

ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form 497
September 21, 2012

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**Filed pursuant to Rule 497
Registration No. 333-181563**

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated August 16, 2012)

\$175,000,000

5.875% Senior Notes due 2022

We are offering \$175,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of 5.875% senior notes due 2022, which we refer to as the Notes. The Notes will mature on October 1, 2022. We will pay interest on the Notes on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 2013. We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time on or after October 1, 2015, at the redemption price discussed under the caption "Specific Terms of the Notes and the Offering - Optional redemption" in this prospectus supplement. The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof.

The Notes will be our direct senior unsecured obligations and rank *pari passu* with all outstanding and future unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness issued by Ares Capital Corporation.

We intend to apply to list the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange. If the application is approved, we expect trading in the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange to begin within 30 days of the original issue date. The Notes are expected to trade "flat." This means that purchasers will not pay, and sellers will not receive, any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes that is not included in the trading price. Currently, there is no public market for the Notes.

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make equity investments.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, a global alternative asset manager and a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Ares Operations LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Investing in the Notes involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page S-14 of this prospectus supplement and page 24 of the accompanying prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in the Notes. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at www.arescapitalcorp.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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	Per Note	Total
Public offering price	100.00%	\$ 175,000,000
Underwriting discount (sales load)	3.00%	\$ 5,250,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to Ares Capital Corporation(1)	97.00%	\$ 169,750,000

(1) Before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, estimated at \$1,000,000.

The public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the Notes will accrue from September 25, 2012 and must be paid by the purchaser if the Notes are delivered after September 25, 2012.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional \$26,250,000 total aggregate principal amount of Notes offered hereby, to solely cover overallocments, if any, within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement. If the underwriters exercise this option in full, the total public offering price will be \$201,250,000, the total underwriting discount (sales load) paid by us will be \$6,037,500, and total proceeds to us, before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, will be \$195,212,500.

THE NOTES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF A BANK AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

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

Delivery of the Notes in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company will be made on or about September 25, 2012.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Morgan Stanley

UBS Investment Bank

Wells Fargo Securities

Co-Managers

Stifel Nicolaus Weisel

Credit Suisse

Janney Montgomery Scott

RBC Capital Markets

Stephens Inc.

The date of this prospectus supplement is September 20, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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This prospectus supplement sets forth certain terms of the Notes that we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement and supplements the accompanying prospectus that is attached to the back of this prospectus supplement. This section outlines the specific legal and financial terms of the Notes. You should read this section together with the more general description of the Notes in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of Our Debt Securities" before investing in the Notes. Capitalized terms used in this prospectus supplement and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the accompanying prospectus or in the indenture governing the Notes.

Issuer	Ares Capital Corporation
Title of the securities	5.875% Senior Notes due 2022
Initial aggregate principal amount being offered	\$175,000,000
Overallotment option	The underwriters may also purchase from us up to an additional \$26,250,000 aggregate principal amount of Notes to cover overallotments, if any, within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.
Initial public offering price	100% of the aggregate principal amount
Principal payable at maturity	100% of the aggregate principal amount; the principal amount of each Note will be payable on its stated maturity date at the office of the Paying Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent for the Notes or at such other office in New York City as we may designate.
Type of Note	Fixed rate note
Listing	We intend to apply to list the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange. If the application is approved, we expect trading in the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange to begin within 30 days of the original issue date.
Interest rate	5.875% per year
Day count basis	360-day year of twelve 30-day months
Original issue date	September 25, 2012
Stated maturity date	October 1, 2022
Date interest starts accruing	September 25, 2012
Interest payment dates	Every January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1, commencing January 1, 2013. If an interest payment date falls on a non-business day, the applicable interest payment will be made on the next business day and no additional interest will accrue as a result of such delayed payment.

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Interest periods	The initial interest period will be the period from and including September 25, 2012, to, but excluding, the initial interest payment date of January 1, 2013, and the subsequent interest periods will be the periods from and including an interest payment date to, but excluding, the next interest payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be.
Regular record dates for interest	Every December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15, commencing December 15, 2012
Specified currency	U.S. Dollars
Place of payment	New York City
Ranking of Notes	The Notes will be our direct unsecured obligations and will rank:

pari passu with our other outstanding and future senior unsecured indebtedness, including without limitation, \$143.8 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.00% senior notes that mature on February 15, 2022 (the "2022 Notes"), \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.75% senior notes that mature on October 15, 2040 (the "2040 Notes"), \$230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 6.875% senior notes that mature on April 15, 2047 (the "2047 Notes" and, together with the 2022 Notes and the 2040 Notes, the "Unsecured Notes"), \$575.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on February 1, 2016 (the "February 2016 Convertible Notes"), \$230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on June 1, 2016 (the "June 2016 Convertible Notes") and \$162.5 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on March 15, 2017 (the "2017 Convertible Notes" and, together with the February 2016 Convertible Notes and the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the "Convertible Notes") outstanding, in each case, as of September 14, 2012;

senior to any of our future indebtedness that expressly provides it is subordinated to the Notes;

effectively subordinated to all of our existing and future secured indebtedness (including indebtedness that is initially unsecured in respect of which we subsequently grant security), to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness, including without limitation, approximately \$67.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness as of September 14, 2012 under our \$900 million revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), to the extent of the value of the assets securing such facility; and

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	<p>structurally subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other obligations of any of our subsidiaries or financing vehicles, if any, including approximately \$372.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness as of September 14, 2012 under the \$620 million revolving funding facility of our wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") (the "Revolving Funding Facility") and approximately \$133.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness as of September 14, 2012 under the \$400 million revolving funding facility of our wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Capital JB Funding LLC ("ACJB LLC") (the "SMBC Funding Facility" and, together with the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility, the "Facilities"). See "The Company Recent Developments."</p>
Denominations	<p>We will issue the Notes in denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof.</p>
Business day	<p>Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday that is not a day on which banking institutions in New York City are authorized or required by law or executive order to close.</p>
Optional redemption	<p>The Notes may be redeemed in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option on or after October 1, 2015, upon not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days written notice by mail prior to the date fixed for redemption thereof, at a redemption price of \$25 per Note plus accrued and unpaid interest payments otherwise payable for the then-current quarterly interest period accrued to the date fixed for redemption.</p> <p>You may be prevented from exchanging or transferring the Notes when they are subject to redemption. In case any Notes are to be redeemed in part only, the redemption notice will provide that, upon surrender of such Note, you will receive, without a charge, a new Note or Notes of authorized denominations representing the principal amount of your remaining unredeemed Notes.</p> <p>Any exercise of our option to redeem the Notes will be done in compliance with the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules, regulations and interpretations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the "Investment Company Act"), to the extent applicable.</p> <p>If we redeem only some of the Notes, the Trustee will determine the method for selection of the particular Notes to be redeemed, in accordance with the Investment Company Act to the extent applicable. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the date of redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes called for redemption.</p>

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Sinking fund	The Notes will not be subject to any sinking fund.
Repayment at option of Holders	Holder will not have the option to have the Notes repaid prior to the stated maturity date.
Defeasance	The Notes are subject to defeasance by us.
Covenant defeasance	The Notes are subject to covenant defeasance by us.
Form of Notes	The Notes will be represented by global securities that will be deposited and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee. This means that, except in limited circumstances, you will not receive certificates for the Notes. Beneficial interests in the Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the Notes through either DTC, if they are a participant, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in DTC.
Trustee, Paying Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent	U.S. Bank National Association
Other covenants	In addition to the covenants described in the prospectus attached to this prospectus supplement, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes:

We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions.

If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the Trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Modifications to events of default
The following event of default, as described in the prospectus attached to this prospectus supplement:

We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, a debt security of the series on its due date, and do not cure this default within 5 days.
with respect to the Notes has been revised to read as follows:

We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, any Note on its due date.

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Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures	Interests in the Notes will trade in DTC's Same Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such Notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. None of the Company, the Trustee or the Paying Agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.
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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including statements concerning:

our, or our portfolio companies', future business, operations, operating results or prospects;

the return or impact of current and future investments;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;

the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;

the impact of changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation thereof) governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies;

the valuation of our investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market;

our ability to recover unrealized losses;

our ability to successfully invest any capital raised in this offering;

market conditions and our ability to access alternative debt markets and additional debt and equity capital;

our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;

Middle East turmoil and the potential for rising energy prices and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;

European sovereign debt issues;

the financial condition of and ability of our current and prospective portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our ability to successfully complete and integrate any acquisitions;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;

the timing, form and amount of any dividend distributions;

the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies; and

the ability of our investment adviser to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements include these words. Our actual results and condition could differ materially from those implied or expressed in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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The forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been based on information available to us as of their respective dates, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we have filed or in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Exchange Act.

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THE COMPANY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and the "investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and the "administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" refers to Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management") and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).

Ares Capital

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act. We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately \$5.8 billion of total assets as of June 30, 2012.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. However, we may from time to time invest in larger companies. In this prospectus supplement, we generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$10 million and \$250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between \$30 million and \$400 million each, investments in the project finance/power generation sector generally range between \$10 million and \$200 million each and investments in the venture finance sector generally range between \$1 million and \$25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on our capital availability.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may

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initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties, such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market.

The first and second lien senior loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Rating Services), which is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms of Ares to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 14 years and its senior partners have an average of over 22 years experience investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity securities. The Company has access to Ares' investment professionals and to Ares' administrative professionals who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations. As of June 30, 2012, Ares had 231 investment professionals and 289 administrative professionals.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through June 30, 2012, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by approximately \$101 million (excluding the one-time gain on our acquisition of Allied Capital Corporation on April 1, 2010 and gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our exited investments have resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 14% (based on original cash invested of approximately \$5.4 billion and total proceeds from such exited investments of approximately \$6.5 billion). Approximately 73% of these exited investments resulted in an aggregate cash flow internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater. Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of our debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. These internal rates of return results are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

In addition, we and General Electric Capital Corporation and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") co-invest through an unconsolidated vehicle, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). The SSLP was initially formed in December 2007 to co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle-market companies. As of June 30, 2012, the SSLP had approximately \$7.7 billion of available capital, approximately \$5.4 billion in aggregate principal amount of which was funded as of June 30, 2012. At June 30, 2012, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately \$1.5 billion, of which

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approximately \$1.1 billion was funded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). As of June 30, 2012, our investment in the SSLP was approximately \$1.1 billion at fair value (including unrealized appreciation of \$26.3 million), which represented approximately 20% of our total portfolio at fair value. Effective March 30, 2012, Ares Capital Management assumed from the Company the role of co-manager of the SSLP. However, this change did not impact the Company's economics in respect of its participation in the SSLP and Ares Capital Management does not receive any remuneration in respect of its co-manager role.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

Our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM"), which became an SEC registered investment adviser effective March 30, 2012, manages 11 unconsolidated credit vehicles and sub-manages or sub-advises four other unconsolidated credit vehicles (these vehicles managed or sub-managed/sub-advised by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Vehicles"), which are described in more detail under "Business Investments Ivy Hill Management, L.P." in the accompanying prospectus. We have also made direct investments in securities of certain of these vehicles. As of June 30, 2012, IHAM had total committed capital under management of approximately \$3.2 billion, which included approximately \$0.3 billion invested by Ares Capital in IHAM or securities issued by the IHAM Vehicles. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012, we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM.

