shareholder approval is required for the issuance of shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exercisable for our common stock, if the issuance of such securities:

is in connection with the acquisition of a company, is not in connection with a public offering for cash, and the securities to be issued will have 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before such issuance;

is in connection with the acquisition of a company in which a director, officer of substantial shareholder has a 5% or greater interest, and the issuance of the securities could result in an increase in our outstanding common stock or voting power of 5% or more;

is in connection with a transaction, other than a public offering, at a price less than the greater of book or market value in which the shares issued will equal 20% or more of the shares of our common stock, or have 20% or more of the voting power, outstanding before issuance; or

would result in a change in control.

Under the Nasdaq Stock Market's rules, shareholder approval is also required to establish a stock option or purchase plan in which stock may be acquired by officers and directors other than a broadly-based plan in which other STEC securities holders or employees may participate.

Pre-Emptive Rights, Redemption

The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. The outstanding shares of common stock are, and the shares of common stock to be issued upon completion of this offering will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of STEC, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to the prior distribution rights of any outstanding preferred stock.

Preferred Stock

The board of directors will have the authority, without further action by the shareholders, to issue up to 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The board of directors will also have the authority to designate the price, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each such series, including dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of the common stock.

The issuance of preferred stock might have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of STEC without further action by the shareholders. The issuance of preferred stock with voting and conversion rights might also adversely affect the voting power of the holders of common stock. In some circumstances, an issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of decreasing the market price of the common stock. There are no shares of preferred stock currently outstanding.

The following description of our preferred stock, and any description of our preferred stock in a prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the California Corporation Code, and the actual terms and provisions contained in our articles of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended from time to time.

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Terms

Unless provided in a supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus, the shares of our preferred stock to be issued will have no preemptive rights. Any prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus offering our preferred stock will furnish the following information with respect to the preferred stock offered:

number of shares of preferred stock to be issued and the offering price of the preferred stock;

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

dividend rights;

dividend rates, periods, or payment dates, or methods of calculation of dividends applicable to the preferred stock;

the date from which distributions on the preferred stock shall accumulate, if applicable;

right to convert the preferred stock into a different type of security;

voting rights attributable to the preferred stock;

rights and preferences upon our liquidation or winding up of our affairs;

terms of redemption;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);

a discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

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the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to distribution rights (including whether any liquidation preference as to the preferred stock will be treated as a liability for purposes of determining the availability of assets for distributions to holders of stock ranking junior to the shares of preferred stock as to distribution rights);

any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being offered as to distribution rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up or our affairs; and

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

Rank

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus, shares of our preferred stock will rank, with respect to payment of distributions and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and allocation of our earnings and losses:

senior to all classes or series of our common stock, and to all of our equity securities ranking junior to the preferred stock;

on a parity with all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that these equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock; and

junior to all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that these equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock.

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Distributions

Subject to any preferential rights of any outstanding stock or series of stock, our preferred shareholders are entitled to receive distributions, when and as authorized by our board of directors, out of legally available funds, and share pro rata based on the number of preferred shares, common stock and other parity equity securities outstanding.

Voting Rights

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus, holders of our preferred stock will not have any voting rights.

Liquidation Preference

Upon the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, then, before any distribution or payment shall be made to the holders of any common stock or any other class or series of stock ranking junior to the preferred stock in our distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of each series of our preferred stock are entitled to receive, after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities, out of our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders, liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable supplement to this prospectus), plus an amount, if applicable, equal to all distributions accrued and unpaid thereon (which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid distributions for prior distribution periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative distribution). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. In the event that, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all of our outstanding preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all of our stock of other classes or series of equity security ranking on a parity with the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of our preferred stock and all other such classes or series of equity security shall share ratably in the distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If the liquidating distributions are made in full to all holders of preferred stock, our remaining assets shall be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of equity security ranking junior to the preferred stock upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares of stock.

Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any series of preferred stock are convertible into other securities will be set forth in the applicable supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus. These terms will include the amount and type of security into which the shares of preferred stock are convertible, the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof), the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or us, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of that preferred stock.

Redemption

If so provided in the applicable supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus, our preferred stock will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, in whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in such supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus.

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Anti-takeover provisions in our charter documents and stock option plan and California Law Provisions

We have taken a number of actions that could have the effect of discouraging a takeover attempt. For example, provisions of our articles of incorporation and bylaws could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so would be beneficial to our shareholders.

