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This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 but is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-151753

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION
PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT DATED MARCH 2, 2009

Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus Dated June 18, 2008)

$



% Notes Due 2019

Pitney Bowes will pay interest on the notes at a rate equal to % per year, and will pay such interest on and , commencing , 2009. The notes mature on , 2019. However, Pitney Bowes may redeem the notes prior to their maturity at a redemption price described herein under the caption "Description of the Notes — Optional Redemption". If a change of control triggering event occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes, we will be required, subject to certain exceptions, to make an offer to each holder of notes to repurchase all or any part of that holder's notes for cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes to be repurchased to the date of repurchase.

There is no sinking fund for the notes. The notes will be issued only in minimum denominations of $2,000 or an integral multiple of U.S. $1,000 in excess thereof. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

The notes are our unsecured debt obligations and will rank equally with our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt from time to time outstanding.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

	Per Note	Total Notes
Public Offering Price	%	$
Underwriting Discount	%	$
Proceeds to Pitney Bowes (before expenses)	%	$

Interest on the notes will accrue from March , 2009, if settlement occurs after that date.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., against payment in New York, New York on March , 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC **J.P. Morgan**

The date of this prospectus supplement is March , 2009.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used where it is legal to offer and sell these securities. The information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be accurate as of their respective dates.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We provide information to you about the notes in two separate documents: (1) this prospectus supplement, which describes certain specific terms of the notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in that prospectus and (2) the accompanying prospectus, which provides general information about securities we may offer from time to time, including the notes that are being offered by this prospectus supplement. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

It is important for you to read and consider all of the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You also should read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in "Where You Can Find More Information" on page S-18 of this prospectus supplement and page 2 of the accompanying prospectus.

When we refer to "Pitney Bowes," "we," "our" and "us" in this prospectus supplement, we mean only Pitney Bowes Inc., and not Pitney Bowes Inc. together with any of its subsidiaries, unless the context indicates or requires otherwise.

SUMMARY

The following information supplements, and should be read together with, the information contained in other parts of this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to help you understand the terms of the notes and their offering. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents we incorporate by reference, carefully to understand fully the terms of the notes and their offering as well as the other considerations that are important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in the notes.

Pitney Bowes

Pitney Bowes Inc. was incorporated in the State of Delaware on April 23, 1920, as the Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Company. Today, we are the largest provider of mail processing equipment and integrated mail solutions in the world. Our world headquarters are located at 1 Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926-0700. Our telephone number is (203) 356-5000.

We offer a full suite of equipment, supplies, software and services for end-to-end mailstream solutions which enable our customers to optimize the flow of physical and electronic mail, documents and packages across their operations.

Pitney Bowes and its subsidiaries operate in two business groups, Mailstream Solutions and Mailstream Services. We operate both inside and outside the United States.

The Offering

Issuer	Pitney Bowes Inc.
Securities Offered	$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2019.
Maturity	The notes will mature on , 2019, except as contemplated below under "— Optional Redemption".
Interest	The notes will bear interest at the rate of % per year from the original issuance date. We will pay interest on the notes semi-annually in arrears each and . We will make the first interest payment on , 2009.
Use of Proceeds	We intend to use the proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes.
Ranking	The notes are our direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and rank equal in priority with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and senior in right of payment to all of our existing and future subordinated indebtedness.
Optional Redemption	We may, at our option, redeem the notes at any time in whole or from time to time in part at a redemption price equal to the sum of 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes being redeemed, accrued but unpaid interest on those notes to the redemption date, and the Make-Whole Amount, if any, as defined under "Description of the Notes — Optional Redemption".
Change of Control	If a change of control triggering event occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes as described above, we will be required, subject to certain exceptions, to make an offer to each holder of notes to repurchase all or any part of that holder's notes for cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes to be repurchased to the date of repurchase. See "Description of the Notes — Change of Control Offer" herein.
No Listing	The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We want to caution readers that any forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, other reports or press releases or made by our management involve risks and uncertainties which may change based on various important factors. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. These forward-looking statements are those which talk about our current expectations as to the future and include, but are not limited to, statements about the amounts, timing and results of possible restructuring charges and future earnings. Words such as "estimate," "project," "plan," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," and similar expressions may identify such forward-looking statements. Cautionary statements setting forth important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements are discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference, and also may be discussed in future filings that are incorporated by reference.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately $ after deducting the underwriting discount and our estimated expenses of this offering.

We intend to use the proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

This description of the terms of the notes adds information to the description of the general terms and provisions of the senior debt securities in the accompanying prospectus. If this description differs in any way from the description in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the description of notes in this prospectus supplement.

General

The notes initially will be limited to a total principal amount of $. However, we may, without the consent of the holders of the notes, issue additional senior debt securities having the same ranking and the same interest rate, maturity date and other terms as the notes. Any such additional senior debt securities, together with the notes offered by this prospectus supplement, will constitute a single series of senior debt securities under the indenture.

The notes will be our unsecured senior obligations. The notes will mature at 100% of their principal amount on , 2019. However, we may redeem the notes prior to their maturity at a redemption price described below under "— Optional Redemption". There is no sinking fund for the notes. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

We will not pay any additional amounts to compensate any beneficial owner of notes for any United States tax withheld from payments of principal of or interest on the notes.

The notes are subject to defeasance in the manner described under the heading "Description of Debt Securities-Defeasance" in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will be issued as global debt securities. For more information, please refer to "— Book-Entry Delivery and Form" below and "Description of Debt Securities — Global Debt Securities" on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus. The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will be the depositary with respect to the notes. The notes will be issued as fully-registered securities in the name of Cede & Co., DTC's nominee.

Interest

The notes will bear interest from , 2009 or from the most recent interest payment date (as defined below) on which we paid or provided for interest on the notes, at the rate of % per annum. We will pay interest on each note on and of each year. We will refer to each of these dates as an "interest payment date." The first interest payment date will be , 2009. We will pay interest on a note to the person in whose name that note was registered at the close of business on the fifteenth calendar day, whether or not a business day, prior to the applicable interest payment date. Interest on the notes will be paid on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. In the event that an interest payment date is not a business day, we will pay interest on the next day that is a business day, with the same force and effect as if made on the interest payment date, and without any interest or other payment with respect to the delay. For purposes of this prospectus supplement, a "business day" is a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or any other day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed.

Optional Redemption

We may, at our option, redeem the notes at any time in whole or from time to time in part at a redemption price equal to the sum of 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes being redeemed, accrued but unpaid interest on those notes to the redemption date, and the Make-Whole Amount, if any, as defined below; provided, however, that interest shall be payable on an interest payment date that falls on or before the redemption date to holders of notes on the regular record date for such interest payment date.

If we have given notice as provided in the indenture and made funds available for the redemption of any notes called for redemption on the redemption date referred to in that notice, those notes will cease to bear interest on that redemption date. We will give written notice of any redemption of any notes to holders of the notes to be redeemed at their addresses, as shown in the security register for the notes, at least 30 days and not more than 60 days prior to

the date fixed for redemption. The notice of redemption will specify, among other items, the date fixed for redemption, the redemption price and the aggregate principal amount of the notes to be redeemed.

If we choose to redeem less than all of the notes, we will notify The Bank of New York Mellon, the trustee under the indenture, at least 60 days before giving notice of redemption, or such shorter period as is satisfactory to the trustee, of the aggregate principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and the applicable redemption date. The trustee will select, in such manner as it shall deem appropriate and fair, the notes to be redeemed in part.

