

LADENBURG THALMANN FINANCIAL SERVICES INC

Form 424B3

April 28, 2006

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Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
SEC File No. 333-130026

**LADENBURG THALMANN FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.**

8,397,891 shares of common stock

This prospectus relates to 8,397,891 shares of our common stock that may be offered for resale for the account of the selling shareholders set forth in this prospectus under the heading **Selling Shareholders** beginning on page 13, including Dr. Phillip Frost, a director of ours and beneficial owner of 33.5% of our common stock, who is offering for resale 2,420,112 shares of common stock. The selling shareholders may sell these shares in a variety of transactions as described under the heading **Plan of Distribution** beginning on page 16.

Our common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol **LTS**. On April 26, 2006, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$1.18.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares covered by this prospectus. However, we will receive approximately \$3,779,050 as payment for the 8,397,891 shares which we are issuing to the selling shareholders and are being registered for resale under this prospectus.

**Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page 4 for a discussion of information that should be considered in connection with an investment in our common stock.**

**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 April 27, 2006

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus. The selling shareholders are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of our common stock.

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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

We are engaged in retail and institutional securities brokerage, investment banking services and investment activities through our principal operating subsidiary, Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc. We are committed to establishing a significant presence in the financial services industry by meeting the varying investment needs of our corporate, institutional and retail clients.

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is a full service investment banking and brokerage firm that has been a member of the New York Stock Exchange since 1879. It provides its services principally for middle market and emerging growth companies and high net worth individuals through a coordinated effort among corporate finance, capital markets, investment management, brokerage and trading professionals. Ladenburg is subject to regulation by, among others, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the NYSE and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and is a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. Its private client services and institutional sales departments serve approximately 70,000 accounts nationwide and its asset management area provides investment management and financial planning services to numerous individuals and institutions.

**Private Placement**

In November 2005, we completed a private equity offering and received gross proceeds of approximately \$6,221,000 (representing 13,824,331 shares at \$0.45 per share) from various investors unrelated to us. We also received binding subscriptions for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$3,779,000 (representing 8,397,891 shares at \$0.45 per share) from certain affiliates of ours and persons with direct or indirect relationships to us. The issuance of the shares to be sold to certain of our affiliates and persons with direct or indirect relationships to us was approved by our shareholders at a special meeting of shareholders held on April 3, 2006. On April 27, 2006, we accepted the funds for such shares, and issued such shares in return, following receipt of approval from the American Stock Exchange. We agreed to register for re-sale the shares of common stock received by the investors in the private equity offering. Accordingly, we have registered for resale under this prospectus the shares of common stock on behalf of the investors related to us. We have registered for resale under a separate prospectus the shares of common stock on behalf of the investors unrelated to us.

**Corporate History**

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida in February 1996. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in December 1971 and became our wholly owned subsidiary in May 2001. Our principal executive offices, as well as those of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co., are located at 153 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, 49<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022 and both of our telephone numbers are (212) 409-2000. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. has currently branch offices located in Los Angeles, California, Palo Alto, California, Boca Raton, Florida, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Melville, New York and Princeton, New Jersey. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. maintains a website located at [www.ladenburg.com](http://www.ladenburg.com).

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**RISK FACTORS**

You should carefully consider all of the material risks described below before you decide to invest in our company. Our business, financial condition or results of operation could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our common stock could decline because of any one of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

**We have incurred, and may continue to incur, significant operating losses.**

We incurred significant losses from operations during each of the past four calendar years. We cannot assure you that we will be able to achieve or sustain revenue growth, profitability or positive cash flow on either a quarterly or annual basis or that profitability, if achieved, will be sustained. Although we believe that we have adequate cash and regulatory capital to fund our current level of operating activities through March 31, 2007, if we are unable to achieve or sustain profitability, we may not be financially viable in the future and may have to curtail, suspend or cease operations.

**If we are unable to repay our outstanding indebtedness obligations when due, our operations may be materially adversely affected.**

Currently, we have an aggregate of approximately \$5,700,000 of indebtedness, of which \$5,000,000 owed to our former parent is due on December 31, 2006 and approximately \$666,000 from our clearing broker is scheduled to be forgiven in November 2006. However, if the clearing agreement is terminated for any reason prior to the loan maturity date, the loan, less any amount that has been forgiven through the date of the termination, plus interest, must be repaid on demand. We cannot assure you that our operations will generate funds sufficient to repay these or other future debt obligations as they come due. Our failure to repay our indebtedness and make interest payments as required by our debt obligations could have a material adverse affect on our operations.

**We are currently subject to extensive securities regulation and the failure to comply with these regulations could subject us to penalties or sanctions.**

The securities industry and our business is subject to extensive regulation by the SEC, state securities regulators and other governmental regulatory authorities. We are also regulated by industry self-regulatory organizations, including the NYSE, the NASD and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The regulatory environment is also subject to change and we may be adversely affected as a result of new or revised legislation or regulations imposed by the SEC, other federal or state governmental regulatory authorities, or self-regulatory organizations. We also may be adversely affected by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and rules by these governmental authorities and self-regulatory organizations.