These provisions include:

limitations on who may call special meetings of shareholders;

advance notice requirements for nominations for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by shareholders at shareholder meetings;

elimination of cumulative voting in the election of directors;

the right of a majority of directors in office to fill vacancies on the board of directors;

the ability of our board of directors to issue, without shareholder approval, blank check preferred stock to increase the number of outstanding shares and thwart a takeover attempt.

The California Corporation Code also contains certain provisions applicable to us that may have the effect of deterring or discouraging an attempt to take control of STEC. These provisions, among other things:

require an affirmative vote of all classes of stock voting independently in order to approve a change in control;

restrict business combinations with some shareholders once the shareholder acquires 15% or more of our common stock;

require the company to obtain an affirmative opinion in writing as to the fairness of the offering price, prior to completing the transaction, if an interested person makes an offer to purchase the shares of some or all of the existing shareholders. California law considers a person to be an interested person if the person directly or indirectly controls the company, if the person is directly or indirectly controlled by one of the officers or directors, or if the person is an entity in which one of the officers or directors holds a material financial interest (Section 1203);

if after receiving an offer from such an interested person, a subsequent offer from a neutral third party, to notify the shareholders of this offer and afford each of them the opportunity to withdraw their consent to the interested person offer;

if a single entity or constituent corporation owns more than 50% but less than 90% of the outstanding shares of any class of capital stock and attempts to merge the company into itself or other constituent corporation, non-redeemable securities may only be exchanged for non-redeemable securities of the surviving entity unless all of the shareholders consent to the transaction or the terms of the transaction are approved and determined fair by the California Commissioner of Corporations (Section 1101); and

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any proposed sale or disposition of all or substantially all of assets to any other corporation that is controlled by or under common control with a corporation must be consented to by shareholders holding at least 90% of the outstanding shares of the capital stock or approved and determined fair by the California Commissioner of Corporations (Section 1001(d)).

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities under an indenture between us and a U.S. banking institution, as the indenture trustee. Each indenture will be subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and we may supplement the indenture from time to time after we execute them.

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This prospectus summarizes the material provisions of the indenture and the debt securities that we may issue under an indenture. This summary may not describe all of the provisions of the indenture or of any of the debt securities that might be important to you. For additional information, you should carefully read the forms of indenture that are incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of those debt securities in a supplement to this prospectus and/or free writing prospectus. We will also indicate in the supplement and/or free writing prospectus whether the general terms in this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, you should carefully read this prospectus and the applicable supplement and/or free writing prospectus.

Terms

The prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe the debt securities and the price or prices at which we will offer the debt securities. The description will include:

the title and form of the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities or the series of which they are a part;

the person to whom any interest on a debt security of the series will be paid;

the date or dates on which we must repay the principal;

the rate or rates at which the debt securities will bear interest;

the date or dates from which interest will accrue, and the dates on which we must pay interest;

the place or places where we must pay the principal and any premium or interest on the debt securities;

the terms and conditions on which we may redeem any debt security, if at all;

any obligation to redeem or purchase any debt securities, and the terms and conditions on which we must do so;

the denominations in which we may issue the debt securities;

the manner in which we will determine the amount of principal of or any premium or interest on the debt securities;

the currency in which we will pay the principal of and any premium or interest on the debt securities;

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the principal amount of the debt securities that we will pay upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity;

the amount that will be deemed to be the principal amount for any purpose, including the principal amount that will be due and payable upon any maturity or that will be deemed to be outstanding as of any date;

if applicable, that the debt securities are defeasible and the terms of such defeasance;

if applicable, the terms of any right to convert debt securities into, or exchange debt securities for, shares of our debt securities, preferred stock or common stock or other securities or property;

whether we will issue the debt securities in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the respective depositaries for the global securities and the terms of the global securities;

the subordination provisions that will apply to any subordinated debt securities;

any addition to or change in the events of default applicable to the debt securities and any change in the right of the trustee or the holders to declare the principal amount of any of the debt securities due and payable;

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any addition to or change in the covenants in the indentures; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indentures.

We may sell the debt securities at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. We will describe U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, applicable to debt securities sold at an original issue discount in the prospectus supplement. An original issue discount security is any debt security sold for less than its face value, and which provides that the holder cannot receive the full face value if maturity is accelerated. The prospectus supplement relating to any original issue discount securities will describe the particular provisions relating to acceleration of the maturity upon the occurrence of an event of default. In addition, we will describe U.S. federal income tax or other considerations applicable to any debt securities that are denominated in a currency or unit other than U.S. dollars in the prospectus supplement.