As used in this prospectus supplement:

"Make-Whole Amount" means, in connection with any optional redemption, the excess, if any, of (a) the aggregate present value as of the date of such redemption of each dollar of principal being redeemed and the amount of interest, exclusive of interest accrued to the date of redemption, that would have been payable in respect of each such dollar if such redemption had not been made, determined by discounting, on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months), such principal and interest at the Reinvestment Rate, determined on the third business day preceding the date notice of such redemption is given, from the respective dates on which such principal and interest would have been payable if such redemption had not been made, to the date of redemption, over (b) the aggregate principal amount of the notes being redeemed.

"Reinvestment Rate" means % plus the arithmetic mean of the yields under the heading "Week Ending" published in the most recent Statistical Release under the caption "Treasury Constant Maturities" for the maturity, rounded to the nearest month, corresponding to the remaining life to maturity, as of the redemption date of the principal amount of the notes being redeemed. If no maturity exactly corresponds to such maturity, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to such maturity shall be calculated pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence and the Reinvestment Rate shall be interpolated or extrapolated from such yields on a straight-line basis, rounding in each of such relevant periods to the nearest month. For the purposes of calculating the Reinvestment Rate, the most recent Statistical Release published prior to the date of determination of the Make-Whole Amount shall be used. If the format or content of the Statistical Release changes in a manner that precludes determination of the Treasury yield in the above manner, then the Treasury yield shall be determined in the manner that most closely approximates the above manner, as reasonably determined by us.

"Statistical Release" means the statistical release designated "H.15(519)" or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Federal Reserve System and which reports yields on actively traded United States government securities adjusted to constant maturities, or, if such statistical release is not published at the time of any required determination under the indenture, then such other reasonably comparable index which shall be designated by us.

Change of Control Offer

If a change of control triggering event occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes as described above under "— Optional Redemption", we will be required to make an offer (the "change of control offer") to each holder of notes to repurchase all or any part (equal to $2,000 or an integral multiple of $1,000 in excess thereof) of that holder's notes on the terms set forth in the notes. In the change of control offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes to be repurchased to the date of repurchase (the "change of control payment"). Within 30 days following any change of control triggering event or, at our option, prior to any change of control, but after public announcement of the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the change of control, a notice will be mailed to holders of the notes describing the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the change of control triggering event and offering to repurchase the notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the "change of control payment date"). The notice, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the change of control, will state that the offer to purchase is conditioned on the change of control triggering event occurring on or prior to the change of control payment date. In the event that such offer to purchase fails to satisfy the condition in the preceding sentence, we will cause another notice meeting the aforementioned requirements to be mailed to holders of the notes.

On the change of control payment date, we will, to the extent lawful:

- accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the change of control offer;
- deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the change of control payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and
- deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being repurchased.

We will not be required to make a change of control offer upon the occurrence of a change of control triggering event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and the third party repurchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the change of control payment date an event of default under the indenture, other than a default in the payment of the change of control payment upon a change of control triggering event.

We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a change of control triggering event. To the extent that the provisions of any such securities laws or regulations conflict with the change of control offer provisions of the notes, we will comply with those securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the change of control offer provisions of the notes by virtue of any such conflict.

For purposes of the change of control offer provisions of the notes, the following terms will be applicable:

"Change of control" means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any "person" (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) (other than Pitney Bowes, any subsidiary or employee benefit plan of Pitney Bowes or employee benefit plan of any subsidiary of Pitney Bowes) becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting stock of Pitney Bowes or other voting stock into which the voting stock of Pitney Bowes is reclassified, consolidated, exchanged or changed, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; (2) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or more series of transactions approved by the board of directors of Pitney Bowes as part of a single plan, of 85% or more of the total consolidated assets of Pitney Bowes as shown on Pitney Bowes's most recent audited balance sheet, to one or more "persons" (as that term is defined in the indenture) (other than Pitney Bowes or one of the subsidiaries of Pitney Bowes); or (3) the first day on which a majority of the members of the board of directors are not continuing directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a change of control if (1) Pitney Bowes becomes a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (2)(A) the direct or indirect holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of the voting stock of Pitney Bowes immediately prior to that transaction or (B) immediately following that transaction no person (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting stock of such holding company.

"Change of control triggering event" means the occurrence of both a change of control and a rating event.

"Continuing directors" means, as of any date of determination, any member of the board of directors of Pitney Bowes who (1) was a member of such board of directors on the date the notes were issued or (2) was nominated for election, elected or appointed to such board of directors with the approval of a majority of the continuing directors who were members of such board of directors at the time of such nomination, election or appointment (either by a specific vote or by approval of the proxy statement of Pitney Bowes in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

"Fitch" means Fitch Ratings.

"Investment grade rating" means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P, and the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any additional rating agency or rating agencies selected by Pitney Bowes.

"Moody's" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

"Rating agencies" means (1) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P; and (2) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of the control of Pitney Bowes, a "nationally recognized statistical rating organization" within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act selected by Pitney Bowes (as certified by a resolution of the board of directors of Pitney Bowes) as a replacement agency for Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

"Rating event" means the rating on the notes is lowered by each of the rating agencies and the notes are rated below an investment grade rating by each of the rating agencies on any day within the 60-day period (which 60-day period will be extended so long as the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for a possible downgrade by any of the rating agencies) after the earlier of (1) the occurrence of a change of control and (2) public notice of the occurrence of a change of control or the intention of Pitney Bowes to effect a change of control; provided, however, that a rating event otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in rating will be deemed not to have occurred in respect of a particular change of control (and thus will not be deemed a rating event for purposes of the definition of change of control triggering event) if the rating agencies making the reduction in rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the trustee in writing at Pitney Bowes's or its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, the applicable change of control (whether or not the applicable change of control has occurred at the time of the rating event).

"S&P" means Standard & Poor's Rating Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

"Voting stock" means, with respect to any specified "person" (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date, the capital stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of such person.

Trustee, Paying Agent, Authenticating Agent and Registrar

The Bank of New York Mellon will act as trustee for the notes, which will be issued under an indenture dated as of February 14, 2005, as amended or supplemented from time to time, between us and the trustee. The indenture is a senior indenture as described in the accompanying prospectus. You should read the accompanying prospectus for a general discussion of the terms and provisions of the indenture. From time to time, we and some of our subsidiaries maintain deposit accounts and conduct other banking transactions, including lending transactions, with the trustee in the ordinary course of business.

Notices

Any notices required to be given to the holders of the notes will be given to DTC.

Governing Law

The indenture and the notes are governed by and will be construed in accordance with New York law.

Book-Entry Delivery and Form

The notes will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited upon issuance with the trustee as custodian for DTC in New York, New York, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., DTC's nominee.

Beneficial interests in the global securities will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct or indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to

hold their interests in the global securities through either DTC (in the United States) or (in Europe) through Clearstream Banking, société anonyme ("Clearstream") or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. ("Euroclear"). Investors may hold their interests in the global securities directly if they are participants of such systems, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in these systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream's and Euroclear's names on the books of their respective U.S. depositaries, which in turn will hold these interests in customers' securities accounts in the depositaries' names on the books of DTC. Except as set forth below, the global securities may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

Notes represented by a global security can be exchanged for definitive securities in registered form only if:

- DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint a successor depositary within 90 days after receiving that notice;
- at any time DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered or in good standing under the Exchange Act or other applicable law and we do not appoint a successor depositary within 90 days after becoming aware that DTC has ceased to be registered or in good standing as a clearing agency; or
- we determine that that global security will be exchangeable for definitive securities in registered form and notify the trustee of our decision.