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is a registered broker-dealer with the SEC and a member firm of the NYSE. Broker-dealers are subject to regulations which cover all aspects of the securities business, including:

sales methods and supervision;

trading practices among broker-dealers;

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use and safekeeping of customers' funds and securities;

capital structure of securities firms;

record keeping; and

the conduct of directors, officers and employees.

Compliance with many of the regulations applicable to us involves a number of risks, particularly in areas where applicable regulations may be subject to varying interpretation. The requirements imposed by these regulators are designed to ensure the integrity of the financial markets and to protect customers and other third parties who deal with us. Consequently, these regulations often serve to limit our activities, including through net capital, customer protection and market conduct requirements. Much of the regulation of broker-dealers has been delegated to self-regulatory organizations, principally the NASD Regulation, Inc., the regulatory arm of the NASD, and the NYSE, which are our primary regulatory agencies. NASD Regulation and the NYSE adopt rules, subject to approval by the SEC, that govern its members and conducts periodic examinations of member firms' operations.

If we are found to have violated any applicable regulation, formal administrative or judicial proceedings may be initiated against us that may result in:

censure;

fine;

civil penalties, including treble damages in the case of insider trading violations;

the issuance of cease-and-desist orders;

the deregistration or suspension of our broker-dealer activities;

the suspension or disqualification of our officers or employees; or

other adverse consequences.

The imposition of any of these or other penalties could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

**We may incur significant losses from trading and investment activities due to market fluctuations and volatility.**

We generally maintain trading and investment positions in the equity markets. To the extent that we own assets, i.e., have long positions, in those markets, a downturn in those markets could result in losses from a decline in the value of those long positions. Conversely, to the extent that we have sold assets that we do not own, i.e., have short positions, in any of those markets, an upturn in those markets could expose us to potentially unlimited losses as we attempt to cover our short positions by acquiring assets in a rising market.

We may from time to time have a trading strategy consisting of holding a long position in one security and a short position in another security from which we expect to earn revenues based on changes

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in the relative value of the two securities. If, however, the relative value of the two securities changes in a direction or manner that we did not anticipate or against which we are not hedged, we might realize a loss in those paired positions. In addition, we maintain trading positions that can be adversely affected by the level of volatility in the financial markets, i.e., the degree to which trading prices fluctuate over a particular period, in a particular market, regardless of market levels.

**We may need to raise additional funds in the near future.**

Our capital requirements continue to be adversely affected by our inability to generate cash from operations. We have been forced to rely on borrowings and proceeds from the sale of our common stock in order to generate working capital for our operations. Accordingly, we may need to seek to raise additional capital through other available sources, including through equity offerings or borrowing additional funds on a short-term basis from third parties, including our current shareholders and clearing broker. As of December 31, 2005, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$10,936,000. Accordingly, if we continue to be unable to generate cash from operations and are unable to find sources of funding, it would have an adverse impact on our liquidity and operations.

**We may be prohibited from underwriting securities due to capital limits.**

From time to time, our underwriting activities may require that we temporarily receive an infusion of capital for regulatory purposes. This is predicated on the amount of commitment Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. makes for each underwriting. In the past, we borrowed such funds from our current shareholders or clearing firm. Should we no longer be able to receive such funding from these sources, and if there are no other viable sources available, it would have an adverse impact on our ability to generate profits, recruit financial consultants and retain existing customers.

**Our expenses may increase due to real estate commitments.**

We have ceased using our Madison Avenue (New York City) office space and have subleased the entire premises to various subtenants. Should any of the sub-tenants not renew or renew for a sub-rental less than Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.'s lease commitments, or not pay their rent for an extended period of time, it may have a material adverse effect on Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.'s financial position and liquidity.

**Our business could be adversely affected by a downturn in the financial markets.**

As a securities broker-dealer, our business is materially affected by conditions in the financial markets and economic conditions generally, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. Many factors or events could lead to a downturn in the financial markets including war, terrorism, natural catastrophes and other types of disasters. These types of events could cause people to begin to lose confidence in the financial markets and their ability to function effectively. If the financial markets are

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unable to effectively prepare for these types of events and ease public concern over their ability to function, our revenues are likely to decline and our operations will be adversely affected.

**Our revenues may decline in adverse market or economic conditions.**

During the past several years, unfavorable financial and economic conditions have reduced the number and size of the transactions in which we provide underwriting services, merger and acquisition consulting and other services. Our investment banking revenues, in the form of financial advisory and underwriting fees, are directly related to the number and size of the transactions in which we participate and therefore may be adversely affected by any downturn in the securities markets. Additionally, downturn in market conditions may lead to a decline in the volume of transactions that we execute for our customers and, therefore, to a decline in the revenues we would otherwise receive from commissions and spreads. Should these adverse financial and economic conditions appear and persist for any extended period of time, we will incur a further decline in transactions and revenues that we receive from commissions and spreads.