About Ares

Founded in 1997, Ares is a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management and 520 employees as of June 30, 2012.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the origination, acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities generally focus on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies with capital structure issues. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior floating rate debt to common equity. This flexibility, combined with Ares' "buy and hold" philosophy, enables Ares to structure an investment to meet the specific needs of a company rather than the less flexible demands of the public markets.

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Ares is comprised of the following groups:

Private Debt Group. The Ares Private Debt Group manages Ares Capital, Ares Capital Europe (Ares' European private debt business), Ares' commercial real estate business (which includes private funds and Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (NYSE: ACRE)) as well as certain other private funds and managed accounts. The Ares Private Debt Group also co-manages the SSLP. In the aggregate, the Ares Private Debt Group had approximately \$21.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, including capital which may be committed for investment both directly and through certain financial services portfolio companies of the Company. The Ares Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component. The Ares Private Debt Group also makes equity investments in private middle-market companies, usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment.

Capital Markets Group. The Ares Capital Markets Group had approximately \$23.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012 and focuses primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

Private Equity Group. The Ares Private Equity Group had approximately \$9.6 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, primarily through Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund II, L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund III, L.P. and Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund IV, L.P. (collectively referred to as "ACOF"). ACOF generally makes private equity investments in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. In particular, the Ares Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior partners have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 22 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a team of 231 highly disciplined investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 covering current investments in more than 1,100 companies across over 30 industries. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and certain high net worth individuals investing in Ares' funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of 73 U.S.-based investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 led by the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group: Michael Arougheti, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members, including the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group, senior partners in the Ares Private Equity Group and a senior adviser to the Ares Capital Markets Group.

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Recent Developments

In July 2012, pursuant to the terms of the amended Revolving Funding Facility, Ares Capital CP received an increase in the commitments under the Revolving Funding Facility of \$40 million, bringing the total commitment to \$620 million.

In August 2012, we declared a third quarter dividend of \$0.38 per share and an additional dividend of \$0.05 per share. Both dividends are payable on September 28, 2012 to stockholders of record as of September 14, 2012.

In August 2012, we completed a public equity offering (the "August 2012 Offering") through which we sold 25,875,000 shares of common stock (including 3,375,000 shares purchased pursuant to the exercise in full by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional shares). Total proceeds from the August 2012 Offering, net of the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us, were approximately \$427.4 million. We used the net proceeds from the August 2012 Offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility and for general corporate purposes.

On September 7, 2012, our Board of Directors (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Nominating & Governance Committee of the Board, appointed Steven B. McKeever as an independent Class I Director to fill the vacancy on the Board following the death of Kenneth R. Heitz in July 2012. Mr. McKeever, age 52, founded and has served as CEO of Hidden Beach Recordings, an independent record label based in Los Angeles, California, since 1997. Mr. McKeever received his B.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School. The initial term of Mr. McKeever will expire at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders of the Company.

On September 7, 2012, the Board appointed Daniel F. Nguyen as Treasurer of the Company to fill the vacancy in this position following the resignation of Richard S. Davis. Mr. Nguyen also serves as a Vice President of the Company.

On September 14, 2012, we and ACJB LLC entered into an amendment (the "SMBC Amendment") to the SMBC Funding Facility with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and each of the other parties thereto. The SMBC Amendment, among other things, (a) increased the size of the SMBC Funding Facility from \$200 million to \$400 million, (b) extended the reinvestment period from January 20, 2015 to September 14, 2015, and (c) extended the stated maturity date from January 20, 2020 to September 14, 2020.

From July 1, 2012 through September 14, 2012, we had made new investment commitments of \$854 million, of which \$777 million were funded. Of these new commitments, 76% were in first lien senior secured debt, 11% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP which were applied to co-investments with GE in first lien senior secured loans, 7% were in senior subordinated debt, 4% were in second lien senior secured debt and 2% were in other equity securities. Of the \$854 million of new investment commitments, 90% were floating rate, 8% were fixed rate and 2% were non-interest bearing. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 10.1%. We may seek to syndicate a portion of these new investment commitments to third parties, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

From July 1, 2012 through September 14, 2012, we exited \$548 million of investment commitments. Of these investment commitments, 60% were first lien senior secured debt, 26% were second lien senior secured debt, 10% were senior subordinated debt, 3% were collateralized loan obligations and 1% were other equity securities. Of the \$548 million of exited investment commitments, 85% were floating rate investments, 13% were fixed rate investments, 1% were non-interest bearing and 1% were on non-accrual status. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 9.6%. On the \$548 million of

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investment commitments exited from July 1, 2012 through September 14, 2012, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately \$37 million.

In addition, as of September 14, 2012, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately \$296 million and \$200 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions approved by our investment adviser's investment committee and/or for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may syndicate a portion of these investments to third parties. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of these investments.

Our Corporate Information

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

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RISK FACTORS

The Notes will be unsecured and therefore will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we have currently incurred or may incur in the future.

The Notes will not be secured by any of our assets or any of the assets of our subsidiaries. As a result, the Notes are effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we or our subsidiaries have currently incurred and may incur in the future (or any indebtedness that is initially unsecured to which we subsequently grant security) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. In any liquidation, dissolution, bankruptcy or other similar proceeding, the holders of any of our existing or future secured indebtedness and the secured indebtedness of our subsidiaries may assert rights against the assets pledged to secure that indebtedness in order to receive full payment of their indebtedness before the assets may be used to pay other creditors, including the holders of the Notes. As of September 14, 2012, we had \$67.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Facility is secured by certain assets in our portfolio and excludes investments held by Ares Capital CP under the Revolving Funding Facility, those held by ACJB LLC under the SMBC Funding Facility and certain other investments; the indebtedness thereunder is therefore effectively senior to the Notes to the extent of the value of such assets.

The Notes will be structurally subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The Notes are obligations exclusively of Ares Capital and not of any of our subsidiaries. None of our subsidiaries is a guarantor of the Notes and the Notes are not required to be guaranteed by any subsidiaries we may acquire or create in the future. A significant portion of the indebtedness required to be consolidated on our balance sheet is held through subsidiary financing vehicles and secured by certain assets of such subsidiaries. For example, the secured indebtedness with respect to the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility are each held through our wholly owned subsidiaries, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC and ACJB LLC, respectively. The assets of such subsidiaries are not directly available to satisfy the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources Debt Capital Activities" in the accompanying prospectus for more detail on the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility.

Except to the extent we are a creditor with recognized claims against our subsidiaries, all claims of creditors (including trade creditors) and holders of preferred stock, if any, of our subsidiaries will have priority over our equity interests in such subsidiaries (and therefore the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes) with respect to the assets of such subsidiaries. Even if we are recognized as a creditor of one or more of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interests in the assets of any such subsidiary and to any indebtedness or other liabilities of any such subsidiary senior to our claims. Consequently, the Notes will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of any of our subsidiaries and any subsidiaries that we may in the future acquire or establish as financing vehicles or otherwise. As of September 14, 2012, we had \$372.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility and \$133.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the SMBC Funding Facility. All of such indebtedness would be structurally senior to the Notes. In addition, our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, all of which would be structurally senior to the Notes.

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The indenture under which the Notes will be issued will contain limited protection for holders of the Notes.

The indenture under which the Notes will be issued offers limited protection to holders of the Notes. The terms of the indenture and the Notes do not restrict our or any of our subsidiaries' ability to engage in, or otherwise be a party to, a variety of corporate transactions, circumstances or events that could have an adverse impact on your investment in the Notes. In particular, the terms of the indenture and the Notes will not place any restrictions on our or our subsidiaries' ability to:

issue securities or otherwise incur additional indebtedness or other obligations, including (1) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be equal in right of payment to the Notes, (2) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be secured and therefore rank effectively senior in right of payment to the Notes to the extent of the values of the assets securing such debt, (3) indebtedness of ours that is guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries and which therefore is structurally senior to the Notes and (4) securities, indebtedness or obligations issued or incurred by our subsidiaries that would be senior to our equity interests in our subsidiaries and therefore rank structurally senior to the Notes with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries, in each case other than an incurrence of indebtedness or other obligation that would cause a violation of Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions;

pay dividends on, or purchase or redeem or make any payments in respect of, capital stock or other securities ranking junior in right of payment to the Notes;

sell assets (other than certain limited restrictions on our ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets);

enter into transactions with affiliates;

create liens (including liens on the shares of our subsidiaries) or enter into sale and leaseback transactions;

make investments; or

create restrictions on the payment of dividends or other amounts to us from our subsidiaries.

In addition, the indenture will not require us to offer to purchase the Notes in connection with a change of control or any other event.

Furthermore, the terms of the indenture and the Notes do not protect holders of the Notes in the event that we experience changes (including significant adverse changes) in our financial condition, results of operations or credit ratings, as they do not require that we or our subsidiaries adhere to any financial tests or ratios or specified levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow, or liquidity.

Our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the Notes may have important consequences for you as a holder of the Notes, including making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to the Notes or negatively affecting the trading value of the Notes.

Certain of our current debt instruments include more protections for their holders than the indenture and the Notes. See in the accompanying prospectus "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations." In addition, other debt we issue or incur in the future could contain more protections for its holders

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than the indenture and the Notes, including additional covenants and events of default. The issuance or incurrence of any such debt with incremental protections could affect the market for and trading levels and prices of the Notes.

An active trading market for the Notes may not develop, which could limit the market price of the Notes or your ability to sell them. If a rating agency assigns the Notes a non-investment grade rating, the Notes may be subject to greater price volatility than similar securities without such a rating. One rating agency has assigned each of the 2040 Notes and the 2047 Notes a non-investment grade rating.