A global security that can be exchanged as described in the preceding paragraph will be exchanged for definitive securities of the same series and terms issued in authorized denominations in registered form for the same aggregate principal amount. The definitive securities will be registered in the names of the owners of the beneficial interests in the global security as directed by DTC.

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on all notes represented by a global security to the paying agent which in turn will make payment to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the sole registered owner and the sole holder of the notes represented by a global security for all purposes under the indenture. Accordingly, we, the trustee and any paying agent will have no responsibility or liability for:

- any aspect of DTC' s records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in a note represented by a global security;
- any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and its participants or the relationship between those participants, and the owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through those participants, or the maintenance, supervision or review of any of DTC' s records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

DTC has advised us that its current practice is to credit participants' accounts on each payment date with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of such global security as shown on DTC's records upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information. The underwriters for the notes represented by a global security will initially designate the accounts to be credited. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for customer accounts registered in "street name," and will be the sole responsibility of those participants. Book-entry notes may be more difficult to pledge because of the lack of a physical note.

DTC

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner and holder of the notes represented by that global security for all purposes of the notes. Owners of beneficial interests in the notes will not be entitled to have notes registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the notes in definitive form and will not be considered owners or holders of notes under the indenture, except as contemplated above. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that person is not a DTC participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global

security. Beneficial owners may experience delays in receiving payments on their notes since payments will initially be made to DTC and must then be transferred through the chain of intermediaries to the beneficial owner's account.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, if we request holders to take any action, or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to take any action which a holder is entitled to take under the indenture, then DTC would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to take that action and those participants would authorize the beneficial owners owning through such participants to take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on, and transfers of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants for that global security. The conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to its participants and by its participants to owners of beneficial interests in the notes will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements in effect.

DTC has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered under the Exchange Act.

DTC holds the securities of its participants and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its participants. The electronic book-entry system eliminates the need for physical certificates. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, including underwriters, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of which, and/or their representatives, own DTC. Banks, brokers, dealers, trust companies and others that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly, also have access to DTC's book-entry system. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

DTC has advised us that the above information with respect to DTC has been provided to its participants and other members of the financial community for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a representation, warranty or contract modification of any kind.

Clearstream

Clearstream has advised us that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depositary. Clearstream holds securities for its participating organizations, or Clearstream Participants, and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to Clearstream Participants, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic securities markets in several countries. As a professional depositary, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector (Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier). Clearstream Participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Clearstream's U.S. Participants are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream Participant either directly or indirectly.

Payments with respect to notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream Participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. Depositary for Clearstream.

Euroclear

Euroclear has advised us that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear, or Euroclear Participants, and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear Participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear performs various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interacts with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear operates its system under contract with Euroclear plc, a U.K. corporation. All operations are conducted by Euroclear, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with Euroclear, not Euroclear plc. Euroclear plc establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear Participants. Euroclear Participants include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear Participant, either directly or indirectly.

Euroclear is a Belgian bank. As such it is regulated by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with Euroclear are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law, herein the Terms and Conditions. The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. Euroclear acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear Participants, and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear Participants.

Payments with respect to notes held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear Participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. Depositary for Euroclear.

Euroclear has further advised us that investors that acquire, hold and transfer interests in the notes by book-entry through accounts with it or any other securities intermediary are subject to the laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for the notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System. Secondary market trading between Clearstream Participants and/or Euroclear Participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream Participants or Euroclear Participants, on the other, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. Depositary; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its U.S. Depositary to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving notes through DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream Participants and Euroclear Participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. Depositaries.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of notes received through Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in such notes settled during such

processing will be reported to the relevant Euroclear Participants or Clearstream Participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of notes by or through a Clearstream Participant or a Euroclear Participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

If the notes are cleared only through Euroclear and Clearstream (and not DTC), you will be able to make and receive through Euroclear and Clearstream payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices, and other transactions involving any securities held through those systems only on days when those systems are open for business. Those systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers, and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time-zone differences, U.S. investors who hold their interests in the securities through these systems and wish to transfer their interests, or to receive or make a payment or delivery or exercise any other right with respect to their interests, on a particular day may find that the transaction will not be effected until the next business day in Luxembourg or Brussels, as applicable. Thus, U.S. investors who wish to exercise rights that expire on a particular day may need to act before the expiration date.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the trustee nor any paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective direct or indirect participants of their obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS TO NON-U.S. HOLDERS

This section summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership, and disposition of the notes by a purchaser of notes that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is not a "U.S. Holder" as defined below (a "Non-U.S. Holder"). This summary does not provide a complete analysis of all potential tax considerations. The information provided below is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), Treasury regulations issued under the Code, judicial authority and administrative rulings and practice, all as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. This summary deals only with purchasers who purchase notes at their "issue price," which will equal the first price to the public (not including bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold for money, and who hold notes as "capital assets", within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally assets that are held as investments). This summary does not deal with persons in special tax situations, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, tax-exempt investors, dealers in securities and currencies, U.S. expatriates, controlled foreign corporations and persons holding notes as a position in a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction," or other integrated transaction for tax purposes. Further, this discussion does not address the consequences under U.S. alternative minimum tax rules, U.S. federal estate or gift tax laws, the tax laws of any U.S. state or locality, or any non-U.S. tax laws.

You should consult your tax advisor regarding the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to your particular situation and the consequences of U.S. federal estate or gift tax laws, foreign, state, or local laws, and tax treaties.

For purposes of this summary, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of notes that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any State thereof or the District of Columbia;
- a partnership, or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any State thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if, (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have authority to control all of its substantial decisions or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds a note, the tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner in a partnership holding a note should consult its own tax advisor.

For purposes of this discussion, any interest income and any gain realized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of a note will be considered "U.S. trade or business income" if such income or gain is (i) effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States and (ii) in the case of a treaty resident, attributable to a permanent establishment (or in the case of an individual, to a fixed base) in the United States.

Treatment of Interest

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax (or any withholding thereof) in respect of payments of interest on the notes if each of the following requirements is satisfied:

- The interest is not U.S. trade or business income (as defined above).
- The Non-U.S. Holder provides us or the paying agent with a properly completed Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Form W-8BEN (or successor form), or an appropriate substitute form, together with all appropriate

attachments, signed under penalties of perjury, identifying the Non-U.S. Holder and stating, among other things, that the Non-U.S. Holder is not a U.S. person. If a note is held through a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business, this requirement is satisfied if (i) the Non-U.S. Holder provides such a form to the organization or institution and (ii) the organization or institution, under penalties of perjury, certifies to us that it has received such a form from the beneficial owner or another intermediary and furnishes us or the paying agent with a copy thereof.

- The Non-U.S. Holder is not a bank receiving interest on an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business.
- The Non-U.S. Holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the voting power of all classes of our stock.
- The Non-U.S. Holder is not a "controlled foreign corporation" (as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is actually or constructively related to us.

If all of these foregoing conditions are not met, a 30% U.S. withholding tax will apply to payments of interest on the notes unless either (i) an applicable income tax treaty reduces or eliminates such tax or (ii) the interest is U.S. trade or business income (as defined above) and, in each case, the Non-U.S. Holder complies with applicable certification requirements. In the case of the second exception, the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to all interest on the notes on a net income basis in the same manner as a U.S. Holder. Additionally, Non-U.S. Holders that are corporations could be subject to a branch profits tax on such income. Special procedures contained in Treasury regulations may apply to partnerships, trusts and intermediaries. We urge Non-U.S. Holders to consult their tax advisors for information on the impact of these withholding regulations.