**We depend on our senior employees and the loss of their services could harm our business.**

Our success is dependent in large part upon the services of several of our senior executives and employees, including those of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. We do not maintain and do not intend to obtain key man insurance on the life of any executive or employee. If our senior executives or employees terminate their employment with us and we are unable to find suitable replacements in relatively short periods of time, our operations may be materially and adversely affected.

**We face significant competition for professional employees.**

From time to time, individuals we employ may choose to leave our company to pursue other opportunities. We have experienced losses of registered representatives, trading and investment banking professionals in the past, and the level of competition for key personnel remains intense. We cannot assure you that the loss of key personnel will not occur again in the future. The loss of a registered representative or a trading or investment banking professional, particularly a senior professional with a broad range of contacts in an industry, could materially and adversely affect our operating results.

**Our principal shareholders including our directors and officers control a large percentage of our shares of common stock and can significantly influence our corporate actions.**

At the present time, our executive officers, directors and companies that these individuals are affiliated with beneficially own approximately 47.6% of our common stock. Accordingly, these individuals and entities will be able to significantly influence most, if not all, of our corporate actions, including the election of directors and the appointment of officers. Additionally, this ownership of our common stock may make it difficult for a third party to acquire control of us, therefore possibly discouraging third parties from seeking to acquire us. A third party would have to negotiate any possible transactions with these principal shareholders, and their interests may be different from the interests of our other shareholders. This may depress the price of our common stock.

**The American Stock Exchange may delist our common stock from quotation on its exchange.**

Our common stock is currently quoted on the American Stock Exchange. In order to continue quotation of our common stock, we must maintain certain financial, distribution and stock price levels. Generally, we must



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maintain a minimum amount in shareholders' equity (usually between \$2,000,000 and \$4,000,000) and a minimum number of public shareholders (usually 300 shareholders). Additionally, our common stock cannot have what is deemed to be a "low selling price" as determined by the Exchange.

On April 26, 2006, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$1.18. If the Exchange determines that this is a "low selling price," it may require us to effect a reverse split or suspend or remove our common stock from listing on the Exchange. In determining whether a reverse split or suspension or removal is appropriate, the Exchange will consider all pertinent factors including market conditions in general, the number of shares outstanding, plans which may have been formulated by management, applicable regulations of the state or country of incorporation or of any governmental agency having jurisdiction over the company and the relationship to other Exchange policies regarding continued listing.

If the Exchange delists our common stock from trading on its exchange, we could face significant material adverse consequences including:

- a limited availability of market quotations for our common stock;

- a determination that our common stock is a "penny stock" which will require brokers trading in our common stock to adhere to more stringent rules and possibly resulting in a reduced level of trading activity in the secondary trading market for our common stock;

- a limited amount of news and analyst coverage for our company; and

- a decreased ability to issue additional securities or obtain additional financing in the future.

**We may lose customers and our revenues may decline due to our lack of online trading service capability.**

A growing number of brokerage firms offer online trading services to their customers in response to increased customer demand for these services. Currently, we are unable to offer online trading services, nor do we anticipate having such ability in the near future. Should we offer such services in the future, the services may not appeal to our current or prospective customers and these services may not be profitable. Our failure to commence online trading services in the near future could have a material adverse effect on our business including the loss of our existing customers to competitors that do offer these services. Additionally, if we commence online trading services but are unable to attract customers for those services, our revenues will decline.

**We rely on one primary clearing broker and the termination of the agreement with this clearing broker could disrupt our business.**

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. primarily uses one clearing broker to process its securities transactions and maintain customer accounts on a fee basis. The clearing broker also provides billing services, extends credit and provides for control and receipt, custody and delivery of securities. In November 2002, we renegotiated a clearing agreement with one of our clearing brokers whereby this clearing broker became our primary clearing broker, clearing substantially all of our business (the "Clearing Conversion"). As part of the new agreement with this clearing broker, we are realizing significant cost savings from reduced ticket charges and other incentives. In addition, under the new clearing agreement, an affiliate of the clearing broker loaned us an aggregate of \$3,500,000 (the "Clearing

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Loans ) in December 2002, with various terms and maturing at various dates through December 2006. As scheduled, \$1,500,000, \$667,000 and \$667,000 of the Clearing Loans were forgiven in November 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively. The remaining principal balance of \$666,000 of the Clearing Loans is scheduled to be forgiven in November 2006. However, if the clearing agreement is terminated for any reason prior to the loan maturity date, the loan, less any amount that has been forgiven through the date of the termination, plus interest, must be repaid on demand.