The Notes are a new issue of debt securities for which there currently is no trading market. We intend to apply to list the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange. If the application is approved, we expect trading in the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange to begin within 30 days of the original issue date. Although we expect the Notes to be listed on The New York Stock Exchange, we cannot provide any assurances that an active trading market will develop for the Notes or that you will be able to sell your Notes. If the Notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our credit ratings, general economic conditions, our financial condition, performance and prospects and other factors. If a rating agency assigns the Notes a non-investment grade rating, the Notes may be subject to greater price volatility than securities of similar maturity without such a non-investment grade rating. One rating agency has assigned each of the 2040 Notes and the 2047 Notes a non-investment grade rating. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, but they are not obligated to do so. The underwriters may discontinue any market-making in the Notes at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the Notes, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. To the extent an active trading market does not develop, the liquidity and trading price for the Notes may be harmed. Accordingly, you may be required to bear the financial risk of an investment in the Notes for an indefinite period of time.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of the \$175.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering will be approximately \$168.8 million (or approximately \$194.2 million if the underwriters fully exercise their over-allotment option), in each case assuming a public offering price of 100% of par, after deducting the underwriting discount of approximately \$5.3 million (or approximately \$6.0 million if the underwriters fully exercise their over-allotment option) payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$1.0 million payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility (\$67.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of September 14, 2012), the Revolving Funding Facility (\$372.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of September 14, 2012) and/or the SMBC Funding Facility (\$133.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of September 14, 2012).

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus an applicable spread of 2.25% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.25%. As of September 14, 2012, one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 0.22%, 0.30%, 0.39% and 0.67%, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on May 4, 2016. Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.50% or on a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.50%. The Revolving Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on April 18, 2017 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent). Subject to certain exceptions, the interest rate charged on the SMBC Funding Facility is based on one month LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.125% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the SMBC Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.125%. The SMBC Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on September 14, 2020 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent). See "The Company Recent Developments."

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility and affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility and/or the Revolving Funding Facility.

We intend to use any net proceeds from this offering that are not applied as described above for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective.

Investing in portfolio companies could include investments in our investment backlog and pipeline that, as of September 14, 2012, were approximately \$296 million and \$200 million, respectively. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation, and there can be no guarantee that we will consummate any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of such investments or commitments.

Our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies. In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. As part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are

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operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

Pending such investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our investment objective and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses. See "Regulation Temporary Investments" in the accompanying prospectus for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objective.

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The following table sets forth our actual capitalization at June 30, 2012. You should read this table together with "Use of Proceeds" described in this prospectus supplement and our most recent balance sheet included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

	As of June 30, 2012 (unaudited, dollar amounts in thousands)
	Actual
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 101,265
Debt(1)	
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 295,000
Revolving Funding Facility	348,000
SMBC Funding Facility	107,000
February 2016 Convertible Notes	544,769
June 2016 Convertible Notes	217,322
2017 Convertible Notes	157,876
2022 Notes	143,750
2040 Notes	200,000
2047 Notes	181,091
Total Debt	2,194,808
Stockholders' Equity(2)	
Common stock, par value \$.001 per share, 400,000,000 common shares authorized, and 222,150,745 common shares issued and outstanding	222
Capital in excess of par value	3,657,160
Accumulated overdistributed net investment income	(9,578)
Accumulated net realized loss on investments, foreign currency transactions, extinguishment of debt and other assets	(267,934)
Net unrealized gain on investments	66,629
Total stockholders' equity	3,446,499
Total capitalization	\$ 5,641,307

- (1) The above table reflects the carrying value of indebtedness outstanding as of June 30, 2012. As of September 14, 2012, outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility was \$67.0 million, \$372.0 million and \$133.0 million, respectively. The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes in this offering are expected to be used to pay down outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility and for general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement.
- (2) The above table does not reflect 25,875,000 shares of common stock issued in connection with the August 2012 Offering for total proceeds, net of the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us, of approximately \$427.4 million.

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UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following discussion is a general summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations (and, in the case of a non-U.S. holder (as defined below), the material United States federal estate tax consequences) applicable to an investment in the Notes. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the income tax considerations applicable to such an investment. The discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), Treasury Regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations, each as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change, potentially with retroactive effect. You should consult your own tax advisor with respect to tax considerations that pertain to your purchase of our Notes.

This discussion deals only with Notes held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code and does not purport to deal with persons in special tax situations, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies and regulated investment companies (and shareholders of such corporations), dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities, former citizens of the United States, persons holding the Notes as a hedge against currency risks or as a position in a "straddle," "hedge," "constructive sale transaction" or "conversion transaction" for tax purposes, entities that are tax-exempt for United States federal income tax purposes, retirement plans, individual retirement accounts, tax-deferred accounts, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, pass-through entities (including partnerships and entities and arrangements classified as partnerships for United States federal income tax purposes) and beneficial owners of pass-through entities, or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. It also does not deal with beneficial owners of the Notes other than original purchasers of the Notes who acquire the Notes in this offering for a price equal to their original issue price (*i.e.*, the first price at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold other than to bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). If you are considering purchasing the Notes, you should consult your own tax advisor concerning the application of the United States federal tax laws to you in light of your particular situation, as well as any consequences to you of purchasing, owning and disposing of the Notes under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of a Note that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof, (iii) a trust (a) subject to the control of one or more United States persons and the primary supervision of a court in the United States, or (b) that has a valid election (under applicable Treasury Regulations) to be treated as a United States person, or (iv) an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source. The term "non-U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of a Note that is neither a U.S. holder nor a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes). An individual may, subject to exceptions, be deemed to be a resident alien, as opposed to a non-resident alien, by, among other ways, being present in the United States (i) on at least 31 days in the calendar year, and (ii) for an aggregate of at least 183 days during a three-year period ending in the current calendar year, counting for such purposes all of the days present in the current year, one-third of the days present in the immediately preceding year, and one-sixth of the days present in the second preceding year. Resident aliens are subject to United States federal income tax as if they were United States citizens.

If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds any Notes, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner of the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership

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and certain determinations made at the partner level. Partners of partnerships holding Notes should consult their own tax advisors.

Taxation of Note Holders

Under present law, we are of the opinion that the Notes will constitute indebtedness of us for United States federal income tax purposes, which the below discussion assumes. We intend to treat all payments made with respect to the Notes consistent with this characterization.

Payments or accruals of interest on a Note generally will be taxable to a U.S. holder as ordinary interest income at the time they are received (actually or constructively) or accrued, in accordance with the U.S. holder's regular method of tax accounting.

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of a Note, a U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement (excluding amounts representing accrued and unpaid interest, which are treated as ordinary income) and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will equal the U.S. holder's initial investment in the Note. Capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Note was held for more than one year. Long-term capital gains recognized by individuals and certain other non-corporate U.S. holders generally are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The distinction between capital gain or loss and ordinary income or loss is also important in other contexts; for example, for purposes of the limitations on a U.S. holder's ability to offset capital losses against ordinary income.

Recent legislation may require certain noncorporate U.S. holders to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on, among other things, interest on and capital gains from the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of the Notes. This legislation would apply for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and disposition of the Notes.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders. A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding taxes on payments of principal or interest on a Note provided that (i) income on the Note is not effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a trade or business within the United States, (ii) the non-U.S. holder is not a controlled foreign corporation related to the Company through stock ownership, (iii) in the case of interest income, the recipient is not a bank receiving interest described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (iv) the non-U.S. holder does not own (actually or constructively) 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company, and (v) the non-U.S. holder provides a statement on an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form) signed under penalties of perjury that includes its name and address and certifies that it is not a United States person in compliance with applicable requirements, or satisfies documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a non-U.S. holder.

A non-U.S. holder that is not exempt from tax under these rules generally will be subject to United States federal income tax withholding on payments of interest on the Notes at a rate of 30% unless (i) the income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business, in which case the interest will be subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis as applicable to U.S. holders generally (unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise), or (ii) an applicable income tax treaty provides for a lower rate of, or exemption from, withholding tax.

In the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation and that receives income that is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business, such income may also be subject to a branch profits tax (which is generally imposed on a non-U.S. corporation on the actual or deemed repatriation from the United States of earnings and profits attributable to a United States

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trade or business) at a 30% rate. The branch profits tax may not apply (or may apply at a reduced rate) if the non-U.S. holder is a qualified resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty.

To claim the benefit of an income tax treaty or to claim exemption from withholding because income is effectively connected with a United States trade or business, the non-U.S. holder must timely provide the appropriate, properly executed IRS forms. These forms may be required to be periodically updated. Also, a non-U.S. holder who is claiming the benefits of a treaty may be required to obtain a United States taxpayer identification number and to provide certain documentary evidence issued by foreign governmental authorities to prove residence in the foreign country.

Generally, a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding taxes on any amount that constitutes capital gain upon the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of a Note, provided the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the non-U.S. holder (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a United States "permanent establishment" maintained by the non-U.S. holder). Certain other exceptions may be applicable, and a non-U.S. holder should consult its tax advisor in this regard.

A Note that is held by an individual who, at the time of death, is not a citizen or resident of the United States (as specially defined for United States federal estate tax purposes) generally will not be subject to the United States federal estate tax, unless, at the time of death, (i) such individual directly or indirectly, actually or constructively, owns ten percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote within the meaning of Section 871(h)(3) of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder or (ii) such individual's interest in the Notes is effectively connected with the individual's conduct of a United States trade or business.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding. A U.S. holder (other than an "exempt recipient," including a corporation and certain other persons who, when required, demonstrate their exempt status) may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28% (which rate currently is scheduled to increase to 31% for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2013) on, and to information reporting requirements with respect to, payments of principal or interest on, and proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of, the Notes. In general, if a non-corporate U.S. holder subject to information reporting fails to furnish a correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with applicable backup withholding requirements, backup withholding at the applicable rate may apply. Non-U.S. holders generally are exempt from information reporting and backup withholding, provided, if necessary, that they demonstrate their qualification for exemption.

You should consult your tax advisor regarding the qualification for an exemption from backup withholding and information reporting and the procedures for obtaining such an exemption, if applicable. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a beneficial owner generally would be allowed as a refund or a credit against such beneficial owner's United States federal income tax provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

You should consult your own tax advisor with respect to the particular tax consequences to you of an investment in the Notes, including the possible effect of any pending legislation or proposed regulations.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are acting as representatives of each of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in a purchase agreement among us and the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase from us, the aggregate principal amount of Notes set forth opposite its name below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$ 32,812,500
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	32,812,500
UBS Securities LLC	32,812,500
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	32,812,500
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated	4,375,000
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	3,500,000
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC	3,500,000
RBC Capital Markets, LLC	3,500,000
Stephens Inc.	2,625,000
BB&T Capital Markets, a division of Scott & Stringfellow, LLC	2,187,500
C.L. King & Associates, Inc.	2,187,500
D.A. Davidson & Co.	2,187,500
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	2,187,500
HRC Investment Services, Inc.	2,187,500
J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.	2,187,500
Keefe Bruyette & Woods, Inc	2,187,500
KeyBank Capital Markets Inc.	2,187,500
Mesirow Financial, Inc.	2,187,500
Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.	2,187,500
Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc.	2,187,500
Ziegler Capital Markets Group	2,187,500
 Total	 \$ 175,000,000

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the purchase agreement, the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the Notes sold under the purchase agreement if any of these Notes are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the purchase agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the nondefaulting underwriters may be increased or the purchase agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the Notes, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the shares, and other conditions contained in the purchase agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Table of Contents**Commissions and Discounts**

The following table shows the total underwriting discounts that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. The information assumes either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriters of their overallotment option.