Treatment of Disposition of Notes

Generally, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note unless:

- such holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition and either (i) such gain or income is attributable to an office or other fixed place of business maintained in the United States by such holder, or (ii) such holder has a tax home in the United States; or
- the gain is U.S. trade or business income (as defined above).

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

When required, we will provide information statements to Non-U.S. Holders and the IRS reporting amounts paid with respect to the notes. Payments of the proceeds of the sale or other disposition of the notes to individual Non-U.S. Holders may also be subject to backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%) unless the Non-U.S. Holder provides us or our paying agent with a correct taxpayer identification number and complies with applicable certification. Such payments may also be subject to information reporting unless the Non-U.S. Holder complies with certain certification procedures.

Information reporting requirements and backup withholding tax will not apply to any payment of the proceeds of the sale of a note effected outside the United States by a foreign office of a foreign "broker" (as defined in applicable Treasury regulations), provided that such broker (1) derives less than 50 percent of its gross income for certain periods from the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, (2) is not a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (3) is not a foreign partnership that, at any time during its taxable year, is more than 50 percent (by income or capital interest) owned by U.S. persons or is engaged in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business and (4) is not a U.S. person or a foreign branch of a U.S. person. Payment of the proceeds of the sale of a note effected outside the United States by a foreign office of any other broker will not be subject to backup withholding tax, but will be subject to information reporting requirements unless such broker has documentary evidence in its records that the beneficial owner is a Non-U.S. Holder and certain other conditions are met, or the beneficial owner otherwise establishes an exemption. Payment of the proceeds of a sale of a note by

the U.S. office of a broker will be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding tax unless the beneficial owner certifies its non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder of notes under the backup withholding rules can be credited against any U.S. federal income tax liability of the holder provided that the required information is timely provided to the IRS.

The preceding discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations is for general information only; it is not tax advice. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the particular U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of purchasing, holding and disposing of the notes, including the consequences of any proposed change in applicable laws.

UNDERWRITING

Banc of America Securities LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. are acting as joint book-running managers of the offering of the notes and as representatives of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the Underwriting Agreement and Pricing Agreement, each dated March , 2009, among us and the underwriters named below, we have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has severally agreed to purchase, the principal amount of notes set forth opposite the name of such underwriter:

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Banc of America Securities LLC	$
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	
Total	$

The Underwriting Agreement and Pricing Agreement provide that the obligations of the several underwriters to purchase the notes are subject to approval of a number of legal matters by counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the notes if they purchase any of the notes.

The underwriters propose to offer the notes directly to the public initially at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes on sales to certain other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the public offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriters.

We estimate that we will incur approximately $ in expenses in connection with this offering.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we are obligated to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the notes).

	Paid by Pitney Bowes
Per note	%

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. The underwriters may make a market in the notes after completion of this offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the development, maintenance or liquidity of any trading market for the notes.

The underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a syndicate short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the notes originally sold by such syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. These transactions may cause the price of the notes to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of such transactions. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time without notice.

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

The underwriters and their affiliates have provided, and in the future may continue to provide, investment banking and other financial services to us in the ordinary course of business for which they have received and will receive customary compensation.

No Public Offering Outside the United States

No action has been or will be taken in any jurisdiction outside the United States of America that would permit a public offering of the notes, or the possession, circulation or distribution of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any material relating to us, in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, the notes may not be offered, sold or exchanged, directly or indirectly, and none of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material or advertisement in connection with this offering may be distributed or published, in or from any such country or jurisdiction, except in compliance with any applicable rules or regulations of any such country or jurisdiction.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area ("EEA") which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, as defined below (each, a "Relevant Member State"), each underwriter has represented and agreed that, with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the "Relevant Implementation Date"), it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year, (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000 as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior written consent of the underwriter; or
- in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of the foregoing, the expression "an offer of notes to the public" in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it (a) has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "FSMA") received by it in connection with the issue or sale of notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us, and (b) has complied with and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Without limitation to the other jurisdictions referred to herein, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are directed only at (1) persons outside the United Kingdom; (2) persons having professional experience in matters relating to investments who fall within the definition of "investment professional" in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005; or (3) high net worth bodies corporate, unincorporated associations and partnerships and trustees of high value trusts as described in Article 49(2) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005. Without limitation to the other restrictions referred to herein, any investment or investment activity to which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate is available only to, and will be engaged in only with, such

persons within the United Kingdom who receive this communication (other than persons who fall within (2) or (3) above) should not rely or act upon this communication.

LEGAL MATTERS

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP will pass upon the validity of the notes on our behalf. Sidley Austin LLP will act as counsel to the underwriters.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

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

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, and our SEC filings are also available at the NYSE's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, NY 10005, as well as at the offices of the following stock exchanges where our common stock also is traded: the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc., One Financial Place, 440 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60605; the Pacific Stock Exchange, Inc., 233 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and 301 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94104; and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc., 1900 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available at our Internet site at http://www.pb.com. However, any information on our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus the information in other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and information in documents that we file later with the SEC prior to the termination of this offering will automatically update and supersede information contained in documents filed earlier with the SEC or contained in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus documents listed below and any future filings that we may make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering; provided, however, that we are not incorporating, in each case, any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed on February 26, 2008.

You may obtain a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above, which may have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus (excluding certain exhibits to the documents) at no cost to you by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Pitney Bowes Inc.
1 Elmcroft Road
Stamford CT 06926-0700
(203) 356-5000
Attention: Investor Relations

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus provided, authorized or approved by us. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with other information.

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PROSPECTUS



Debt Securities
Preferred Stock
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Common stock
Purchase Contracts
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Warrants
Units

We may offer from time to time:

- senior or subordinated debt securities;
- shares of our preferred stock;
- shares of our preference stock;
- shares of our common stock;
- purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of certain specified securities;
- depositary shares representing fractional shares of our preferred stock or preference stock;
- warrants for the purchase of certain specified securities; and
- units consisting of certain specified securities.

We will provide specific terms of any offering in supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered separately or together in any combination and as separate series. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "PBI."

The mailing address of our principal executive offices is 1 Elmcroft Road; Stamford Connecticut 06926-0700. Our telephone number is (203) 356-5000.

See "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, or our subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, incorporated herein by reference, for information about risks you should consider before investing in our securities.

These securities have not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor have these organizations determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We may sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Prospectus dated June 18, 2008.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a "shelf" registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. By using a shelf registration process, we may sell, at any time and from time to time in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities. Any prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

Unless we have indicated otherwise, references in this prospectus to "Pitney Bowes," "we," "us" and "our" or similar terms are to Pitney Bowes Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

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

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, and our SEC filings are also available at the NYSE's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, NY 10005, as well as at the offices of the following stock exchanges where our common stock also is traded: the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc., One Financial Place, 440 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60605; the Pacific Stock Exchange, Inc., 233 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and 301 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94104; and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc., 1900 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available at our Internet site at http://www.pb.com. However, any information on our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" in this prospectus the information in other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in documents filed earlier with the SEC or contained in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus documents listed below and any future filings that we may make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus; *provided, however*, that we are not incorporating, in each case, any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:

- the description of our common stock contained in our Form 8-A filed February 16, 1996, Form 8-A/A filed January 16, 1998 and Form 8-A/A filed December 19, 2003, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating this description;
- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed on February 29, 2008, which incorporates by reference certain portions of our proxy statement dated March 27, 2008;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2008, filed on May 8, 2008; and
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K and Form 8-K/A dated January 29, 2008, February 14, 2008, March 7, 2008, April 15, 2008, and May 13, 2008.