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe, if applicable, the terms on which you may convert debt securities into or exchange them for debt securities, preferred stock and common stock or other securities or property. The conversion or exchange may be mandatory or may be at your option. The prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe how the amount of debt securities, number of shares of preferred stock and common stock or other securities or property to be received upon conversion or exchange would be calculated.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The indebtedness underlying any subordinated debt securities will be payable only if all payments due under our senior indebtedness, as defined in the applicable indenture and any indenture supplement, including any outstanding senior debt securities, have been made. If we distribute our assets to creditors upon any dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar proceedings, we must first pay all amounts due or to become due on all senior indebtedness before we pay the principal of, or any premium or interest on, the subordinated debt securities. In the event the subordinated debt securities are accelerated because of an event of default, we may not make any payment on the subordinated debt securities until we have paid all senior indebtedness or the acceleration is rescinded. If the payment of subordinated debt securities accelerates because of an event of default, we must promptly notify holders of senior indebtedness of the acceleration.

If we experience a bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. The indenture for subordinated debt securities may not limit our ability to incur additional senior indebtedness.

Form, Exchange, and Transfer

We will issue debt securities only in fully registered form, without coupons, and only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof, unless the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus provides otherwise. The holder of a debt security may elect, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities, to exchange them for other debt securities of the same series of any authorized denomination and of similar terms and aggregate principal amount.

Holders of debt securities may present them for exchange as provided above or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer duly executed, at the office of the transfer agent we designate for that purpose. We will not impose a service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, but we may require a payment sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with the transfer or exchange. We will name the transfer agent in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, but we must maintain a transfer agent in each place where we will make payment on debt securities.

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If we redeem the debt securities, we will not be required to issue, register the transfer of or exchange any debt security during a specified period prior to mailing a notice of redemption. We are not required to register the transfer of or exchange of any debt security selected for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of the debt security being redeemed.

Global Securities

The debt securities may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities that will have an aggregate principal amount equal to that of all debt securities of that series. Each global security will be registered in the name of a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement. We will deposit the global security with the depositary or a custodian, and the global security will bear a legend regarding the restrictions on exchanges and registration of transfer.

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities registered, and no transfer of a global security in whole or in part may be registered, in the name of any person other than the depositary or any nominee or successor of the depositary unless:

the depositary is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary; or

the depositary is no longer in good standing under the Exchange Act or other applicable statute or regulation.

The depositary will determine how all securities issued in exchange for a global security will be registered.

As long as the depositary or its nominee is the registered holder of a global security, we will consider the depositary or the nominee to be the sole owner and holder of the global security and the underlying debt securities. Except as stated above, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the global security or any debt security registered in their names, will not receive physical delivery of certificated debt securities and will not be considered to be the owners or holders of the global security or underlying debt securities. We will make all payments of principal, premium and interest on a global security to the depositary or its nominee. The laws of some jurisdictions require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may prevent you from transferring your beneficial interests in a global security.

Only institutions that have accounts with the depositary or its nominee and persons that hold beneficial interests through the depositary or its nominee may own beneficial interests in a global security. The depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown only on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary or any such participant.

The policies and procedures of the depositary may govern payments, transfers, exchanges and others matters relating to beneficial interests in a global security. We and the trustee will assume no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the depositary's or any participant's records relating to, or for payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment and Paying Agents

We will pay principal and any premium or interest on a debt security to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest.

We will pay principal and any premium or interest on the debt securities at the office of our designated paying agent. Unless the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus indicate otherwise, the corporate trust office of the trustee will be the paying agent for the debt securities.

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Any other paying agents we designate for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus. We may designate additional paying agents, rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, but we must maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities.

The paying agent will return to us all money we pay to it for the payment of the principal, premium or interest on any debt security that remains unclaimed for a specified period. Thereafter, the holder may look only to us for payment, as an unsecured general creditor.

Consolidation, Merger, and Sale of Assets

Under the terms of the indentures, so long as any securities remain outstanding, we may not consolidate or enter into a share exchange with or merge into any other person, in a transaction in which we are not the surviving corporation, or sell, convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

the successor assumes our obligations under the debt securities and the indentures; and

we meet the other conditions described in the indentures.