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. depends on the operational capacity and ability of the clearing broker for the orderly processing of transactions. In addition, by engaging the processing services of a clearing firm, Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is exempt from some capital reserve requirements and other regulatory requirements imposed by federal and state securities laws. If the clearing agreement is terminated for any reason, we would be forced to find an alternative clearing firm. We cannot assure you that we would be able to find an alternative clearing firm on acceptable terms to us or at all.

**Our clearing broker extends credit to our clients and we are liable if the clients do not pay.**

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. permits its clients to purchase securities on a margin basis or sell securities short, which means that the clearing firm extends credit to the client secured by cash and securities in the client's account. During periods of volatile markets, the value of the collateral held by the clearing broker could fall below the amount borrowed by the client. If margin requirements are not sufficient to cover losses, the clearing broker sells or buys securities at prevailing market prices, and may incur losses to satisfy client obligations. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. has agreed to indemnify the clearing broker for losses it may incur while extending credit to its clients.

**We are subject to various risks associated with the securities industry.**

As a securities broker-dealer, Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is subject to uncertainties that are common in the securities industry. These uncertainties include:

the volatility of domestic and international financial, bond and stock markets;

extensive governmental regulation;

litigation;

intense competition;

substantial fluctuations in the volume and price level of securities; and

dependence on the solvency of various third parties.

As a result, revenues and earnings may vary significantly from quarter to quarter and from year to year. In periods of low volume, profitability is impaired because certain expenses remain relatively fixed. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is much smaller and has much less capital than many competitors in the securities industry. In the event of a market downturn, our business could be adversely affected in many ways. Our revenues are likely to decline in such circumstances and, if we are unable to reduce expenses at the same pace, our profit margins would erode.

**Our risk management policies and procedures may leave us exposed to unidentified risks or an unanticipated level of risk.**

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The policies and procedures we employ to identify, monitor and manage risks may not be fully effective. Some methods of risk management are based on the use of observed historical market behavior. As a result, these methods may not predict future risk exposures, which could be significantly greater than the historical measures indicate. Other risk management methods depend on evaluation of information regarding markets, clients or other matters that are publicly available or otherwise accessible by us. This information may not be accurate, complete, up-to-date or properly evaluated. Management of operational, legal and regulatory risk requires, among other things, policies and procedures to properly record and verify a large number of transactions and events. We cannot assure you that our policies and procedures will effectively and accurately record and verify this information.

We seek to monitor and control our risk exposure through a variety of separate but complementary financial, credit, operational and legal reporting systems. We believe that we effectively evaluate and manage the market, credit and other risks to which we are exposed. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of our ability to manage risk exposure can never be completely or accurately predicted or fully assured. For example, unexpectedly large or rapid movements or disruptions in one or more markets or other unforeseen developments can have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. The consequences of these developments can include losses due to adverse changes in inventory values, decreases in the liquidity of trading positions, higher volatility in earnings, increases in our credit risk to customers as well as to third parties and increases in general systemic risk.

**Credit risk exposes us to losses caused by financial or other problems experienced by third parties.**

We are exposed to the risk that third parties that owe us money, securities or other assets will not perform their obligations. These parties include:

trading counterparties;

customers;

clearing agents;

exchanges;

clearing houses; and

other financial intermediaries as well as issuers whose securities we hold.

These parties may default on their obligations owed to us due to bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, operational failure or other reasons. This risk may arise, for example, from:

holding securities of third parties;

executing securities trades that fail to settle at the required time due to non-delivery by the counterparty or systems failure by clearing agents, exchanges, clearing houses or other financial intermediaries; and

extending credit to clients through bridge or margin loans or other arrangements.

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Significant failures by third parties to perform their obligations owed to us could adversely affect our revenues and perhaps our ability to borrow in the credit markets.

**Intense competition from existing and new entities may adversely affect our revenues and profitability.**

The securities industry is rapidly evolving, intensely competitive and has few barriers to entry. We expect competition to continue and intensify in the future. Many of our competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. Some of our competitors also offer a wider range of services and financial products than we do and have greater name recognition and a larger client base. These competitors may be able to respond more quickly to new or changing opportunities, technologies and client requirements. They may also be able to undertake more extensive promotional activities, offer more attractive terms to clients, and adopt more aggressive pricing policies. We may not be able to compete effectively with current or future competitors and competitive pressures faced by us may harm our business.

**The precautions we take to prevent and detect employee misconduct may not be effective and we could be exposed to unknown and unmanaged risks or losses.**

We run the risk that employee misconduct could occur. Misconduct by employees could include:

employees binding us to transactions that exceed authorized limits or present unacceptable risks to us;

employees hiding unauthorized or unsuccessful activities from us; or

the improper use of confidential information.

These types of misconduct could result in unknown and unmanaged risks or losses to us including regulatory sanctions and serious harm to our reputation. The precautions we take to prevent and detect these activities may not be effective. If employee misconduct does occur, our business operations could be materially adversely affected.