The statements of income and the footnote disclosure of segment results for 2007, 2006 and 2005 have not been reclassified to conform to the changes in segment reporting made in the first quarter of 2008. The reclassifications made in the first quarter of 2008 were the result of organizational changes that impact how management now views the business unit results for making operating decisions and assessing performance. The amounts reclassified were immaterial for all periods.

You may obtain a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above, which may have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus (excluding certain exhibits to the documents) at no cost to you by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Pitney Bowes Inc.
1 Elmcroft Road
Stamford CT 06926-0700
(203) 356-5000
Attention: Investor Relations

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and any supplement and any free writing prospectus provided, authorized or approved by us. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with other information.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We want to caution readers that any forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 in this Form S-3, other reports or press releases or statements made by our management involve risks and uncertainties which may change based on various important factors. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. These forward-looking statements are those which talk about our current expectations as to the future and include, but are not limited to, statements about the amounts, timing and results of possible restructuring charges and future earnings. Words such as “estimate,” “project,” “plan,” “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” and similar expressions may identify such forward-looking statements. Cautionary statements setting forth important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements are discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which is incorporated by reference, and also may be discussed in future filings that are incorporated by reference.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the information under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, before making an investment in our securities. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. We refer you to "Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus. In addition, any prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to the securities being offered thereby.

THE COMPANY

Our company was incorporated in the State of Delaware on April 23, 1920, as the Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company. Today, we are the largest provider of mail processing equipment and integrated mail solutions in the world. Our world headquarters are located at 1 Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926-0700. Our telephone number is (203) 356-5000.

We offer a full suite of equipment, supplies, software and services for end-to-end Mailstream solutions which enable our customers to optimize the flow of physical and electronic mail, documents and packages across their operations.

Pitney Bowes and its subsidiaries operate in two business groups, Mailstream Solutions and Mailstream Services. We operate both inside and outside the United States.

Business Segments

We conduct our business activities in seven business segments within the Mailstream Solutions and Mailstream Services business groups. The principal products and services of each of our business segments are as follows:

Mailstream Solutions:

U.S. Mailing: Includes the U.S. revenue and related expenses from the sale, rental and financing of our mail finishing, mail creation, shipping equipment and software; supplies; support and other professional services; and payment solutions.

International Mailing: Includes the non-U.S. revenue and related expenses from the sale, rental and financing of our mail finishing, mail creation, shipping equipment and software; supplies; support and other professional services; and payment solutions.

Production Mail: Includes the worldwide sale, financing, support and other professional services of our high-speed, production mail systems and sorting equipment, and related software.

Software: Includes the worldwide sale and support services of non-equipment-based mailing and customer communication and location intelligence software.

Mailstream Services:

Management Services: Includes our worldwide facilities management services; secure mail services; reprographic, document management services; and litigation support and eDiscovery services.

Mail Services: Includes our presort mail services and our cross-border mail services.

Marketing Services: Includes our direct marketing services for targeted customers; our web tools for the customization of promotional mail and marketing collateral; and other marketing consulting services.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities to which this prospectus relates will be used for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment of outstanding debt, acquisitions, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and investments.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for the periods shown. For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, "earnings" consists of income from continuing operations before income taxes, minority interest (preferred stock dividends of subsidiaries), and interest expense (including amortization of debt issuance costs and capitalized interest) and "fixed charges" consists of interest expense (including amortization of debt issuance costs and capitalized interest) and minority interest (preferred stock dividends of subsidiaries). Minority interest (preferred stock dividends of subsidiaries) consists of pre-tax earnings that are required to pay dividends on outstanding preferred stock of subsidiaries.

	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months Ended March 31,
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.70x	3.72x	4.03x	4.02x	2.89x	3.44x
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (exclusive of minority interest)	3.80x	3.86x	4.30x	4.33x	3.21x	3.80x

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES THAT WE MAY SELL

We may offer and sell, at any time and from time to time:

- senior or subordinated debt securities;
- shares of our preferred stock;
- shares of our preference stock;
- shares of our common stock;
- purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of certain specified securities;
- depositary shares representing fractional shares of our preferred stock or preference stock;
- warrants for the purchase of certain specified securities;
- units consisting of certain specified securities; or
- any combination of these securities.

The terms of any securities we offer will be determined at the time of sale. When particular securities are offered, a supplement to this prospectus will be filed with the SEC that will describe the terms of the offering and sale of the offered securities.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following is a general description of the debt securities that we may offer from time to time. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions described below may apply to those securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may sell hybrid securities that combine certain features of debt securities and other securities described in this prospectus. As you read this section, please remember that the specific terms of a debt security as described in the applicable prospectus supplement will supplement and may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If there are any differences between the applicable prospectus supplement and this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement will control. As a result, the statements we make in this section may not apply to the debt security you purchase.

As used in this "Description of Debt Securities," the "Company" refers to Pitney Bowes Inc., and does not, unless the context otherwise indicates, include our subsidiaries.

Capitalized terms used but not defined in this section have the respective meanings set forth in the applicable indenture.

General

The debt securities that we offer will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. We will issue senior debt securities under an indenture, which we refer to as the senior indenture, dated as of February 14, 2005, between us and The Bank of New York, N.A., as successor trustee to Citibank, N.A., or a another indenture trustee named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will issue subordinated debt securities under a different indenture, which we refer to as the subordinated indenture, to be entered into between us and the trustee named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture as the indentures, and to each of the trustees under the indentures as a trustee. In addition, the indentures may be supplemented or amended as necessary to set forth the terms of the debt securities issued under the indentures. You should read the indentures, including any amendments or supplements, carefully to fully understand the terms of the debt securities. The senior indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement on Form S-3 of which this prospectus forms a part. The form of subordinated indenture has been filed as an exhibit to our registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-120525) filed with the SEC on November 16, 2004. The indentures are subject to, and are governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

The senior debt securities will be unsubordinated obligations of the Company. They will be unsecured and will rank equally with each other and all of our other unsubordinated debt, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of our senior debt. See "Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities." The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will rank equally with each other, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will indicate in each applicable prospectus supplement, as of the most recent practicable date, the aggregate amount of our outstanding debt that would rank senior to the subordinated debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, the debt securities will not constitute obligations of our subsidiaries. Creditors of our subsidiaries are entitled to a claim on the assets of those subsidiaries. Consequently, in the event of a liquidation or reorganization of any subsidiary, creditors of the subsidiary are likely to be paid in full before any distribution is made to the Company and holders of debt securities, except to the extent that the Company is itself recognized as a creditor of such subsidiary, in which case the Company's claims would still be subordinate to any security interests in the assets of such subsidiary and any debt of such subsidiary senior to that held by the Company.

The indentures do not limit the amount of debt securities that can be issued thereunder and provide that debt securities of any series may be issued thereunder up to the aggregate principal amount that we may authorize from time to time. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, the indentures do not limit the amount of other indebtedness or securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities of the same series at more than one time and, unless prohibited by the terms of the series, we may reopen a series for issuances of additional debt securities, without the consent of the holders of the outstanding debt securities of that series.