Events of Default

Each of the following will constitute an event of default under each indenture:

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

failure to pay any interest on any debt security when due, for more than a specified number of days past the due date;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment when due;

failure to perform any covenant or agreement in the indenture that continues for a specified number of days after written notice has been given by the trustee or the holders of a specified percentage in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series;

events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and

any other event of default specified in the prospectus supplement.

If an event of default occurs and continues, both the trustee and holders of a specified percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may declare the principal amount of the debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may rescind and annul the acceleration if all events of default, other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal, have been cured or waived.

Except for its duties in case of an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless the holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity. If they provide this indemnification and subject to conditions specified in the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series.

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No holder of a debt security of any series may institute any proceeding with respect to the indentures, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy, unless:

the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default;

the holders of a specified percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series have made a written request upon the trustee, and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee, to institute the proceeding;

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the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding for a specified period of time after its receipt of the notification; and

the trustee has not received a direction inconsistent with the request within a specified number of days from the holders of a specified percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series.

Modification and Waiver

We and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of notes may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of the holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of notes;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption, of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive any past default under the indenture with respect to debt securities of that series, except a default in the payment of principal, premium or interest on any debt security of that series or in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture that cannot be amended without each holder's consent.

Except in limited circumstances, we may set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities of any series entitled to give or take any direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action under the indentures. In limited circumstances, the trustee may set a record date. To be effective, the action must be taken by holders of the requisite principal amount of such debt securities within a specified period following the record date.

Defeasance

To the extent stated in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus, we may elect to apply the provisions in the indentures relating to defeasance and discharge of indebtedness, or to defeasance of restrictive covenants, to the debt securities of any series. The indentures provide that, upon satisfaction of the requirements described below, we may terminate all of our obligations under the debt securities of any series and the applicable indenture, known as legal defeasance, other than our obligation:

to maintain a registrar and paying agents and hold monies for payment in trust;

to register the transfer or exchange of the notes; and

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to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen notes.

In addition, we may terminate our obligation to comply with any restrictive covenants under the debt securities of any series or the applicable indenture, known as covenant defeasance.

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We may exercise our legal defeasance option even if we have previously exercised our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise either defeasance option, payment of the notes may not be accelerated because of the occurrence of events of default.

To exercise either defeasance option as to debt securities of any series, we must irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee money and/or obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States that will provide money in an amount sufficient in the written opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and each installment of interest on the debt securities. We may only establish this trust if, among other things:

no event of default shall have occurred or be continuing;

in the case of legal defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or there has been a change in law, which in the opinion of our counsel, provides that holders of the debt securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred;

in the case of covenant defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred; and

we satisfy other customary conditions precedent described in the applicable indenture.

Notices

We will mail notices to holders of debt securities as indicated in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus.

Title

We may treat the person in whose name a debt security is registered as the absolute owner, whether or not such debt security may be overdue, for the purpose of making payment and for all other purposes.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares or some multiple of shares of preferred stock, rather than individual shares of preferred stock. If we choose to do so, we will issue depositary receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction or a multiple of a share of a particular series of preferred stock as described below.

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe the specific terms of any issuance of depositary shares. You should read the particular terms of any depositary shares we offer in any prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus, together with the more detailed form of deposit agreement,

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including the form of depositary receipt relating to the depositary shares, which will be filed as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus also will state whether any of the terms summarized below do not apply to the depositary shares being offered.

General

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement among us, a bank or trust company we select, with its principal executive office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000, as depositary, which we refer to as the preferred stock depositary, and the holders from time to time of depositary receipts issued under the agreement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each holder of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the fraction or multiple of a share of preferred stock represented by that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by that depositary share, including dividend, voting and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional or multiple shares of the related series of preferred stock. Immediately following the issuance of shares of a series of preferred stock, we will deposit those shares with the preferred stock depositary, which will then issue and deliver the depositary receipts to the purchasers.

Depositary receipts will only be issued evidencing whole depositary shares. A depositary receipt may evidence any number of whole depositary shares.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred stock depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received on the related series of preferred stock to the record holders of depositary receipts relating to those series in proportion to the number of the depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts those holders own.

If we make a distribution other than in cash, the preferred stock depositary will distribute the property it receives to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts those holders own, unless the preferred stock depositary determines that the distribution cannot be made proportionately among those holders or that it is not feasible to make the distribution. In that event, the preferred stock depositary may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds to the holders in proportion to the number of depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts they own.