	Per Note	Without Option	With Option
Public offering price	100.00%	\$ 175,000,000	\$ 201,250,000
Underwriting discount (sales load)	3.00%	\$ 5,250,000	\$ 6,037,500
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	97.00%	\$ 169,750,000	\$ 195,212,500

The underwriters propose to offer some of the Notes to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of the Notes to certain other Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) members at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of 1.50% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of 1.20% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes. After the initial offering of the Notes to the public, the public offering price and such concessions may be changed. No such change shall change the amount of proceeds to be received by us as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$1.0 million and are payable by us.

Overallotment Option

We have granted an option to the underwriters to purchase up to an additional \$26,250,000 aggregate principal amount of the Notes offered hereby at the public offering price within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement solely to cover any overallotments. If the underwriters exercise this option, each will be obligated, subject to conditions contained in the purchase agreement, to purchase a number of additional Notes proportionate to that underwriter's initial principal amount reflected in the above table.

No Sales of Similar Securities

Subject to certain exceptions, we have agreed not to directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, grant any option for the sale of, or otherwise transfer or dispose of any debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company or file any registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to any of the foregoing for a period of 60 days after the date of this prospectus supplement without first obtaining the written consent of the representatives, other than sales of debt securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of capital stock issued by the Company and certain private sales of debt securities. This consent may be given at any time without public notice.

Listing

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We intend to apply to list the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange. If the application is approved, we expect trading in the Notes on The New York Stock Exchange to begin within 30 days after the original issue date. Currently there is no public market for the Notes.

We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the Notes after completion of the offering as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. The underwriters are not obligated, however, to make a market in the Notes and any such market-making

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may be discontinued at any time in the sole discretion of the underwriters without any notice. Accordingly, no assurance can be given as to the liquidity of, or development of a public trading market for, the Notes. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected.

Price Stabilization, Short Positions

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell Notes in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment, covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Overallotment involves sales of securities in excess of the aggregate principal amount of securities to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a short position for the underwriters. Covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of securities made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased Notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Any of these activities may cause the price of the Notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of such transactions. These transactions may be affected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time without any notice relating thereto.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Notes

The underwriters may make prospectuses available in electronic (PDF) format. A prospectus in electronic (PDF) format may be made available on a web site maintained by the underwriters, and the underwriters may distribute such prospectuses electronically. The underwriters may allocate a limited principal amount of the Notes for sale to their online brokerage customers.

Other Relationships

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. The underwriters and their respective affiliates have provided in the past and may provide from time to time in the future in the ordinary course of their business certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services to Ares and its affiliates and managed funds and Ares Capital or our portfolio companies for which they have received or will be entitled to receive separate fees. In particular, the underwriters or their affiliates may execute transactions with Ares Capital or on behalf of Ares Capital, Ares or any of our or their portfolio companies, affiliates and/or managed funds. In addition, the underwriters or their affiliates may act as arrangers, underwriters or placement agents for companies whose securities are sold to or whose loans are syndicated to Ares, Ares Capital or Ares Capital Management and their affiliates and managed funds.

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are limited partners of private investment funds affiliated with our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management.

The underwriters or their affiliates may also trade in our securities, securities of our portfolio companies or other financial instruments related thereto for their own accounts or for the account of

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others and may extend loans or financing directly or through derivative transactions to Ares, Ares Capital, Ares Capital Management or any of our portfolio companies.

We may purchase securities of third parties from the underwriters or their affiliates after the offering. However, we have not entered into any agreement or arrangement regarding the acquisition of any such securities, and we may not purchase any such securities. We would only purchase any such securities if among other things we identified securities that satisfied our investment needs and completed our due diligence review of such securities.

After the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters and their affiliates may from time to time obtain information regarding specific portfolio companies or us that may not be available to the general public. Any such information is obtained by the underwriters and their affiliates in the ordinary course of its business and not in connection with the offering of the Notes. In addition, after the offering period for the sale of the Notes, the underwriters or their affiliates may develop analyses or opinions related to Ares, Ares Capital or our portfolio companies and buy or sell interests in one or more of our portfolio companies on behalf of their proprietary or client accounts and may engage in competitive activities. There is no obligation on behalf of these parties to disclose their respective analyses, opinions or purchase and sale activities regarding any portfolio company or regarding Ares Capital to our noteholders or any other persons.

In the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the Notes. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the Notes. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters serve as agents and/or lenders under our credit facilities or other debt instruments (including the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility) and are also lenders to private investment funds managed by IHAM. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates were underwriters in connection with our initial public offering and our subsequent common stock offerings, debt offerings and rights offering, for which they received customary fees.

Proceeds of this offering will be used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility and for general corporate purposes. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility and affiliates of certain of the underwriters, including Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and RBC Capital Markets, LLC, are lenders under the Revolving Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility and/or the Revolving Funding Facility.

Frank E. O'Bryan, one of our independent directors, holds certain securities of one or more of this offering's underwriters (or their affiliates). As a result, Mr. O'Bryan may be considered an

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"interested person" of the Company during the pendency of this offering under relevant rules of the Investment Company Act.

The principal business address of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is One Bryant Park, New York, New York 10036. The principal business address of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC is 1585 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. The principal business address of UBS Securities LLC is 677 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut 06901. The principal business address of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC is 301 S. College Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288.

Other Jurisdictions

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The Notes offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such Notes be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restriction relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for us by Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles, California, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, Washington, D.C., and Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Proskauer Rose LLP has from time to time represented the underwriters, Ares and Ares Capital Management on unrelated matters. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, New York, New York.

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PROSPECTUS

\$3,000,000,000

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Subscription Rights
Warrants
Units**

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make equity investments.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, a global alternative asset manager and a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Ares Operations LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." On August 13, 2012 the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$17.19 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at June 30, 2012 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus on which we determined net asset value) was \$15.51.

Investing in our securities involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 24 of this prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights and warrants (including as part of a unit) offered hereby may be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. In the event we offer common stock, the offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will generally not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such circumstances as the SEC may permit. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in our securities. Please read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at www.arescapitalcorp.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is August 16, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC, using the "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the headings "Available Information" and "Risk Factors" before you make an investment decision.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" and the other information included in this prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and the "investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and the "administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" refers to Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management") and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).

As described in more detail below, we consummated the acquisition (the "Allied Acquisition") of Allied Capital Corporation ("Allied Capital") on April 1, 2010. Other than as specifically set forth herein, financial information presented herein for and as of periods ending on or prior to March 31, 2010 does not include any information in respect of Allied Capital. In addition, other than as specifically set forth herein, financial information for the year ended December 31, 2010, including, without limitation, with respect to the Company's consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows, only includes results attributable to Allied Capital for the period beginning on April 1, 2010.

THE COMPANY

Overview

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately \$5.8 billion of total assets as of June 30, 2012.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. However, we may from time to time invest in larger companies. In this prospectus, we generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$10 million and \$250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between \$30 million and \$400 million each, investments in the project finance/power generation sector generally range between \$10 million and \$200 million each and investments in the venture finance sector generally range between \$1 million and \$25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on our capital availability.

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To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties, such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market.

The first and second lien senior loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Rating Services), which is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms of Ares to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 14 years and its senior partners have an average of over 22 years experience investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity securities. The Company has access to the Ares staff of 231 investment professionals and 289 administrative professionals as of June 30, 2012, who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through June 30, 2012, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by approximately \$101 million (excluding the one-time gain on the Allied Acquisition and gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our portfolio exits have resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 14% (based on original cash invested of approximately \$5.4 billion and total proceeds from such exits of approximately \$6.5 billion). Approximately 73% of these exits resulted in an aggregate cash flow internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater. Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of our debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. These internal rate of return results are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

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We and General Electric Capital Corporation and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") also co-invest through an unconsolidated vehicle, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). The SSLP was initially formed in December 2007 to co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle-market companies. As of June 30, 2012, the SSLP had approximately \$7.7 billion of available capital, approximately \$5.4 billion in aggregate principal amount of which was funded as of June 30, 2012. At June 30, 2012, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately \$1.5 billion, of which approximately \$1.1 billion was funded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). As of June 30, 2012, our investment in the SSLP was approximately \$1.1 billion at fair value (including unrealized appreciation of \$26.3 million) which represented approximately 20% of our total portfolio at fair value. Effective March 30, 2012, Ares Capital Management assumed from the Company the role of co-manager of the SSLP. However, this change did not impact the Company's economics in respect of its participation in the SSLP and Ares Capital Management does not receive any remuneration in respect of its co-manager role.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation." Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

Our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM"), which became an SEC registered investment adviser effective March 30, 2012, manages 11 unconsolidated credit vehicles and sub-manages or sub-advises four other unconsolidated credit vehicles (these vehicles managed or sub-managed/sub-advised by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Vehicles"), which are described in more detail under "Business Investments Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P." below. We have also made direct investments in securities of certain of these vehicles. As of June 30, 2012, IHAM had total committed capital under management of approximately \$3.2 billion, which included approximately \$0.3 billion invested by Ares Capital in IHAM or securities issued by the IHAM Vehicles. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012 we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM.

About Ares

Founded in 1997, Ares is a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management and 520 employees as of June 30, 2012.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the origination, acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities focus on providing flexible, junior capital to middle-market companies. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior floating rate debt to common equity. This flexibility, combined with Ares' "buy and hold" philosophy, enables Ares to structure an investment to meet the specific needs of a company rather than the less flexible demands of the public markets.

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Ares is comprised of the following groups:

Private Debt Group. The Ares Private Debt Group manages Ares Capital, Ares Capital Europe ("ACE") (Ares' European private debt business), Ares' commercial real estate business (which includes private funds and Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (NYSE: ACRE)) as well as certain other private funds and managed accounts. The Ares Private Debt Group also co-manages the SSLP. In the aggregate, the Ares Private Debt Group had approximately \$21.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, including capital which may be committed for investment both directly and through certain financial services portfolio companies of the Company. The Ares Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component. The Ares Private Debt Group also makes equity investments in private middle-market companies, usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment.

Capital Markets Group. The Ares Capital Markets Group had approximately \$23.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012 and focuses primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

Private Equity Group. The Ares Private Equity Group had approximately \$9.6 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, primarily through Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund II, L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund III, L.P. and Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund IV, L.P. (collectively referred to as "ACOF"). ACOF generally makes private equity investments in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. In particular, the Ares Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior partners have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 22 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a team of 231 highly disciplined investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 covering current investments in more than 1,100 companies across over 30 industries. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and certain high net worth individuals investing in Ares' funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of 73 U.S.-based investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 led by the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group: Michael Arougheti, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members, including the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group, senior partners in the Ares Private Equity Group and a senior adviser to the Ares Capital Markets Group.