**Failure to comply with net capital requirements could subject us to suspension or revocation by the SEC or suspension or expulsion by the NASD and the NYSE.**

Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is subject to the SEC's net capital rule which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital. We compute net capital under the alternate method permitted by the net capital rule. Under this method, Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. is required to maintain net capital equal to \$250,000. At December 31, 2005, Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. had net capital of \$2,932,000 which exceeded its minimum net capital requirement by \$2,682,000. The net capital rule is designed to measure the general financial integrity and liquidity of a broker-dealer. In computing net capital, various adjustments are made to net worth which exclude assets not readily convertible into cash. Additionally, the regulations require that certain assets, such as a broker-dealer's position in securities, be valued in a conservative manner so as to avoid over-inflation of the broker-dealer's net capital. The net capital rule requires that a broker-dealer maintain a certain minimum level of net capital. The particular levels vary in application depending upon the nature of the activity undertaken by a firm. Compliance with the net capital rule limits those operations of broker-dealers which require the intensive use of their capital, such as underwriting commitments and principal trading activities. The rule also limits the ability of securities firms to pay dividends or make payments on certain indebtedness such as subordinated debt as it matures. A significant operating loss or any charge against net capital could adversely affect the ability of a broker-

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dealer to expand or, depending on the magnitude of the loss or charge, maintain its then present level of business. The NASD and the NYSE may enter the offices of a broker-dealer at any time, without notice, and calculate the firm's net capital. If the calculation reveals a deficiency in net capital, the NASD may immediately restrict or suspend certain or all of the activities of a broker-dealer, including its ability to make markets. Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. may not be able to maintain adequate net capital, or its net capital may fall below requirements established by the SEC, and subject us to disciplinary action in the form of fines, censure, suspension, expulsion or the termination of business altogether.

**Risk of losses associated with securities laws violations and litigation.**

Many aspects of our business involve substantial risks of liability. An underwriter is exposed to substantial liability under federal and state securities laws, other federal and state laws, and court decisions, including decisions with respect to underwriters' liability and limitations on indemnification of underwriters by issuers. For example, a firm that acts as an underwriter may be held liable for material misstatements or omissions of fact in a prospectus used in connection with the securities being offered or for statements made by its securities analysts or other personnel. In recent years, there has been an increasing incidence of litigation involving the securities industry, including class actions that seek substantial damages. Our underwriting activities will usually involve offerings of the securities of smaller companies, which often involve a higher degree of risk and are more volatile than the securities of more established companies. In comparison with more established companies, smaller companies are also more likely to be the subject of securities class actions, to carry directors and officers liability insurance policies with lower limits or not at all, and to become insolvent. Each of these factors increases the likelihood that an underwriter of a smaller company's securities will be required to contribute to an adverse judgment or settlement of a securities lawsuit.

In the normal course of business, our operating subsidiaries have been and continue to be the subject of numerous civil actions and arbitrations arising out of customer complaints relating to our activities as a broker-dealer, as an employer and as a result of other business activities. In general, the cases involve various allegations that our employees had mishandled customer accounts. We believe that, based on our historical experience and the reserves established by us, the resolution of the claims presently pending will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition. However, although we typically reserve an amount we believe will be sufficient to cover any damages assessed against us, we have in the past been assessed damages that exceeded our reserves. If we misjudged the amount of damages that may be assessed against us from pending or threatened claims, or if we are unable to adequately estimate the amount of damages that will be assessed against us from claims that arise in the future and reserve accordingly, our financial condition may be materially adversely affected.

**Possible additional issuances will cause dilution.**

While we currently have outstanding 150,218,934 shares of common stock, options and purchase rights to purchase a total of 22,637,770 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase a total of 200,000 shares of common stock, we are authorized to issue up to 400,000,000 shares of common stock and are therefore able to issue additional shares without being required under corporate law to obtain shareholder approval. If we issue additional shares, or if our existing shareholders exercise their outstanding options, our other shareholders may find their holdings drastically diluted, which if it occurs, means that they will own a smaller percentage of our company.

**We may issue preferred stock with preferential rights that may adversely affect your rights.**

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The rights of our shareholders will be subject to and may be adversely affected by the rights of holders of any preferred stock that we may issue in the future. Our articles of incorporation authorize our board of directors to issue up to 2,000,000 shares of blank check preferred stock and to fix the rights, preferences, privilege and restrictions, including voting rights, of these shares without further shareholder approval.

**WARNING REGARDING OUR USE OF FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Some of the statements contained in this prospectus are forward-looking that relate to possible future events, our future performance and our future operations. In some cases, you can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of words such as may, will, should, anticipates, believes, expects, plans, future, intends, could, potential, continue, or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. These statements are only our predictions. Our actual results could and likely will differ materially from these forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the risks described above and appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. We cannot guarantee future results, levels of activities, performance or achievements. We are under no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus to conform them to actual results or to changes in our expectations.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares covered by this prospectus. However, we have already received approximately \$3,779,050 as payment for the 8,397,891 shares which were issued to the selling shareholders and are being registered for resale under this prospectus.