The amount distributed to holders of depositary shares will be reduced by any amounts required to be withheld by us or the preferred stock depositary on account of taxes or other governmental charges.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

Voting

Upon receiving notice of any meeting at which the holders of any series of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the preferred stock depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of the meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts relating to that series of preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary

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receipts on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the related series of preferred stock, may instruct the preferred stock depositary how to exercise his or her voting rights. The preferred stock depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote or cause to be voted the maximum number of whole shares of the preferred stock represented by those depositary shares in accordance with those instructions received sufficiently in advance of the meeting, and we will agree to take all reasonable action that may be deemed necessary by the preferred stock depositary in order to enable the preferred stock depositary to do so. The preferred stock depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock for which it does not receive specific instructions from the holder of the depositary shares representing them.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Depositary shares will be redeemed from any proceeds received by the preferred stock depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the series of the preferred stock represented by those depositary shares. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction or multiple of the redemption price per share payable with respect to the series of the preferred stock. If we redeem shares of a series of preferred stock held by the preferred stock depositary, the preferred stock depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock that we redeem. If less than all the depositary shares will be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or substantially equivalent method determined by the preferred stock depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding, and all rights of the holders of the depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the monies payable and any other property to which the holders were entitled upon the redemption upon surrender to the preferred stock depositary of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares. Any funds deposited by us with the preferred stock depositary for any depositary shares that the holders fail to redeem will be returned to us after a period of two years from the date the funds are deposited.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

We may amend the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement at any time and from time to time by agreement with the preferred stock depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts will not be effective unless it has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement will automatically terminate after there has been a final distribution on the related series of preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and that distribution has been made to the holders of depositary shares or all of the depositary shares have been redeemed.

Charges of Preferred Stock Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay all charges of the preferred stock depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the related series of preferred stock, the initial issuance of the depositary shares, all withdrawals of shares of the related series of preferred stock by holders of depositary shares and the registration of transfers of title to any depositary shares.

However, holders of depositary shares will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and the other charges expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Corporate Trust Office of Preferred Stock Depositary

The preferred stock depositary's corporate trust office will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to a series of depositary shares. The preferred stock depositary will act as transfer agent and registrar for depositary receipts, and, if shares of a series of preferred stock are redeemable, the preferred stock depositary will act as redemption agent for the corresponding depositary receipts.

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Resignation and Removal of Preferred Stock Depositary

The preferred stock depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us written notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the preferred stock depositary. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor preferred stock depositary. A successor must be appointed by us within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

Reports to Holders

We will deliver all required reports and communications to holders of the preferred stock to the preferred stock depositary, and it will forward those reports and communications to the holders of depositary shares. Upon request, the preferred stock depositary will provide for inspection to the holders of depositary shares the transfer books of the depositary and the list of holders of receipts; provided that any requesting holder certifies to the preferred stock depositary that such inspection is for a proper purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an owner of depositary shares evidenced by the receipts.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WARRANTS

We may issue securities warrants from time to time in one or more series for the purchase of our common stock, debt securities or preferred stock or any combination of those securities. Securities warrants may be issued independently or together with any shares of common stock, debt securities or shares of preferred stock offered by any prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus and may be attached to or separate from these shares of common stock, debt securities or shares of preferred stock. Each series of securities warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent or any other bank or trust company specified in the related prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to the particular issue of securities warrants. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the securities warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of securities warrants or beneficial owners of securities warrants. The specific terms of a series of securities warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to that series of securities warrants along with any general provisions applicable to that series of warrants. The following description of the warrants, and any description of the securities warrants in a prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus, is a summary. This summary description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the underlying warrant agreement, which we will file or incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part at or prior to the time of the sale of the securities warrants.