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MARKET OPPORTUNITY

We believe that current market conditions present attractive opportunities for us to invest in middle-market companies; specifically:

We believe that the volatility in global markets over the last several years has reduced capital available to certain specialty finance companies and other capital providers, causing a reduction in competition and generally more favorable capital structures and deal terms. These market conditions may continue to create opportunities to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns.

We believe that many traditional bank lenders have, in recent years, de-emphasized their service and product offerings to middle-market businesses in favor of lending to large corporate clients and managing capital markets transactions. In addition, these lenders are limited in their ability to underwrite and syndicate bank loans and high yield securities for middle-market issuers as they seek to build capital and meet future regulatory capital requirements. These factors may result in opportunities for alternative funding sources to middle market companies and therefore more new-issue market opportunities for us.

We believe that there is a lack of market participants that are willing to not only underwrite but also hold loans. As a result, we believe our ability to minimize syndication risk for a company seeking financing by being able to hold our loans without having to syndicate them is a competitive advantage.

We believe there is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital for middle-market businesses. We expect private equity firms will seek to leverage their investments by combining equity capital with senior secured loans and mezzanine debt from other sources, such as us.

We believe that the scheduled expirations of reinvestment periods for a significant amount of collateralized loan obligation vehicles may reduce the amount of funding available for larger middle market businesses over time.

A high volume of senior secured and high yield debt will come due in the near term and, accordingly, we believe that new financing opportunities will increase as many companies seek to refinance this indebtedness.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

We believe that we have the following competitive advantages over other capital providers to middle-market companies:

The Ares Platform

As of June 30, 2012, Ares had approximately \$54 billion of total committed capital under management in the related asset classes of non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans, syndicated loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for Ares Capital. Specifically, the Ares platform provides the Company an advantage through its deal flow generation and investment evaluation process. Ares' asset management platform also provides additional market information, company knowledge and industry insight that benefit the investment and due diligence process. Ares' professionals maintain extensive financial sponsor and intermediary relationships, which provide valuable insight and access to transactions and information. Ares' senior partners have an average of more than 22 years of experience in leveraged finance, including substantial experience in investing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt, distressed debt and private equity securities.

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Seasoned Management Team

The investment professionals in the Ares Private Debt Group and members of our investment adviser's investment committee have significant experience originating and investing across market cycles. As a result of Ares' extensive investment experience in private debt and the history of the Ares Private Debt Group's seasoned management team, Ares Capital has developed a strong reputation for an ability to originate and invest across market cycles. This experience also provided Ares Capital with a competitive advantage in identifying, originating, investing in and managing a portfolio of investments in middle-market companies.

Broad Origination Strategy

We focus on self-originating most of our investments by pursuing a broad array of investment opportunities in middle-market companies across multiple channels. We also leverage the extensive relationships of the broader Ares platform, including relationships with the portfolio companies held by the IHAM Vehicles, to identify investment opportunities. We believe that this allows for asset selectivity and that there is a significant relationship between proprietary deal origination and credit performance. We believe that our focus on generating proprietary deal flow and lead investing also gives us greater control over capital structure, deal terms, pricing and documentation and enables us to actively manage our portfolio investments. Moreover, by leading the investment process, we are often able to secure controlling positions in credit tranches, thereby providing additional control in investment outcomes. We also have originated substantial proprietary deal flow from middle-market intermediaries, which often allows us to act as the sole or principal source of institutional capital to the borrower.

Experience with and Focus on Middle-Market Companies

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle-market companies and we benefit from this experience. In sourcing and analyzing deals, our investment adviser benefits from Ares' extensive network of relationships focused on middle-market companies, including management teams, members of the investment banking community, private equity groups and other investment firms with whom Ares has had long-term relationships. We believe this network enables us to identify well-positioned prospective portfolio company investments. The Ares Private Debt Group works closely with Ares' other investment professionals, who together currently oversee a portfolio of investments in over 1,100 companies across over 30 industries, and provide access to an extensive network of relationships and insights into industry trends and the state of the capital markets.

Disciplined Investment Philosophy

In making its investment decisions, our investment adviser has adopted Ares' long-standing, consistent, credit-based investment approach that was developed over 22 years ago by its founders. Specifically, our investment adviser's investment philosophy, portfolio construction and portfolio management involve an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment and financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Its investment approach emphasizes capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk. In addition to engaging in extensive due diligence from the perspective of a long-term investor, our investment adviser's approach seeks to reduce risk in investments by focusing on:

businesses with strong franchises and sustainable competitive advantages;

industries with positive long-term dynamics;

businesses and industries with cash flows that are dependable and predictable;

management teams with demonstrated track records and appropriate economic incentives;

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rates of return commensurate with the perceived risks;

securities or investments that are structured with appropriate terms and covenants; and

businesses backed by experienced private equity sponsors.

Extensive Industry Focus

We seek to concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals have had extensive investment experience. Ares investment professionals have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants in over 30 industries, and have accumulated substantial information and identified potential trends within these industries. In turn, we benefit from these relationships, information and identification of potential trends in making investments.

Scale and Flexible Transaction Structuring

We believe that being one of the largest BDCs makes us a more desirable and flexible capital provider, especially in competitive markets. We are flexible in structuring investments, including the types of investments and the terms associated with such investments. Ares has extensive experience investing in a wide variety of structures for companies with a diverse set of terms and conditions. We believe this approach and experience enables our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout economic cycles and across a company's capital structure so we can make investments consistent with our stated investment objective and preserve principal while seeking appropriate risk adjusted returns. In addition, we have the ability to provide "one stop" financing with the ability to invest capital across the balance sheet and syndicate and hold larger investments than many of our competitors. We believe that the ability to underwrite, syndicate and hold larger investments benefits our stockholders by (a) potentially increasing net income and earnings through syndication, (b) increasing originated deal flow flexibility, (c) broadening market relationships and deal flow, (d) allowing us to optimize our portfolio composition and (e) allowing us to provide capital to middle-market companies, which we believe currently have limited access to capital from traditional lending sources. In addition, we believe that the ability to provide capital at every level of the balance sheet provides a strong value proposition to middle-market borrowers and our senior debt capabilities provide superior deal origination and relative value analysis capabilities compared to traditional "mezzanine only" lenders.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by Ares Capital Management, which is wholly owned by Ares, and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are required to be independent of Ares and its affiliates, subject to certain cure periods. See "Risk Factors As a result of the death of Kenneth R. Heitz, who was an independent director, we are not in compliance with certain NASDAQ Global Select Market listing requirements." Ares Capital Management is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the "Advisers Act." Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management an annual base management fee based on our total assets, as defined under the Investment Company Act (other than cash and cash equivalents, but including assets purchased with borrowed funds), and an incentive fee based on our performance. See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. While we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. See "Business Operating and Regulatory Structure" and "Regulation." We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC," under

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Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the "Code." See "Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

MARKET CONDITIONS

Due to the volatility in global markets, the availability of capital and access to capital markets has been limited over the last several years. As the global liquidity situation and market conditions evolve, we will continue to monitor and adjust our approach to funding accordingly. However, given the unprecedented nature of the volatility in the global markets over the past several years and the uncertainty around the strength of the U.S. and global economies, there can be no assurances that these activities will be successful. While the current markets have improved from various periods of market dislocation and volatility, there can be no assurance that they will not worsen again in the future. If they do, we could face materially higher financing costs. Consequently, our operating strategy could be materially and adversely affected. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business Capital markets have been in a period of disruption and instability for an extended period of time. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future continue to have, a negative impact on our business and operations."

In connection with the prior depressed market conditions of the general economy, the stocks of BDCs as an industry have in the past traded at near historic lows as a result of concerns over liquidity, credit quality, leverage restrictions and distribution requirements. In some cases, certain BDCs became "forced sellers" of assets, defaulted on their indebtedness, decreased their distributions to stockholders or announced share repurchase programs. We cannot assure you that the market pressures we may face in the future will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

We believe the dislocation and illiquidity in the credit markets over the past several years has increased the likelihood of further consolidation in our industry. To that end, we and our portfolio company IHAM are evaluating (and expect to continue to evaluate in the future) a number of potential strategic acquisition opportunities, including acquisitions of:

asset portfolios;

contracts to manage CLO vehicles and other investment vehicles;

other private and public finance companies or asset managers; and

selected secondary market assets.

We and our portfolio company IHAM have been and from time to time engage in discussions with counterparties in respect of various potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions, including potential acquisitions of other finance companies. Some of these transactions could be material to our business and, if consummated, could be difficult to integrate, result in increased leverage or dilution and/or subject us to unexpected liabilities. However, none of these discussions has progressed to the point where the consummation of any such transaction could be deemed to be probable or reasonably certain as of the date of this prospectus. Consummation of any such transaction would be subject to completion of due diligence, finalization of key business and financial terms (including price) and negotiation of final definitive documentation as well as a number of other factors and conditions including, without limitation, the approval of our board of directors (after having determined that such transaction is in the best interest of our stockholders), any required third party consents and, in certain cases, the approval of our stockholders. We cannot predict how quickly the terms of any such transaction could be finalized, if at all. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that definitive

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documentation for any such transaction would be executed or even if executed, that any such transaction would be consummated. In connection with evaluating potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions, we have, and may in the future, incur significant expenses for the evaluation and due diligence investigation of these potential transactions.

LIQUIDITY

As of June 30, 2012, we had approximately \$2.3 billion in aggregate principal amount of total outstanding indebtedness, approximately \$1.5 billion aggregate principal amount of which was unsecured indebtedness of Ares Capital and approximately \$0.8 billion of which was secured indebtedness of our consolidated subsidiaries.

As of June 30, 2012, our outstanding indebtedness consisted of the following: (i) \$295.0 million in aggregate principal amount under our revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), (ii) \$348.0 million in aggregate principal amount under the revolving funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") (the "Revolving Funding Facility"), (iii) \$107.0 million in aggregate principal amount under the revolving funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital JB Funding LLC ("ACJB"), with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation ("SMBC") (the "SMBC Funding Facility" and, together with the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility, the "Facilities"), (iv) \$143.8 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.00% senior notes that mature on February 15, 2022 (the "2022 Notes"), (v) \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.75% senior notes that mature on October 15, 2040 (the "2040 Notes"), (vi) \$230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 6.875% senior notes due on April 15, 2047 (the "2047 Notes" and, together with the 2022 Notes and the 2040 Notes, the "Unsecured Notes"), (vii) \$575.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on February 1, 2016 (the "February 2016 Convertible Notes"), (viii) \$230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on June 1, 2016 (the "June 2016 Convertible Notes") and (ix) \$162.5 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on March 15, 2017 (the "2017 Convertible Notes" and, together with the February 2016 Convertible Notes and the June 2016 Convertible Notes, the "Convertible Notes").

For more information on the Company's debt, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources" and "Recent Developments."