**SELLING SHAREHOLDERS**

The following table provides certain information with respect to the selling shareholders' beneficial ownership of our common stock as of April 27, 2006 and as adjusted to give effect to the sale of all of the shares offered by this prospectus. Except as otherwise indicated, the number of shares reflected in the table has been determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Unless otherwise indicated, each of the selling shareholders possesses sole voting and investment power with respect to the securities shown.

Name	Shares Beneficially Owned Before Offering		Number of Shares Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering	
	Number of Shares	Percentage		Number of Shares	Percentage
Dr. Phillip Frost <sup>(1)</sup>	47,417,909 <sup>(2)</sup>	31.6%	2,420,112	44,997,797 <sup>(3)</sup>	30.0%
Peter Philipps <sup>(4)</sup>	2,000,000	1.3%	2,000,000	0	0
MZ Trading LLC <sup>(5)</sup>	1,917,978 <sup>(6)</sup>	1.3%	100,000	1,817,978 <sup>(6)</sup>	1.2%
Bradley & Judith Chase JTROS <sup>(7)</sup>	1,111,112	*	1,111,112	0	0
Michael Gross <sup>(7)</sup>	1,000,000	*	1,000,000	0	0
Paul Moskowitz <sup>(8)</sup>	400,000	*	400,000	0	0
Richard J. Lampen <sup>(9)</sup>	288,781 <sup>(10)</sup>	*	100,000	188,781 <sup>(10)</sup>	*
Stacy Weissman <sup>(11)</sup>	200,000	*	200,000	0	0

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Name	Shares Beneficially Owned Before Offering		Number of Shares Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering	
	Number of Shares	Percentage		Number of Shares	Percentage
Peter H. Blum <sup>(12)</sup>	165,000 <sup>(13)</sup>	*	165,000	0 <sup>(13)</sup>	0
Robert A. Coe Revocable Trust <sup>(14)</sup>	150,000	*	150,000	0	0
J. Bryant Kirkland III <sup>(15)</sup>	116,656 <sup>(16)</sup>	*	33,334	83,322 <sup>(16)</sup>	*
William Veghte <sup>(7)</sup>	111,111	*	111,111	0	0
Alexander E. Chapro Profit Sharing Plan <sup>(17)</sup>	100,000	*	100,000	0	0
Paul Weissman <sup>(18)</sup>	100,000	*	100,000	0	0
Dr. Steven A. Rosen <sup>(19)</sup>	140,000 <sup>(20)</sup>	*	40,000	100,000 <sup>(20)</sup>	*
Lonnie Ogulnick <sup>(21)</sup>	97,222	*	22,222	75,000	*
Eric H. Jensen Revocable Trust <sup>(7)</sup> <sup>(22)</sup>	75,000	*	75,000	0	0
Edmond J. Harris <sup>(23)</sup>	63,835	*	20,000	43,835	*
Scott Riemer IRA Rollover <sup>(24)</sup>	60,000 <sup>(25)</sup>	*	50,000	10,000 <sup>(25)</sup>	*
Andrew E. Chapro <sup>(26)</sup>	50,000 <sup>(25)</sup>	*	50,000	0 <sup>(25)</sup>	0
Susan U. Chapro <sup>(27)</sup>	50,000	*	50,000	0	0
Richard J. Rosenstock <sup>(28)</sup>	4,120,979 <sup>(29)</sup>	2.7%	100,000	4,020,979 <sup>(30)</sup>	2.7%

\* Less than 1%.

(1) Dr. Frost has been a director of ours since March 2004. He also served as a member of our board of directors from May 2001 until July 2002.

(2) Represents (i) 2,420,112 shares of common stock purchased in the private placement by Frost Gamma Investments Trust ( Frost Gamma ), a trust

organized under Florida law, (ii) 1,844,366 additional shares of common stock held by Frost Gamma, (iii) 100,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an immediately exercisable warrant held by Frost Gamma, (iv) 43,013,431 shares of common stock held by Frost-Nevada Investments Trust ( Frost Trust ), a trust organized under Florida law, and (v) 40,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options held by Dr. Frost. Dr. Frost is the sole trustee of both Frost Gamma Investments Trust and Frost Trust. As the sole trustee of the Gamma Trust and the Frost Trust, Dr. Frost may be deemed the beneficial owner of all shares



owned by the Gamma Trust and the Frost Trust, respectively, by virtue of his power to vote or direct the vote of such shares or to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares owned by such trusts.

Accordingly, solely for purposes of reporting beneficial ownership of such shares pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, each of these persons will be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares held by any other such person. The foregoing information was derived from an Amendment to Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on April 1, 2005 as well as from information made known to us.

