

Amtrust Financial Services, Inc.
Form 8-K
March 15, 2016

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported) March 9, 2016

AmTrust Financial Services, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

59 Maiden Lane, 43rd Floor, New York, New York

001-33143
(Commission

File Number)

04-3106389
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

10038

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (212) 220-7120

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.133-4(c))

Item 5.03 Amendment to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Changes in Fiscal Year.

On March 9, 2016, AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. (the Company) filed a Certificate of Designations (the Certificate of Designations) with the Delaware Secretary of State. The Company adopted the Certificate of Designations with respect to its 7.75% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E, \$0.01 par value per share, with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share (the Series E Preferred Stock) in connection with the pricing of a public offering of depositary shares, each representing a 1/40th interest in a share of Series E Preferred Stock on March 8, 2016.

For a description of the Certificate of Designations governing the Series E Preferred Stock, reference is made to the information set forth under the heading Description of the Series E Preferred Stock in the Company's Prospectus Supplement, dated March 8, 2016, to the Prospectus, dated June 11, 2015, which constitutes a part of the Company's shelf registration statement on Form S-3ASR (File No. 333-204870), previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Act), which information is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

A legal opinion relating to the validity of the Series E Preferred Stock and the Series E Depositary Shares (as defined below) is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.1.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

Underwriting Agreement

On March 8, 2016, the Company entered into an Underwriting Agreement with Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (the Underwriters), relating to the issue and sale of an aggregate of 5,000,000 depositary shares (the Series E Depositary Shares), each representing a 1/40th ownership interest in a share of its Series E Preferred Stock (equivalent to a liquidation preference of \$25 per Series E Depositary Share), to the Underwriters. Pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, the Company granted the Underwriters an option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 Series E Depositary Shares (together with the 5,000,000 Series E Depositary Shares, the Shares) solely to cover over-allotments, if any. The securities have been registered under the Act, pursuant to the Company's shelf registration statement on Form S-3ASR (File No. 333-204870) previously filed with the SEC under the Act.

Certain of the Underwriters and their respective affiliates perform various financial advisory, investment banking and commercial banking services from time to time for the Company and its affiliates, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expense reimbursement. The Underwriters and their affiliates may provide similar services in the future. Affiliates of certain of the Underwriters are lenders under the Company's syndicated revolving credit facility.

Deposit Agreement

The Deposit Agreement, dated as of March 15, 2016 (the Deposit Agreement), by and among the Company, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as depositary, and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts described therein, relating to the Shares, is filed as Exhibit 4.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference. The form of depositary receipt representing the Series E Preferred Shares is filed and included as Exhibit A to the Deposit Agreement and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit

No.	Description
1.1	Underwriting Agreement, dated March 8, 2016, by and among AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein
3.1	Certificate of Designations of 7.75% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E
4.1	Deposit Agreement, dated March 15, 2016, among AmTrust Financial Services, Inc., American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts described therein

- 4.2 Form of depositary receipt (included as Exhibit A to Exhibit 4.1)
- 4.3 Form of stock certificate evidencing 7.75% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E
- 5.1 Opinion of Sidley Austin LLP
- 12.1 Computation of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends
- 23.1 Consent of Sidley Austin LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date March 15, 2016

AmTrust Financial Services, Inc.
(Registrant)

/s/ Stephen Ungar
Stephen Ungar
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and
Secretary