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In July 2012, pursuant to the terms of the Revolving Funding Facility, Ares Capital CP received an increase in the commitments under the Revolving Funding Facility of \$40 million, bringing the total commitments to \$620 million.

In August 2012, we declared a third quarter dividend of \$0.38 per share and an additional dividend of \$0.05 per share. Both dividends are payable on September 28, 2012 to stockholders of record as of September 14, 2012.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in Ares Capital involves risks. The following is a summary of certain risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 24 for a more detailed discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

Risks Relating to Our Business

Capital markets have been in a period of disruption and instability for an extended period of time. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future continue to have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.

We are dependent upon certain key personnel of Ares for our future success and upon their access to other Ares investment professionals.

Our financial condition and results of operations depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.

Our ability to grow depends on our ability to raise capital.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.

In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations.

Our credit ratings may change and as a result the cost and flexibility under our debt instruments may change.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions under applicable tax rules if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

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Most of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, the fair value of these investments may not be readily determinable.

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could impact our investment returns.

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Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies, changes in the interpretation thereof or newly enacted laws or regulations, such as the Dodd-Frank Act, and any failure by us or our portfolio companies to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain business practices of us or our portfolio companies, negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

Our investment adviser's liability is limited under the investment advisory and management agreement, and we are required to indemnify our investment adviser against certain liabilities, which may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

We may be obligated to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

We may not replicate Ares' historical success and our ability to enter into transactions with Ares and our other affiliates is restricted.

As a result of the death of Kenneth R. Heitz, who was an independent director, we are not in compliance with certain NASDAQ Global Select Market listing requirements.

Risks Relating to Our Investments

Declines in market prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets can result in significant net unrealized depreciation of our portfolio, which in turn would reduce our net asset value.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.

Investments in privately held middle-market companies involve significant risks.

Our debt investments may be risky and we could lose all or part of our investment.

Investments in equity securities, many of which are illiquid with no readily available market, involve a substantial degree of risk.

There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or we could be subject to lender liability claims.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt or issue equity securities that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we are often not in a position to exert influence on the entity, and other equity holders and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

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Our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged.

Our investment adviser's incentive fee may induce it to make certain investments, including speculative investments.

Our investments in foreign companies may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments.

We may expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

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We may initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in high-quality short-term investments, which will generate lower rates of return than those expected from the interest generated on first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt.

Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus

Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again in the future, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital.

There is a risk that investors in our common stock may not receive dividends or that our dividends may not grow over time and that investors in our debt securities may not receive all of the interest income to which they are entitled.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and of our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

Investing in our common stock may involve an above average degree of risk.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

We may in the future determine to issue preferred stock, which could adversely affect the market value of our common stock.

The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock.

Your interest in us may be diluted if you do not fully exercise your subscription rights in any rights offering. In addition, if the subscription price is less than our net asset value per share, then you will experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of your shares.

Investors in offerings of our common stock will likely incur immediate dilution upon the closing of such offering.

Our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage if they opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan.

Our stockholders may experience dilution upon the conversion of the Convertible Notes.

Our stockholders may receive shares of our common stock as dividends, which could result in adverse tax consequences to them.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

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The trading market or market value of our publicly issued debt securities may fluctuate.

Terms relating to redemption may materially adversely affect your return on any debt securities that we may issue.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in our debt securities.

OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

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OFFERINGS

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We will offer our securities at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, generally will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of an offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such other circumstances as the SEC may permit. Any such issuance of shares of our common stock below net asset value may be dilutive to the net asset value of our common stock. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus."

At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 4, 2012 and expiring on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting.

We may offer our securities directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, through agents that we designate from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to each offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See "Plan of Distribution." We may not sell any of our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our securities.

Set forth below is additional information regarding offerings of our securities:

Use of proceeds	Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes, which includes, among other things, (a) investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and (b) repaying indebtedness. Each supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. See "Use of Proceeds."
Distributions	We currently intend to distribute dividends or make distributions to our stockholders on a quarterly basis out of assets legally available for distribution. We may also distribute additional dividends or make additional distributions to our stockholders from time to time. Our quarterly and additional dividends or distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. For more information, see "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."

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Taxation	We have elected to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any income and gain that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends on a timely basis. Among other things, in order to maintain our RIC status, we must meet specified source of income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, out of assets legally available for distribution. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC" and "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."
Dividend reinvestment plan	We have a dividend reinvestment plan for our stockholders. This is an "opt out" dividend reinvestment plan. As a result, if we declare a cash dividend, then stockholders' dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically "opt out" of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash. Stockholders whose cash dividends are reinvested in additional shares of our common stock will be subject to the same U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their dividends in cash. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."
The NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	"ARCC"
Anti-takeover provisions	Our board of directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. This structure is intended to provide us with a greater likelihood of continuity of management, which may be necessary for us to realize the full value of our investments. A staggered board of directors also may serve to deter hostile takeovers or proxy contests, as may certain other measures adopted by us. See "Description of Our Capital Stock."
Leverage	We borrow funds to make additional investments. We use this practice, which is known as "leverage," to attempt to increase returns to our common stockholders, but it involves significant risks. See "Risk Factors," "Senior Securities" and "Regulation Indebtedness and Senior Securities." With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.
Management arrangements	Ares Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Ares Operations serves as our administrator. For a description of Ares Capital Management, Ares Operations, Ares and our contractual arrangements with these companies, see "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement," and " Administration Agreement."

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Available information

We are required to file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at www.arescapitalcorp.com. The information on our website is not deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains this information.

Table of Contents**FEEs AND EXPENSES**

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this table contains a reference to our fees or expenses, we will pay such fees and expenses out of our net assets and, consequently, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Ares Capital.

Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):	
Sales load	(1)
Offering expenses	(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	None (3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid	(4)

Annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(5):

Management fees	2.46%(6)
Incentive fees	2.89%(7)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	3.99%(8)
Other expenses	1.33%(9)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.01%(10)
Total annual expenses	10.68%(11)

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- (1) In the event that the securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load (underwriting discount or commission). Purchases of shares of our common stock on the secondary market are not subject to sales charges but may be subject to brokerage commissions or other charges. The table does not include any sales load that stockholders may have paid in connection with their purchase of shares of our common stock.
- (2) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated amount of offering expenses, the offering price and the offering expenses borne by us as a percentage of the offering price.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in "Other expenses."
- (4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.
- (5) The "consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" used to calculate the percentages in this table is our average net assets of \$3.4 billion for the six months ended June 30, 2012.
- (6) Our management fee is currently 1.5% of our total assets other than cash and cash equivalents (which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). For the purposes of this table, we have assumed that we maintain no cash or cash equivalents. The 2.46% reflected on the table is higher than 1.5% because it is calculated on our average net assets (rather than our average total assets). See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

(7)

This item represents our investment adviser's incentive fees estimated by annualizing our incentive fee related to our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and annualizing our accrual in accordance with GAAP of a capital gains incentive fee of \$6.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012, even though no capital gains incentive fee was payable under the investment advisory and management agreement.

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GAAP requires that the capital gains incentive fee accrual consider the cumulative aggregate unrealized capital appreciation in the calculation, as a capital gains incentive fee would be payable if such unrealized capital appreciation were realized, even though such unrealized capital appreciation is not permitted to be considered in calculating the fee actually payable under the Investment Company Act or the investment advisory and management agreement. This GAAP accrual is calculated using the aggregate cumulative realized capital gains and losses and aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation included in the calculation of the Capital Gains Fee (as defined below) plus the aggregate cumulative unrealized capital appreciation. If such amount is positive at the end of a period, then GAAP requires us to record a capital gains incentive fee equal to 20% of such cumulative amount, less the aggregate amount of actual Capital Gains Fees paid or capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP in all prior periods. The resulting accrual for any capital gains incentive fee under GAAP in a given period may result in an additional expense if such cumulative amount is greater than in the prior period or a reversal of previously recorded expense if such cumulative amount is less than in the prior period. If such cumulative amount is negative, then there is no accrual. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future or that the amount accrued for will ultimately be paid.

For purposes of this table, we have assumed that these fees will be payable (in the case of the capital gain incentive fee) and that they will remain constant, although they are based on Ares Capital's performance and will not be paid unless Ares Capital achieves certain goals. We expect to invest or otherwise utilize all of the net proceeds from securities registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part pursuant to a particular prospectus supplement within three months of the date of the offering pursuant to such prospectus supplement and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of an incentive fee to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of offerings pursuant to this prospectus. Since our initial public offering through June 30, 2012, the average quarterly incentive fee accrued (including capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP even though they may not be payable) has been approximately 0.76% of our weighted average net assets (3.03% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information on the calculation of our incentive fees, please see below. For more detailed information about incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the three and six months ended June 30, 2012.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 1.75% quarterly (7.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a "catch-up" provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 1.75% but then receives, as a "catch-up," 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.1875%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser will receive 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

The second part, payable annually in arrears, equals 20% of our realized capital gains on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees.

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We will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period.

These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

- (8) "Interest payments on borrowed funds" represents our interest expense estimated by annualizing our actual interest and credit facility expenses incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2012. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, our average outstanding borrowings were \$2,103.9 million and cash paid for interest expense was \$50.4 million. We had outstanding borrowings of \$2,291.3 million (with a carrying value of \$2,194.8 million) at June 30, 2012. This item is based on our assumption that our borrowings and interest costs after an offering will remain similar to those prior to such offering. The prospectus supplement related to the offering of any debt securities pursuant to this prospectus will calculate this item based on the effects of our borrowings and interest costs after the issuance of such debt securities. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors' and our investment adviser's assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us."
- (9) Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under our administration agreement (as defined below), based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, and income taxes. Such expenses are estimated by annualizing "Other expenses" for the six months ended June 30, 2012. The holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) indirectly bear the cost associated with our annual expenses. See "Management Administration Agreement."
- (10) The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying funds or other investment vehicles that would be investment companies under section 3(a) of the Investment Company Act but for the exceptions to that definition provided for in sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act ("Acquired Funds") in which the Company invests. This amount includes the estimated annual fees and expenses of Acquired Funds in which the Company is invested as of June 30, 2012. Certain of these Acquired Funds are subject to management fees, which generally range from 1% to 2.5% of total net assets, or incentive fees, which generally range between 15% to 25% of net profits. When applicable, fees and expenses estimates are based on historic fees and expenses for the Acquired Funds. For those Acquired Funds with little or no operating history, fees and expenses are estimates based on expected fees and expenses stated in the Acquired Funds' offering memorandum, private placement memorandum or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for these Acquired Funds may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the Acquired Funds, which may fluctuate over time.
- (11) "Total annual expenses" as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the

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period), rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies. As noted above, "Total annual expenses" is estimated by annualizing certain fees and expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2012, including the capital gains incentive fee required by GAAP for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents, and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example. In the event that shares to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will restate this example to reflect the applicable sales load.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return(1)	\$ 80	\$ 232	\$ 376	\$ 699

(1)

The above illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. The expenses you would pay, based on a \$1,000 investment and assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (and therefore subject to the capital gain incentive fee), and otherwise making the same assumptions in the example above, would be: 1 year, \$90; 3 years, \$260; 5 years, \$420; and 10 years, \$772. However, cash payment of the capital incentive fee would be deferred if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) was less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the investment advisory and management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the dividend. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses as actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) that we may incur in the future and such actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown.