Reference is made to the prospectus supplement for the following and other possible terms of each series of the debt securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

- the title of the debt securities;
- any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- the price at which the Company will issue the debt securities;
- if other than 100% of the principal amount, the percentage of their principal amount payable upon maturity of the debt securities;
- the date or dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable (or method of determination thereof);
- the rate or rates (or method of determination thereof) at which the debt securities will bear interest (including any interest rates applicable to overdue payments), if any, the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue and on which such interest will be payable, and the record dates for the determination of the holders to whom interest is payable and the dates on which any other amounts, if any, will be payable;
- if other than as set forth herein, the place or places where the principal of, premium and other amounts, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable;
- the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;
- if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;
- if other than U.S. dollars, the foreign currencies or units based on or related to foreign currencies in which the debt securities may be denominated or payable;
- our obligation, if any, to redeem, repurchase or repay debt securities, whether pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or pursuant to other provisions set forth therein or at the option of a holder thereof;
- the name of the trustee and any authenticating agent, paying agent, transfer agent or registrar for the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be represented in whole or in part by one or more global notes registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee;
- the ranking of such debt securities as senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;
- whether there are any authentication agents, paying agents, transfer agents or registrars with respect to the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities are convertible into our common stock and, if so, the terms and conditions of such conversion;
- whether the debt securities are subject to a periodic offering; and
- any other terms or conditions not inconsistent with the provisions of the indenture under which the debt securities will be issued.

"Principal" when used herein includes any premium on any series of the debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, principal and interest, if any, will be payable, and transfers of the debt securities may be registered, at the office or offices or agency we maintain for such purposes, provided that payment of interest on the debt securities will be paid at such place by check mailed to the persons entitled thereto at the addresses of such persons appearing on the security register. Interest on the debt securities will be payable on any interest payment date to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest payment.

The debt securities may be issued only in fully registered form and, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, in minimum denominations of $1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. Additionally, the debt securities may be represented in whole or in part by one or more global notes registered in the name of a depository or its nominee and, if so represented, interests in such global note will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by the designated depository and its participants.

Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, the debt securities may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities of the same series and date of maturity in such authorized denominations as may be requested upon surrender of the debt securities at an agency of the Company maintained for such purpose and upon fulfillment of all other requirements of such agent. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities, but we may require payment of an amount sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

The indentures require the annual filing by the Company with the Trustee of a certificate as to compliance with certain covenants contained in the indentures.

We will comply with Section 14(e) under the Exchange Act, to the extent applicable, and any other tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable, in connection with any obligation to purchase debt securities at the option of the holders thereof. Any such obligation applicable to a series of debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, there are no covenants or provisions contained in the indentures that may afford the holders of debt securities protection in the event that we enter into a highly-leveraged transaction.

The statements made hereunder relating to the indentures and the debt securities are summaries of certain provisions thereof and are qualified in their entirety by reference to all provisions of the indentures and the debt securities and the descriptions thereof, if different, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Events of Default

Except as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series is defined in the indentures as:

- default in the payment of any installment of interest upon any of the debt securities of such series as and when the same shall become due and payable, and continuance of such default for a period of 30 days;
- default in the payment of all or any part of the principal of any of the debt securities of such series as and when the same shall become due and payable either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration or otherwise;
- default in the performance, or breach, of any other covenant or warranty contained in the debt securities of such series or set forth in the applicable indenture (other than a covenant or warranty included in the applicable indenture solely for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities other than such series) and continuance of such default or breach for a period of 90 days after due notice by the trustee or by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding securities of such series; or
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company.

Additional Events of Default may be added for the benefit of holders of certain series of debt securities that, if added, will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities.

The indentures provide that the trustee shall notify the holders of debt securities of each series of any continuing default known to the trustee which has occurred with respect to such series within 90 days after the occurrence thereof. The indentures provide that, notwithstanding the foregoing, except in the case of default in the payment of the principal of, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities of such series, the trustee may withhold such notice if the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of debt securities of such series.

Except as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, the indentures provide that if an Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of debt securities of such series then outstanding may declare the principal amount of all debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately, but upon certain conditions such declaration may be annulled. Any past defaults and the consequences thereof, except a default in the payment of principal of or interest, if any, on debt securities of such series, may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding.

Subject to the provisions of the indentures relating to the duties of the trustee, in case an Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities shall occur and be continuing, the trustee shall not be under any obligation to exercise any of the trusts or powers vested in it by the indentures at the request or direction of any of the holders of such series, unless such holders shall have offered to such trustee reasonable security or indemnity. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each series affected and then outstanding shall have the right, subject to certain limitations, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee under the applicable indenture or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series; provided that the trustee may refuse to follow any direction which is in conflict with any law or such indenture and subject to certain other limitations.

No holder of any debt security of any series will have any right under the indentures to institute any proceeding with respect to the indentures or for any remedy thereunder, unless such holder shall have previously given the trustee written notice of an Event of Default with respect to debt securities of such series and unless the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series also shall have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute the proceeding, and the trustee shall have failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days after its receipt of such request, and the trustee shall not have received from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series a direction inconsistent with such request. However, the right of a holder of any debt security to receive payment of the principal of and interest, if any, on such debt security on or after the due dates expressed in such debt security, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such dates, shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of such holder.

Merger

Each indenture provides that the Company may consolidate with, sell, convey or lease all or substantially all of its assets to, or merge with or into, any other corporation, if:

- either the Company is the continuing corporation or the successor corporation is a domestic corporation and expressly assumes the due and punctual payment of the principal of and interest on all the debt securities outstanding under such indenture according to their tenor and the due and punctual performance and observance of all of the covenants and conditions of such indenture to be performed or observed by the Company; and
- immediately after such merger, consolidation, sale, conveyance or lease, the Company or such successor corporation, as the case may be, is not in material default in the performance or observance of any such covenant or condition.

Satisfaction and Discharge of Indentures

The indenture with respect to any series of debt securities — except for certain specified surviving obligations including the Company's obligation to pay the principal of and interest on the debt securities of such series — will be discharged and cancelled upon the satisfaction of certain conditions, including the payment of all the debt securities of such series or the deposit with the trustee under such indenture of cash or appropriate government obligations or a combination thereof sufficient for such payment or redemption in accordance with the applicable indenture and the terms of the debt securities of such series.

Modification of the Indentures

The indentures contain provisions permitting the Company and the trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each series at the time outstanding under the indenture affected thereby, to execute supplemental indentures adding any provisions to, or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of, the applicable indenture or any supplemental indenture or modifying in any manner the rights of the holders of the debt securities of each such series. No such supplemental indenture, however, may:

- extend the final maturity date of any debt security, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of any interest thereon, or reduce any amount payable on redemption thereof, or impair or affect the right of any holder of debt securities to institute suit for payment thereof or, if the debt securities provide therefor, any right of repayment at the option of the holders of the debt securities, without the consent of the holder of each debt security so affected;
- reduce the aforesaid percentage of debt securities of such series, the consent of the holders of which is required for any such supplemental indenture, without the consent of the holders of all debt securities of such series so affected; or
- reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity date of any Original Issue Discount Security.

Additionally, in certain circumstances prescribed in the indentures governing the relevant series of debt securities, the Company and the trustee may execute supplemental indentures without the consent of the holders of debt securities.

Defeasance

The indentures provide, if such provision is made applicable to the debt securities of any series, that the Company may elect to terminate, and be deemed to have satisfied and to be discharged from, all its obligations with respect to such series of debt securities — except for the obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency in respect of such debt securities, to compensate and indemnify the trustee and to pay or cause to be paid the principal of, and interest, if any, on all debt securities of such series when due — upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust for such purpose, of funds or government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide funds in an amount sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized independent registered public accounting firm, to pay the principal of and premium and interest, if any, on the outstanding debt securities of such series, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon, on the scheduled due dates therefor. We call this termination, satisfaction and discharge "defeasance." Such a trust may be established only if, among other things:

- the Company has delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel with regard to certain matters, including an opinion to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred, and which opinion of counsel must be based upon:
  - a ruling of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to the same effect; or
  - a change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law after the date of the indenture such that a ruling is no longer required;
- no Event of Default shall have occurred or be continuing; and
- such deposit shall not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under the applicable indenture or any other material agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which the Company is bound.