- (3) Represents the shares referred

to in footnote 2  
above except for  
the 2,420,112  
shares referred  
to in (i).

- (4) Peter Philipps is  
the father of  
Michael  
Philipps who  
has been the  
head of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman &  
Co. s  
Institutional  
Sales Trading  
Desk since  
April 2005.

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- (5) Mark Zeitchick is the sole managing member of MZ Trading LLC. Mr. Zeitchick has been a member of our board of directors since August 1999. From August 1999 until December 2003, Mr. Zeitchick served as one of our executive vice presidents. Mr. Zeitchick has also been a registered representative with Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. since March 2001. Mr. Zeitchick has also been affiliated with Ladenburg Capital Management Inc., one of our former operating subsidiaries, since October 1993. Mr. Zeitchick has been Ladenburg Capital Management's co-chairman since November 2001. From September 1995 until November 2001, he was an executive vice

president of  
Ladenburg  
Capital  
Management.  
From May 2001  
until November  
2001, he served  
as chairman of  
Ladenburg  
Capital  
Management,  
and became  
co-chairman in  
November 2001.

- (6) Represents  
(i) 1,526,311  
shares of  
common stock  
held of record by  
MZ Trading  
LLC, and  
(ii) 391,667  
shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
currently  
exercisable  
options held by  
MZ Trading.  
Does not include  
233,333 shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
options held by  
MZ Trading that  
are not currently  
exercisable and  
that will not  
become  
exercisable  
within the next  
60 days.
- (7) Each of Bradley  
Chase, Michael  
Gross, William  
Veghte and Eric  
H. Jensen has

been a member  
of our Advisory  
Board since  
September 2005.

(8) Paul Moskowitz  
has been a  
consultant to  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.  
since  
October 2005.

(9) Mr. Lampen has  
been a member  
of our board of  
directors since  
January 2002.

(10) Includes 80,000  
shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
currently  
exercisable  
options held by  
Mr. Lampen.  
Does not include  
shares of  
common stock  
beneficially  
owned by New  
Valley LLC of  
which  
Mr. Lampen  
serves as an  
executive officer  
of its parent,  
Vector Group  
Ltd.

(11) Stacy Weissman  
is the former  
wife of Lawrence  
B. Weissman  
who was the  
Chief Investment  
Strategist for  
Ladenburg  
Thalman Asset

Management  
Inc., one of our  
wholly owned  
subsidiaries,  
from July 2005  
to January 2006.

(12) Mr. Blum has  
been the senior  
managing  
director of  
investment  
banking of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.  
since June 2004  
and managing  
director of  
investment  
banking of  
Ladenburg  
Capital  
Management  
from April 1997  
through  
October 1998.

(13) Does not include  
10,000 shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
options that are  
not currently  
exercisable and  
that will not  
become  
exercisable  
within 60 days.

(14) Robert A. Coe,  
the trustee of the  
Robert A. Coe  
Revocable Trust,  
is the father of  
Mark D. Coe  
who has been the  
managing  
director of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.

since July 2005  
and was the chief  
investment  
officer of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.  
from July 2005  
to January 2006.  
Mr. Coe  
exercises sole  
voting and  
dispositive power  
over the shares.

- (15) J. Bryant  
Kirkland III  
served as our  
chief financial  
officer from  
June 2001 until  
October 2002.
- (16) Includes 35,000  
shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
currently  
exercisable  
options held by  
Mr. Kirkland.  
Does not include  
shares of  
common stock  
beneficially  
owned by New  
Valley  
Corporation of  
which  
Mr. Kirkland  
serves as an  
executive officer.
- (17) Alexander E.  
Chapro is the  
father of Andrew  
E. Chapro, who  
has been an  
employee of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.

since April 2005.  
Alexander E.  
Chapro is the  
beneficiary of the  
profit sharing  
plan and  
exercises sole  
voting and  
dispositive power  
over the shares.

(18) Paul Weissman is  
the father of  
Lawrence B.  
Weissman.

(19) Dr. Rosen has  
been a member  
of our board of  
directors since  
October 2004.  
Dr. Rosen also  
served as a  
member of our  
board of directors  
from  
August 1999 to  
May 2001.



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(20) Includes 80,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options held by Mr. Rosen.

(21) Lonnie Ogulnick has been an employee of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. since November 2002 and was an employee of Ladenburg Capital Management from May 1998 to December 2002.

(22) Eric H. Jensen is the trustee of the Eric H. Jensen Revocable Trust and exercises sole voting and dispositive power over the shares.

(23) Edmond J. Harris has been an employee of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. since June 1998.

(24) Scott Riemer has been an employee of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. since

March 2005.  
Mr. Riemer is  
the beneficiary  
of the Scott  
Riemer IRA  
Rollover and  
exercises sole  
voting and  
dispositive  
power over the  
shares.