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SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ARES CAPITAL

The following selected financial and other data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected financial and other data for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and other quarterly financial information is derived from our unaudited financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim periods. Interim results as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Senior Securities," which are included elsewhere in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

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ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA
As of and For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 and
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007
(dollar amounts in millions, except per share data)

	As of and For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2012	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2011	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2010	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2008	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2007
Total Investment Income	\$ 345.3	\$ 634.5	\$ 483.4	\$ 245.3	\$ 240.4	\$ 188.9
Total Expenses	174.8	344.6	262.2	111.3	113.2	94.8
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	170.5	289.9	221.2	134.0	127.2	94.1
Income Tax Expense (Benefit), Including Excise Tax	5.6	7.5	5.4	0.6	0.2	(0.8)
Net Investment Income	164.9	282.4	215.8	133.4	127.0	94.9
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Extinguishment of Debt and Other Assets Gain on the Allied Acquisition	31.6	37.1	280.1 195.9	69.3	(266.5)	(4.1)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	\$ 196.5	\$ 319.5	\$ 691.8	\$ 202.7	\$ (139.5)	\$ 90.8
Per Share Data:						
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:						
Basic(1)	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.56	\$ 3.91	\$ 1.99	\$ (1.56)	\$ 1.34
Diluted(1)	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.56	\$ 3.91	\$ 1.99	\$ (1.56)	\$ 1.34
Cash Dividend Declared	\$ 0.74	\$ 1.41	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.66
Net Asset Value	\$ 15.51	\$ 15.34	\$ 14.92	\$ 11.44	\$ 11.27	\$ 15.47
Total Assets	\$ 5,807.5	\$ 5,387.4	\$ 4,562.5	\$ 2,313.5	\$ 2,091.3	\$ 1,829.4
Total Debt (Carrying Value)	\$ 2,194.8	\$ 2,073.6	\$ 1,378.5	\$ 969.5	\$ 908.8	\$ 681.5
Total Debt (Principal Amount)	\$ 2,291.3	\$ 2,170.5	\$ 1,435.1	\$ 969.5	\$ 908.8	\$ 681.5
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$ 3,446.5	\$ 3,147.3	\$ 3,050.5	\$ 1,257.9	\$ 1,094.9	\$ 1,124.6
Other Data:						
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End(2)	144	141	170	95	91	78
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased	\$ 1,086.4	\$ 3,239.0	\$ 1,583.9	\$ 575.0	\$ 925.9	\$ 1,251.3
Principal Amount of Investments Acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition	\$	\$	\$ 1,833.8	\$	\$	\$
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments	\$ 775.2	\$ 2,468.2	\$ 1,555.9	\$ 515.2	\$ 485.3	\$ 718.7
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Fair Value(3):	11.6%	12.0%	12.9%	12.7%	12.8%	11.7%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Amortized Cost(3):	11.7%	12.1%	13.2%	12.1%	11.7%	11.6%
Total Return Based on Market Value(4)	8.1%	2.3%	43.6%	119.9%	(45.3)%	(14.8)%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(5)	5.8%	10.5%	31.6%	17.8%	(11.2)%	9.0%

(1) In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 260-10 (previously Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 128, Earnings Per Share), the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding used in computing basic and diluted earnings per common share have been adjusted retroactively by a factor of 1.02% to recognize the bonus element associated with rights to acquire shares of common stock that we issued to stockholders of record as of March 24, 2008 in connection with a rights offering.

(2) Includes commitments to portfolio companies for which funding had yet to occur.

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- (3) Weighted average yield on debt and other income producing securities at fair value is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and other income producing securities, divided by (b) total debt and other income producing securities at fair value. Weighted average yield on debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost is computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and income producing securities, divided by (b) total debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost.
- (4) Total return based on market value for the six months ended June 30, 2012 equals the increase of the ending market value at June 30, 2012 of \$15.96 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2011 of \$15.45 per share plus the declared dividends of \$0.74 per share for the six months ended June 30, 2012. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 30, 2011 of \$15.45 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of \$16.48 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of \$16.48 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of \$12.45 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of \$12.45 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of \$6.33 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of \$6.33 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of \$14.63 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of \$14.63 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2006 of \$19.11 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007. Total return based on market value is not annualized.
- (5) Total return based on net asset value for the six months ended June 30, 2012 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$0.74 per share for the six months ended June 30, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.

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SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (Unaudited)
(dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data)

	2012			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income			\$ 177,555	\$ 167,738
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation			\$ 110,634	\$ 103,424
Incentive compensation			\$ 22,733	\$ 26,386
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains			\$ 87,901	\$ 77,038
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)			\$ 3,031	\$ 28,509
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations			\$ 90,932	\$ 105,547
Basic and diluted earnings per share			\$ 0.41	\$ 0.49
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter			\$ 15.51	\$ 15.47
	2011			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 187,123	\$ 167,365	\$ 144,307	\$ 135,691
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	\$ 121,990	\$ 108,517	\$ 85,509	\$ 78,764
Incentive compensation	\$ 29,531	\$ 10,159	\$ 41,746	\$ 30,941
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains	\$ 92,459	\$ 98,358	\$ 43,763	\$ 47,823
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	\$ 25,666	\$ (57,719)	\$ (6,840)	\$ 75,943
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 118,125	\$ 40,639	\$ 36,923	\$ 123,766
Basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.61
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	\$ 15.34	\$ 15.13	\$ 15.28	\$ 15.45
	2010			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 157,170	\$ 138,126	\$ 121,590	\$ 66,510
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	\$ 99,323	\$ 89,025	\$ 64,514	\$ 39,849
Incentive compensation	\$ 35,973	\$ 17,805	\$ 14,973	\$ 8,144
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	\$ 63,350	\$ 71,220	\$ 49,541	\$ 31,705
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	\$ 93,538	\$ 57,157	\$ 280,613(1)	\$ 44,710
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	\$ 156,888	\$ 128,377	\$ 330,154	\$ 76,415
Basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.67	\$ 1.73	\$ 0.61
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	\$ 14.92	\$ 14.43	\$ 14.11	\$ 11.78

(1)

Includes gain on the Allied Acquisition of \$195,876.

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RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our securities, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, the net asset value of our common stock and the trading price of our securities could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

Capital markets have been in a period of disruption and instability for an extended period of time. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future continue to have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

The U.S. capital markets have been in a period of disruption for an extended period of time as evidenced by a lack of liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of major financial institutions. Despite actions of the U.S. federal government, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. While market conditions have improved from the beginning of the disruption, there have been recent periods of volatility and there can be no assurance that adverse market conditions will not repeat themselves or worsen in the future. If these adverse and volatile market conditions continue, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital in order to grow. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because, subject to some limited exceptions, as a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 4, 2012 and expiring on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness. The debt capital that will be available to us in the future, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions than what we currently experience. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Moreover, the re-appearance of market conditions similar to those experienced from 2007 through 2009 for any substantial length of time could make it difficult to extend the maturity of or refinance our existing indebtedness under similar terms and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Given the extreme volatility and dislocation in the capital markets over the past several years, many BDCs have faced, and may in the future face, a challenging environment in which to raise or

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access capital. At times during the recent significant changes in the capital markets, our ability to raise capital was affected and consequently the pace of our investment activity had slowed. In addition, significant changes in the capital markets, including the extreme volatility and disruption over the past several years, has had, and may in the future have, a negative effect on the valuations of our investments and on the potential for liquidity events involving our investments. While most of our investments are not publicly traded, applicable accounting standards require us to assume as part of our valuation process that our investments are sold in a principal market to market participants (even if we plan on holding an investment through its maturity). As a result, volatility in the capital markets can adversely affect our investment valuations. Further, the illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments to access capital if required. As a result, we could realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments if we were required to sell them for liquidity purposes. An inability to raise or access capital could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.

If we fail to maintain our status as a BDC, we might be regulated as a closed-end investment company that is required to register under the Investment Company Act, which would subject us to additional regulatory restrictions and significantly decrease our operating flexibility. In addition, any such failure could cause an event of default under our outstanding indebtedness, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We are dependent upon certain key personnel of Ares for our future success and upon their access to other Ares investment professionals.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of certain key personnel of the Ares Private Debt Group. We also depend, to a significant extent, on access to the investment professionals of other groups within Ares and the information and deal flow generated by Ares' investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. Our future success depends on the continued service of the key personnel of the Ares Private Debt Group. The departure of any of these individuals, or of a significant number of the investment professionals or partners of Ares, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, we cannot assure you that Ares Capital Management will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to Ares' investment professionals or its information and deal flow.

Our financial condition and results of operations depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective depends on our ability to acquire suitable investments and monitor and administer those investments, which depends, in turn, on our investment adviser's ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria.

Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of the structuring of our investment process and the ability of our investment adviser to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us. Our executive officers and the members of our investment adviser's investment committee have substantial responsibilities in connection with their roles at Ares and with the other Ares funds, as well as responsibilities under the investment advisory and management agreement. They may also be called upon to provide significant managerial assistance to certain of our portfolio companies. These demands on their time, which will increase as the number of investments grow, may distract them or slow the rate of investment. In order to grow, Ares will need to hire, train, supervise, manage and retain new employees. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to do so

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effectively. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, as we grow, we may open up new offices in new geographic regions that may increase our direct operating expenses without corresponding revenue growth.

Our ability to grow depends on our ability to raise capital.

We will need to periodically access the capital markets to raise cash to fund new investments. We have elected to be treated as a RIC and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the U.S. federal income tax treatment applicable to RICs. Among other things, in order to maintain our RIC status, we must distribute to our stockholders on a timely basis generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, and, as a result, such distributions will not be available to fund investment originations. We must continue to borrow from financial institutions and issue additional securities to fund our growth. Unfavorable economic or capital market conditions may increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or could result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. An inability to successfully access the capital markets could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy and could decrease our earnings, if any.

In addition, with certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts or issue debt securities or preferred stock, which we refer to collectively as "senior securities," such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% immediately after such borrowing, which, in certain circumstances, may restrict our ability to borrow or issue debt securities or preferred stock. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing or issuance of senior securities. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our current facilities, obtain other lines of credit or issue senior securities at all or on terms acceptable to us.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.