Terms

If securities warrants are offered by us, the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe the terms of the securities warrants, including the following if applicable to the particular offering:

the title of the warrants;

the total number of warrants;

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

the currency, currencies, including composite currencies or currency units, in which the price of the warrants may be payable;

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

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the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency, currencies or currency units and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants and the price at which the debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

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the designation and terms of the debt securities or preferred stock with which the securities warrants are issued and the number of securities warrants issued with each debt security or share of preferred stock;

the date on and after which the securities warrants and the related common stock, debt securities or preferred stock will be separately transferable;

if applicable, the date on which the right to exercise the securities warrants shall commence and the date on which this right shall expire;

whether the securities warrants will be issued in registered or bearer form;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

a discussion of federal income tax, accounting and other special considerations, procedures and limitations relating to the securities warrants; and

any other terms of the securities warrants including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Securities warrants may be exchanged for new securities warrants of different denominations, may (if in registered form) be presented for registration of transfer, and may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of their securities warrants, holders of securities warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of shares of common stock, the debt securities or shares of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise, including the right to receive payments of principal of, any premium on, or any interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise or to enforce the covenants in the indenture or to receive payments of dividends, if any, on the common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

Exercise of Securities Warrants

Each securities warrant will entitle the holder to purchase a principal amount of debt securities or a number of shares of common stock or preferred stock at an exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to those securities warrant. Securities warrants may be exercised at the times set forth in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to such securities warrants. After the close of business on the expiration date (or any later date to which the expiration date may be extended by us), unexercised securities warrants will become void. Subject to any restrictions and additional requirements that may be set forth in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating thereto, securities warrants may be exercised by delivery to the warrant agent of the certificate evidencing the securities warrants properly completed and duly executed and of payment as provided in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus of the amount required to purchase the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise. The exercise price will be the price applicable on the date of payment in full, as set forth in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus relating to the securities warrants. Upon receipt of the payment and the certificate representing the securities warrants to be exercised properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the securities warrants represented by that certificate are exercised, a new certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of securities warrants.

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DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of our common stock or preferred stock (or a range of numbers of shares pursuant to a predetermined formula) at a future date or dates. The price per share of common or preferred stock and the number of shares of common or preferred stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts.

The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units, often known as stock purchase units, consisting of a stock purchase contract and either:

our debt securities;

our preferred stock; or

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

These securities or third party debt obligations would secure the holders' obligations to purchase the common or preferred stock under the stock purchase contracts.

The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or pre-funded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations in a specified manner, and in specified circumstances we may deliver newly issued, prepaid stock purchase contracts, often known as prepaid securities, upon release to a holder of any collateral securing the holder's obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will describe the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, and, if applicable, prepaid securities. The description in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will be a summary and reference will be made to the stock purchase contracts, any collateral and depositary arrangements relating to the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units; and, if applicable the prepaid securities. Material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the stock purchase contracts and the stock purchase units will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the offered securities through agents, through underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers or through a combination of any of these methods of sale. We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

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

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LEGAL MATTERS

In connection with particular offerings of securities in the future, the validity of those securities will be passed upon for STEC by the law firm of Reed Smith LLP, or others named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Counsel for any underwriters or agents shall also be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

The following is a statement of the estimated expenses to be incurred by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting discounts, commissions and transfer taxes.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Fee | \$ * |
| Blue Sky Fees and Expenses | \$ (1) |
| Stock Exchange Listing Fee | \$ (1) |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | \$ (1)(2) |
| Accounting Fees and Expenses | \$ (1)(2) |
| Transfer Agent Fees and Expenses | \$ (1) |
| Rating Agency Fees | \$ (1) |
| Trustee s and Depositary s Fees and Expenses | \$ (1) |
| Printing and Engraving Expenses | \$ (1) |
| Miscellaneous | \$ (1) |
| Total | \$ (1) |

* To be deferred pursuant to Rule 456(b) and calculated in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement pursuant to Rule 457(r).

- (1) These fees are calculated based on the securities offered and the number of issuances and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time. An estimate of the amount of expenses will be reflected in the applicable prospectus supplement.
- (2) In connection with preparing this Registration Statement on Form S-3, we incurred approximately \$25,000 in legal fees and expenses, and approximately \$40,000 in accounting fees and expenses.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Registrant s Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation limit the personal liability of its directors for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted by the California Corporation Code. Under California law, a director s liability to a company or its shareholders may not be limited as to:

acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing and culpable violation of law;

acts or omissions that a director believes to be contrary to the best interests of the company or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director;

any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit;

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acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's duty to the company or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing the director's duties, of a risk of serious injury to the company or its shareholders;

acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's duty to the company or its shareholders;

contracts or transactions between the company and a director governed by Section 310 of the California Corporation Code; or

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directors' liability for improper dividends, loans and guarantees under Section 316 of the California Corporation Code. In addition, under California law a director's liability to a company or its shareholders may not be limited as to any act or omission (i) occurring prior to the date when its amended and restated articles of incorporation becomes effective or (ii) occurring in his or her capacity as an officer, notwithstanding that such individual is also a director or that his or her actions, if negligent or improper, have been ratified by the directors.