The prospectus supplement may further describe these or other provisions, if any, permitting defeasance with respect to the debt securities of any series.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The senior debt securities will constitute part of our Senior Indebtedness and will rank *pari passu* with all outstanding senior debt. Except as set forth in the related prospectus supplement, the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated, in right of payment, to the prior payment in full of our Senior Indebtedness, including the senior debt securities, whether outstanding at the date of the subordinated indenture or thereafter incurred, assumed or guaranteed.

Except as set forth in the related prospectus supplement, "Senior Indebtedness" means:

- the principal of and premium, if any, and unpaid interest on indebtedness for money borrowed;
- purchase money and similar obligations;
- obligations under capital leases or leases of property or assets made as part of any sale and leaseback transaction;
- guarantees, assumptions or purchase commitments relating to, or other transactions as a result of which the Company is responsible for the payment of, such indebtedness of others;
- renewals, extensions and refunding of any such indebtedness;
- interest or obligations in respect of any such indebtedness accruing after the commencement of any insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings; and
- obligations associated with derivative products such as interest rate and currency exchange contracts, foreign exchange contracts, commodity contracts, and similar arrangements;

unless, in each case, the instrument by which the Company incurred, assumed or guaranteed the indebtedness or obligations described above expressly provides that such indebtedness or obligation is not senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities.

Upon any distribution of the Company's assets in connection with any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization of the Company, whether in a bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or receivership proceeding or upon an assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of the Company's assets and liabilities or otherwise, except a distribution in connection with a merger or consolidation or a conveyance or transfer of all or substantially all of the properties of the Company in accordance with the subordinated indenture, the holders of all Senior Indebtedness shall first be entitled to receive payment of the full amount due thereon before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment in respect of the subordinated debt securities. In the event that a payment default shall have occurred and be continuing with respect to the Senior Indebtedness, the holders of all Senior Indebtedness shall first be entitled to receive payment of the full amount due thereon before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment in respect of the subordinated debt securities. In the event that the principal of the subordinated debt securities of any series shall have been declared due and payable pursuant to the subordinated indenture and such declaration shall not have been rescinded and annulled, the holders of all Senior Indebtedness outstanding at the time of such declaration shall first be entitled to receive payment of the full amount due thereon, or provision shall be made for such payment in full, before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment in respect of the subordinated debt securities.

This subordination will not prevent the occurrence of any event of default with respect to the subordinated debt securities.

Global Debt Securities

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository (a **"Debt Depository"**) identified in the applicable prospectus

supplement. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. Unless otherwise provided in such prospectus supplement, debt securities that are represented by a global security will be issued in denominations of $1,000 or any integral multiple thereof and will be issued in registered form only, without coupons. Payments of principal of, and interest, if any, on debt securities represented by a global security will be made by the Company to the trustee under the applicable indenture, and then forwarded to the Debt Depository.

We anticipate that any global securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (**"DTC"**), and that such global securities will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., DTC's nominee. We further anticipate that the following provisions will apply to the depository arrangements with respect to any such global securities. Any additional or differing terms of the depository arrangements will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities issued in the form of global securities.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole Holder of the debt securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have debt securities represented by such global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities in certificated form and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the applicable indenture. The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in certificated form. Such laws may limit the transferability of beneficial interests in a global security.

If DTC is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if at any time DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act if so required by applicable law or regulation, and, in either case, we do not appoint a successor Debt Depository within 90 days, we will issue individual debt securities in certificated form in exchange for the global securities. In addition, we may determine, at any time and subject to the procedures of DTC, not to have any debt securities represented by one or more global securities, and, in such event, will issue individual debt securities in certificated form in exchange for the relevant global securities upon the request of DTC participants. In any such instance, an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security will be entitled to physical delivery of individual debt securities in certificated form of like tenor and rank, equal in principal amount to such beneficial interest, and to have such debt securities in certificated form registered in its name. Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities so issued in certificated form will be issued in denominations of $1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, and will be issued in registered form only, without coupons.

DTC is a limited purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants (**"Participants"**) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in Participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations (**"Direct Participants"**). DTC is owned by a number of its Direct Participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, Inc. and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others, such as securities brokers and dealers, and banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (**"Indirect Participants"**). The rules applicable to DTC and its Participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of debt securities under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the debt securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each debt security (**"Beneficial Owner"**) is in turn recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. A Beneficial Owner does not receive written confirmation from DTC of its purchase, but is expected to receive a written confirmation providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of its holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participants through which such Beneficial Owner entered into the action. Transfers of ownership interests

in debt securities are accomplished by entries made on the books of Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners do not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in debt securities, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the debt securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, the debt securities are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of the debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. will effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the debt securities; DTC records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts debt securities are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Participants remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Delivery of notice and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners are governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. consents or votes with respect to the debt securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails a proxy (an **"Omnibus Proxy"**) to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited on the record date (identified on a list attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments, if any, on the debt securities will be made to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the payment date in accordance with their respective holdings as shown on DTC's records, unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on the payment date. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners are governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and are the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, the trustee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal and interest, if any, to DTC is our or the trustee's responsibility, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants is DTC's responsibility, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the debt securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to us or the Trustee. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not appointed, debt security certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC or a successor securities depository. In that event, debt security certificates will be printed and delivered.

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

None of us, any underwriter or agent, the trustee or any applicable paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial interests in a global security, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial interest.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK AND PREFERENCE STOCK

The following description of the material terms of our preferred stock and preference stock is based on the provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended. For more information as to how you can obtain a current copy of our restated certificate of incorporation, see "Where You Can Find More Information." As used in this "Description of Preferred Stock and Preference Stock," the "Company" refers to Pitney Bowes Inc., and does not, unless the context otherwise indicates, include our subsidiaries.

Our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, authorizes the issuance of 600,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock, par value $50.00 per share, 5,000,000 shares of preference stock, without par value, and 480,000,000 shares of common stock, par value $1.00 per share.

Preferred Stock

We may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series, without stockholder approval. Subject to limitations prescribed by law, our board of directors is authorized to determine the designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, for each series of preferred stock that may be issued and to fix the number of shares of each series.

At March 31, 2008, there were 135 shares of our 4% Convertible Cumulative Preferred Stock outstanding. Each share of our outstanding 4% preferred stock is entitled to cumulative dividends at the rate of $2 per year, can be redeemed at our option, in whole or in part at any time, at a price of $50 per share, plus an amount equal to dividends accrued to the redemption date, and is convertible into 24.24 shares of our common stock, subject to anti-dilution adjustment.

Dividends. Holders of preferred shares of each series will be entitled to receive, when and as declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative dividends at the rate determined by our board of directors for that series. Dividends on the preferred shares will accrue from the date fixed by our board of directors for that series. Unless we have declared and paid in full all dividends payable on all of our outstanding preferred shares for the current period and all prior periods, we will not be allowed to make any dividend payments (other than a dividend in common stock or in any other class of stock ranking junior to the Preferred Shares) on any class of stock that is subordinate to our preferred shares and we will not be allowed to redeem or otherwise repurchase any shares of any class of stock which ranks equally with or subordinate to our preferred shares.

Accrued and unpaid dividends on the preferred shares will not bear interest.