We may issue senior securities or borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, up to the maximum amount permitted by the Investment Company Act. Under the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as calculated in accordance with the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after each such incurrence or issuance. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which may prohibit us from paying dividends and could prevent us from maintaining our status as a RIC or may prohibit us from repurchasing shares of our common stock. In addition, our inability to satisfy this test could cause an event of default under our existing indebtedness. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness. Accordingly, any failure to satisfy this test could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. As of June 30, 2012, our asset coverage for senior securities was 257%.

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value per share of our common stock if our board of directors determines that such sale is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders, and our stockholders approve such sale. Any such sale would be dilutive to the net asset value per share of our common stock. In any such case, the price at which our securities are to be issued and sold may not be less than a price which, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any commission or discount). If our common

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stock trades at a discount to net asset value, this restriction could adversely affect our ability to raise capital.

At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 4, 2012 and expiring on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting.

To generate cash for funding new investments, we have also securitized, and may in the future seek to securitize, our loans. To securitize loans, we may create a separate, wholly owned subsidiary and contribute or sell a pool of loans to such subsidiary (or one of its subsidiaries). Such subsidiary may then sell equity, issue debt or sell interests in the pool of loans, on a limited-recourse basis, the payments on which are generally limited to the pool of loans and the proceeds therefrom. We may also retain a portion of the equity interests in the securitized pool of loans. Any retained equity would be exposed to losses on the related pool of loans before any of the related debt securities. An inability to successfully securitize our loan portfolio could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy. The securitization market is subject to changing market conditions (including the unprecedented dislocation of the securitization and finance markets over the past several years generally) and we may not be able to access this market when we would otherwise deem appropriate. Moreover, the successful securitization of our loan portfolio might expose us to losses as the residual loans in which we do not sell interests may be those that are riskier and more apt to generate losses. The Investment Company Act may also impose restrictions on the structure of any securitization.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.

Borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. We currently borrow under our Facilities and have issued or assumed other senior securities, and in the future may borrow from, or issue additional senior securities to, banks, insurance companies, funds, institutional investors and other lenders and investors. Lenders and holders of such senior securities have fixed dollar claims on our consolidated assets that are superior to the claims of our common stockholders or any preferred stockholders. If the value of our consolidated assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value per share of our common stock to increase more sharply than it would have had we not incurred leverage.

Conversely, if the value of our consolidated assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not incurred leverage. Similarly, any increase in our consolidated income in excess of consolidated interest payable on the borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would had we not incurred leverage, while any decrease in our consolidated income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not incurred leverage. Such a decline could negatively affect our ability to make common stock dividend payments. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful.

As of June 30, 2012, we had \$750.0 million of outstanding borrowings under our Facilities, \$573.8 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Unsecured Notes and \$967.5 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of our Convertible Notes. In order for us to cover our annual interest payments on indebtedness, we must achieve annual returns on our June 30, 2012 total assets of at least 1.96%. The weighted average stated interest rate charged on our outstanding indebtedness as of June 30, 2012 was 5.0%. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness (although there can be no assurance that we will be successful in doing so). For more

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information on the Company's indebtedness, see "Recent Developments." Our ability to service our debt depends largely on our financial performance and is subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Our Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes impose financial and operating covenants that restrict our business activities, including limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a RIC. A failure to renew our Facilities or to add new or replacement debt facilities or issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

The following table illustrates the effect on return to a holder of our common stock of the leverage created by our use of borrowing at the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.0% as of June 30, 2012, together with (a) our total value of net assets as of June 30, 2012; (b) \$2,291.3 million in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness outstanding as of June 30, 2012 and (c) hypothetical annual returns on our portfolio of minus 15% to plus 15%.

Assumed Return on Portfolio (Net of Expenses)(1)	(15)%	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%	15%
Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders(2)	(28.57)%	(20.15)%	(11.72)%	(3.30)%	5.13%	13.55%	21.98%

- (1) The assumed portfolio return is required by SEC regulations and is not a prediction of, and does not represent, our projected or actual performance. Actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table. Pursuant to SEC regulations, this table is calculated as of June 30, 2012. As a result, it has not been updated to take into account any changes in assets or leverage since June 30, 2012.
- (2) In order to compute the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders," the "Assumed Return on Portfolio" is multiplied by the total value of our assets at June 30, 2012 to obtain an assumed return to us. From this amount, the interest expense (calculated by multiplying the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.0% by the \$2,291.3 million of principal debt) is subtracted to determine the return available to stockholders. The return available to stockholders is then divided by the total value of our net assets as of June 30, 2012 to determine the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders."

In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations.

The agreements governing the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes require us to comply with certain financial and operational covenants. These covenants include:

- restrictions on the level of indebtedness that we are permitted to incur in relation to the value of our assets;
- restrictions on our ability to incur liens; and
- maintenance of a minimum level of stockholders' equity.

As of the date of this prospectus, we are in compliance in all material respects with the covenants of the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes. However, our continued compliance

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with these covenants depends on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. For example, depending on the condition of the public debt and equity markets and pricing levels, net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio may increase in the future. Any such increase could result in our inability to comply with our obligation to restrict the level of indebtedness that we are able to incur in relation to the value of our assets or to maintain a minimum level of stockholders' equity.

Accordingly, although we believe we will continue to be in compliance, there are no assurances that we will continue to comply with the covenants in the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes. Failure to comply with these covenants could result in a default under the Facilities, the Unsecured Notes or the Convertible Notes that, if we were unable to obtain a waiver from the lenders or holders of such indebtedness, as applicable, such lenders or holders could accelerate repayment under such indebtedness and thereby have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our credit ratings may change and as a result the cost and flexibility under our debt instruments may change.

As of June 30, 2012, we had a long-term counterparty credit rating from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services of "BBB," a long-term issuer default rating from Fitch Ratings of "BBB" and a long-term issuer rating from Moody's Investors Service of "Ba1." Interest expense on our Revolving Credit Facility is based on a pricing grid that fluctuates depending on our credit ratings. There can be no assurance that our ratings will be maintained. If our ratings are downgraded, our cost of borrowing will increase.

In addition, ratings agencies are required to make substantial changes to their ratings policies and practices as a result of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which President Obama signed into law on July 21, 2010. There can be no assurance that such changes will not affect our ratings.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we make in middle-market companies. We compete with other BDCs, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies, insurance companies, hedge funds, and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the Investment Company Act imposes on us as a BDC and that the Code imposes on us as a RIC. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of this competition, we may not be able to pursue attractive investment opportunities from time to time.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we offer and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. Rather, we compete with our competitors based on our existing investment platform, seasoned investment professionals, experience and focus on middle-market companies, disciplined investment philosophy, extensive industry focus and flexible transaction structuring. For a more detailed discussion of these competitive advantages, see "Business Competitive Advantages."

We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net

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interest income and increased risk of credit loss. As a result of operating in such a competitive environment, we may make investments that are on less favorable terms than what we may have originally anticipated, which may impact our return on these investments.

We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC.

We have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the U.S. federal income tax treatment applicable to RICs. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on our income and gain that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends on a timely basis. We will be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax on any undistributed income and/or gain. To qualify as a RIC, we must meet certain source of income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. We may also be subject to certain U.S. federal excise taxes, as well as state, local and foreign taxes.

To satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement (as defined below) for a RIC we must distribute to our stockholders on a timely basis generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income for each year. We have the ability to pay a large portion of our dividends in shares of our stock, and as long as a portion of such dividend is paid in cash and other requirements are met, such stock dividends will be taxable as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This may result in our U.S. stockholders having to pay tax on such dividends, even if no cash is received, and may result in our non-U.S. stockholders being subject to withholding tax in respect of amounts distributed in our stock. Because we use debt financing, we are subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the Investment Company Act and financial covenants under our indebtedness that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making distributions necessary to qualify as a RIC. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify as a RIC and, thus, may be subject to corporate-level income tax on all of our income and/or gain.

To qualify as a RIC, we must also meet certain annual source of income requirements at the end of each taxable year and asset diversification requirements at the end of each calendar quarter. Failure to meet these tests may result in our having to (a) dispose of certain investments quickly or (b) raise additional capital to prevent the loss of RIC status. Because most of our investments are in private companies and are generally illiquid, any such dispositions may be at disadvantageous prices and may result in losses. Also, the rules applicable to our qualification as a RIC are complex with many areas of uncertainty. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that we have qualified or will continue to qualify as a RIC. If we fail to qualify as a RIC for any reason and become subject to regular "C" corporation income tax, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders. The recently enacted "Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010," which is effective for 2011 and later tax years, provides some relief from RIC disqualification due to failures of the source of income and asset diversification requirements, although there may be additional taxes due in such cases. We cannot assure you that we would qualify for any such relief should we fail the source of income or asset diversification requirements.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions under applicable tax rules if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, we are required to include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as original issue discount, which may arise, for example, if we receive warrants in connection with the making of a loan, or payment-in-kind ("PIK") interest representing contractual interest added to the loan principal balance and due at the end of the loan term. Such original issue discount or PIK interest are included in income before we receive any

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corresponding cash payments. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash, including, for example, amounts attributable to hedging and foreign currency transactions or cancellation of indebtedness income resulting from a restructuring of an investment in debt securities.

Since, in certain cases, we may recognize income before or without receiving cash in respect of such income, we may have difficulty meeting the U.S. federal income tax requirement to distribute generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income to maintain our status as a RIC. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our investments at times we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. If we are not able to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify as a RIC and thus be subject to additional corporate-level taxes. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and on our stockholders. See "Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a RIC."

We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

General interest rate fluctuations may have a substantial negative impact on our investments and investment opportunities and, accordingly, may have a material adverse effect on our investment objective and rate of return on invested capital. Because we borrow money and may issue debt securities or preferred stock to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds or pay interest or dividends on such debt securities or preferred stock and the rate at which we invest these funds. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income.

Trading prices for debt that pays a fixed rate of return tend to fall as interest rates rise. Trading prices tend to fluctuate more for fixed-rate securities that have longer maturities. In the past, we have entered into certain hedging transactions, such as interest rate swap agreements, to mitigate our exposure to adverse fluctuations in interest rates, and we may do so again in the future. In addition, we may increase our floating rate investments to position the portfolio for rate increases. However, we cannot assure you that such transactions will be successful in mitigating our exposure to interest rate risk. Hedging transactions may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our portfolio investments.

Although we have no policy governing the maturities of our investments, under current market conditions we expect that we will invest in a portfolio of debt generally having maturities of up to 10 years. This means that we are subject to greater risk (other things being equal) than a fund invested solely in shorter-term securities. A decline in the prices of the debt we own could adversely affect the trading price of our shares. Also, an increase in interest rates available to investors could make an investment in our common stock less attractive if we are not able to increase our dividend rate, which could reduce the value of our common stock.

Most of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, the fair value of these investments may not be readily determinable.

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded. The fair value of investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these investments quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by o