The limitation of liability does not affect the availability of injunctions and other equitable remedies available to the Registrant's shareholders for any violation by a director of his or her fiduciary duty to the Registrant or its shareholders.

The Registrant's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation also include an authorization for it to indemnify its agents (as defined in Section 317 of the California Corporation Code) through bylaw provisions, by agreement with the agents, vote of the Registrant's shareholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law. Pursuant to this provision, the Registrant's Restated Bylaws provide for indemnification of its directors, officers and employees. In addition, the Registrant may, at its discretion, provide indemnification to persons whom the Registrant is not obligated to indemnify. The Restated Bylaws also allow the Registrant to enter into indemnity agreements with individual directors, officers, employees and other agents. The Registrant currently maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance. Indemnity agreements have also been entered into with all directors and certain executive officers and provide the maximum indemnification permitted by law. These agreements, together with the Registrant's Restated Bylaws and Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, may require the Registrant, among other things, to indemnify its directors and executive officers, other than for liability resulting from willful misconduct of a culpable nature, and to advance their expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified, and obtain officers' and directors' liability insurance if it is maintained for other officers and directors. These agreements do not require the Registrant to indemnify its directors and officers in situations where:

the remuneration rendered against the Registrant's officer or director is determined by final judgment or other final adjudication that such remuneration was in violation of law;

a judgment is rendered against the Registrant's officer or director for an accounting for profits made from the sale of the Registrant's securities under the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, as amended, or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory laws;

the officer's or director's conduct is adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent or deliberately dishonest, or constitutes willful misconduct; or

a court determines that indemnification under the circumstances is not lawful.

Section 317 of the California Corporation Code and the Registrant's Restated Bylaws and its indemnification agreements make provision for the indemnification of officers, directors and other corporate agents in terms sufficiently broad to indemnify such persons, under certain circumstances, for liabilities, including reimbursement of expenses incurred, arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item 16. Exhibits

The list of exhibits is incorporated herein by reference to the Exhibit Index following the signature pages. That Exhibit Index is hereby incorporated by reference in this Item 16.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

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

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- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of a prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant

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will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(j) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the in the City of Santa Ana, State of California, on the 3rd day of August, 2009.

STEC, INC.
(Registrant)

By /s/ Manouch Moshayedi
Manouch Moshayedi
Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman of Board of Directors

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS That each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Manouch Moshayedi and Raymond Cook and each of them, as such person's true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such person and in such person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as such person might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his or her substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--|----------------|
| /s/ Manouch Moshayedi Manouch Moshayedi | Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer) | August 3, 2009 |
| /s/ Mark Moshayedi Mark Moshayedi | President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Technical Officer, Secretary and Director | August 3, 2009 |
| /s/ Raymond Cook Raymond Cook | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | August 3, 2009 |
| /s/ F. Michael Ball F. Michael Ball | Director | August 3, 2009 |
| /s/ Rajat Bahri Rajat Bahri | Director | August 3, 2009 |
| /s/ Christopher Colpitts Christopher Colpitts | Director | August 3, 2009 |

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/s/ Matthew Witte
Matthew Witte

Director

August 3, 2009

/s/ Dan Moses
Dan Moses

Director

August 3, 2009

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit |
|--------------------|--|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement relating to the securities offered by this registration statement* |
| 4.1 | Specimen of Preferred Stock Certificate* |
| 4.2 | Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (Form of Senior Debt Securities included therein) |
| 4.3 | Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (Form of Subordinated Debt Securities included therein) |
| 4.4 | Form of Deposit Agreement (Form of Receipt included therein)* |
| 4.5 | Form of Warrant Agreement (Form of Warrant included therein)* |
| 4.6 | Form of Purchase Contract Agreement* |
| 4.7 | Form of Unit Agreement* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Reed Smith LLP regarding the legality of the securities registered under this registration statement |
| 12.1 | Statement regarding Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends |
| 23.1 | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm |
| 23.2 | Consent of Reed Smith LLP (contained in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (contained on signature page) |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility and Qualification of Trustee on Form T-1 under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended* |

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference herein in connection with an offering of the securities registered