(25) Does not include  
50,000 shares of  
common stock  
issuable upon  
exercise of  
options that are  
not currently  
exercisable and  
that will not  
become  
exercisable  
within 60 days.

(26) Andrew E.  
Chapro has been  
an employee of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.  
since April 2005.

(27) Susan U. Chapro  
is the mother of  
Andrew E.  
Chapro, who has  
been an  
employee of  
Ladenburg  
Thalman & Co.  
since April 2005.

(28) Richard J.  
Rosenstock has  
been a member  
of our board of  
directors since  
August 1999.  
From May 2001  
until December  
2002, Mr.

Rosenstock served as vice chairman of our board of directors and from August 1999 until December 2002, served as our chief operating officer. He also served as our president from August 1999 until May 2001. Since January 2003, Mr. Rosenstock has been a registered representative of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Mr. Rosenstock was affiliated with Ladenburg Capital Management from 1986 until December 2002, serving from May 2001 as Ladenburg Capital Management's chief executive officer. From January 1994 until May 1998, he served as an executive vice president of Ladenburg Capital Management and was its president from May 1998 until November 2001.

(29) Represents (i)  
169,633 shares

of common stock held of record by Richard J. Rosenstock, (ii) 3,701,346 shares of common stock held of record by The Richard J. Rosenstock Revocable Living Trust Dated 3/5/96, of which Mr. Rosenstock is the sole trustee and beneficiary, and (iii) 250,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options held by Mr. Rosenstock.

- (30) Represents (i) 3,701,346 shares of common stock held of record by The Richard J. Rosenstock Revocable Living Trust Dated 3/5/96, of which Mr. Rosenstock is the sole trustee and beneficiary, and (ii) 69,633 shares of common stock held directly by Mr. Rosenstock and (iii) 250,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable

options held by  
Mr. Rosenstock.

Each of the selling shareholders acquired the securities in the private placement in the ordinary course of their business for investment purposes and at the time of the purchase had no agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the securities.

#### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The sale or distribution of the common stock may be effected directly to purchasers by the selling shareholders, or by any donee, pledgee or transferee of the selling shareholders as principals, or through one or more underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents from time to time in one or more public or private transactions by any legally available means, including:

block trades;

on the American Stock Exchange or in the over-the-counter market;

otherwise than on the American Stock Exchange or in the over-the-counter market;

through the writing of put or call options relating to the common stock;

entering into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, and the broker-dealers may in turn engage in short sales of the shares as part of establishing and maintaining the hedge positions they entered into with the selling shareholders;

entering into option or loan transactions that require the selling shareholder to deliver shares to a broker-dealer which may then resell or otherwise transfer the shares pursuant to this prospectus to cover the broker-dealer's own short sales of the shares or to cover short sales of the shares by customers of the broker-dealer;

engaging in short sales of the common stock and delivering shares to cover such short positions;

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the pledging of common stock to a broker-dealer and upon the default by the selling shareholder on the pledge the broker-dealer may sell the pledged shares in accordance with this prospectus;

through the distribution of the common stock by any selling shareholder to its partners, members or shareholders; or

through a combination of these methods of sale.

Any of these transactions may be effected:

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices;

at varying prices determined at the time of sale; or

at negotiated or fixed prices.

The sale or distribution of common stock under this prospectus will be made in compliance with the applicable provisions of NASD Conduct Rule 2720, including 2720(1) [discretionary accounts]. If the selling shareholders effect transactions to or through underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents, these underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling shareholders or purchasers. These discounts, concessions or commissions may be in excess of those customary for the types of transactions involved. However, no NASD member or independent broker-dealer will receive a commission or discount in excess of 8%.

The selling shareholders and any broker, dealer or agent that assists in the sale of the common stock may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act. Accordingly, any profit on the sale of common stock by them and any discounts, concessions or commissions received by any of the underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

Selling shareholders may also resell all or a portion of the common stock in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act. In these cases, they must meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule.

We will pay all of the costs, expenses and fees incident to the registration of the shares offered under this prospectus. The selling shareholders are responsible for any costs, expenses and fees related to the offer and sale of the common stock to the public, including brokerage commissions, fees and discounts of underwriters, brokers, dealers and agents.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the common stock offered by this prospectus has been passed upon by Graubard Miller, New York, New York.

**EXPERTS**

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Our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005 appearing in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, have been audited by Eisner LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon the report of Eisner LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. Any information that we file after the date of this prospectus with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference our documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until all of the securities are sold:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005;

our current report on Form 8-K dated and filed with the SEC on November 30, 2005, as amended on April 4, 2006;

our current report on Form 8-K dated March 25, 2005 and filed with the SEC on March 28, 2005, as amended on April 10, 2006 and April 27, 2006; and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (No. 1-15799) filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

Potential investors may obtain a copy of any of our SEC filings without charge by written or oral request directed to Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 153 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, 49<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022, (212) 409-2000.