Redemption. We have the right to redeem either all or a portion of the outstanding preferred shares of any series at any time, as determined by our board of directors. Preferred shares will be redeemed at par value, plus accrued and unpaid dividends and, if our board of directors has so determined for a series of preferred stock, a redemption premium. If we decide to redeem fewer than all of the outstanding preferred shares of any series, our board of directors will determine the method of selecting which shares to redeem.

Conversion or Exchange Rights. The prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock that is convertible or exchangeable will state the terms determined by our board of directors upon which shares of that series are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common or preference stock or another series of preferred stock of the Company or securities of any third party.

Liquidation. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, before any distribution of assets would be made to the holders of any class of shares ranking subordinate to the preferred shares as to assets, the holders of the preferred shares of each series would be entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to our shareholders the sum of the par value for that series and an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends on those shares. In the event of a voluntary liquidation, the holders of preferred shares also would receive the premium, if any, assigned to that series by our board of directors. The holders of all series of preferred shares would be entitled to share ratably, in accordance with the respective amounts payable on their shares, in any distribution upon liquidation that is not sufficient to pay in full the aggregate amounts payable on all of those shares. After payment in full of the liquidation preference of the preferred shares, the holders of those shares would not be entitled to any

further participation in any distribution of our assets. Neither the consolidation or merger of the Company with or into any other corporation or corporations, nor the merger or consolidation of any other corporation into and with the Company, will be deemed to be a voluntary or involuntary liquidation if the transaction is consented to by the holders of 66 2/3% of the outstanding preferred shares. However, the sale, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company would be deemed a voluntary liquidation of the Company for purposes of payment of the liquidation preference of the preferred shares.

Voting. The preferred shares of a series will not be entitled to vote, except as required by applicable law or as provided in our restated certificate of incorporation. Each share of a series of preferred shares will be entitled to one vote on matters on which holders of that series are entitled to vote. Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that we may not create, authorize or issue a class of stock ranking senior to the preferred shares or amend the restated certificate of incorporation in a manner adverse to the preferred shares, or engage in a voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, a sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of the property or business of the Company or certain mergers or consolidations without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the affected outstanding preferred shares, voting as a class. In addition, our restated certificate of incorporation provides that whenever dividends on the preferred shares are in arrears in an aggregate amount equal to six quarterly dividend periods or we fail to retire or repurchase any shares of preferred stock that we are obligated to retire or repurchase, then the holders of all series of outstanding preferred shares, voting as a class, would be entitled to elect one-third of the total number of directors, but not less than three directors. We may not increase the amount of preferred shares or authorize or create any shares of any other class of stock ranking equal to the preferred shares as to dividends or assets or otherwise without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of all the outstanding preferred shares, voting as a class.

Preference Stock

We may issue preference stock from time to time in one or more series, without stockholder approval. The preference shares rank as to dividends and assets junior to the preferred shares but senior to the common stock and to any other capital stock of the Company that we may authorize in the future, other than capital stock that by its terms ranks senior or equal to the preference shares and that is authorized as described below under “Voting.” Each series of preference shares will rank equally to each other series of preference shares as to dividends and assets, unless the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preference shares states that our board of directors has determined that shares of that series rank junior to the other series of preference shares as to dividends or assets or both.

Subject to the limitations prescribed by law, our board of directors is authorized to determine the voting powers, if any, designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional, conversion and other rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions for each series of preference stock that may be issued and to fix the number of shares of each series.

At March 31, 2008, there were 36,469 shares of $2.12 Convertible Preference Stock outstanding. Each share of our outstanding $2.12 preference stock is entitled to cumulative dividends at the rate of $2.12 per year, can be redeemed at our option, in whole or in part at any time, at a price of $28 per share, plus dividends accrued to the redemption date, and is convertible into 16.53 shares of our common stock, subject to anti-dilution adjustment.

Dividends. Holders of preference shares of each series will be entitled to receive, when and as declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative dividends at the rate determined by our board of directors for that series. Dividends on the preference shares will accrue from the date fixed by our board of directors for that series. Because the preference shares rank junior to the preferred shares, unless we have declared and paid in full all dividends payable on all of our outstanding preferred shares for the current period and all prior periods, we will not be allowed to make any dividend payments on the preference shares and we will not be able to redeem or repurchase any preference shares. We will not be allowed to make any dividend payment on any series of preference shares unless at the same time we pay dividends, in the same proportion to the preferential dividend rates, for each other series of preference shares ranking equally with that series. In addition, unless we have paid in full all dividends payable on all of our outstanding preference shares for the current period and all prior periods, we will not be allowed to make any dividend payments on any class of stock that is subordinate

to our preference shares and we will not be allowed to redeem or otherwise repurchase any shares of any class of stock which ranks equally with or subordinate to our preference shares.

Accrued and unpaid dividends on the preference shares will not bear interest.

Redemption. The terms, if any, on which preference shares of any series may be redeemed will be determined by our board of directors and described in a prospectus supplement.

If we decide to redeem fewer than all of the outstanding preference shares of any series, our board of directors will determine the method of selecting which shares to redeem.

Conversion or Exchange Rights. The prospectus supplement relating to any series of preference stock that is convertible or exchangeable will state the terms determined by our board of directors upon which shares of that series are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock or another series of preference stock of the Company or securities of any third party.

Liquidation. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of any class of shares ranking as to assets subordinate to the preference shares, the holders of the preference shares of each series would be entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to our shareholders the preferential amount, in cash, that will be determined by our board of directors for that series when that series is established and an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends on those shares, but the holders of the preference shares would not be entitled to receive the liquidation preference of their shares until the liquidation preference of the preferred shares outstanding at the time had been paid in full. The holders of all series of preference shares would be entitled to share ratably, in accordance with the respective amounts payable on their shares, in any distribution upon liquidation that is not sufficient to pay in full the aggregate amounts payable on those shares, except to the extent that the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preference shares states that our board of directors has determined that the shares of that series rank junior to the other series of preference shares as to dividends or assets. After payment in full of the liquidation preference of the preference shares, the holders of those shares would not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of our assets.

Voting. The preference shares of a series will not be entitled to vote, except as required by applicable law, our restated certificate of incorporation or provided by resolution of our board of directors creating such series. Unless the prospectus supplement relating to a series of preference shares states that our board of directors has determined otherwise, each share of a series will be entitled to one vote on matters on which holders of that series are entitled to vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our restated certificate of incorporation provides that we may not create, authorize or increase the authorized amount of any class of stock having preference or priority as to dividends or assets over the preference shares without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the preference shares, irrespective of series. We may not increase the authorized amount of preference stock or of any previously authorized class of stock ranking equally with the preference stock as to dividends or assets, or authorize or create any class of stock ranking equally with the preference stock as to dividends or assets, without the consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preference shares, irrespective of series. Whenever dividends on the preference shares are in arrears in an aggregate amount equal to six quarterly dividend periods, then the holders of preference shares, voting as a class, will be entitled to elect two directors.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of the material terms of our common stock is based on the provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended. For more information as to how you can obtain a current copy of our restated certificate of incorporation, see "Where You Can Find More Information." As used in this "Description of Common Stock", the "Company" refers to Pitney Bowes Inc., and does not, unless the context otherwise indicates, include our subsidiaries.

Subject to the rights of the holders of any of our preferred stock or preference stock then outstanding, holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on matters to be voted on by our stockholders and to receive dividends, if any, when declared from time to time by our board of directors in its discretion out of legally available funds. Upon our liquidation or dissolution, holders of common stock would be entitled to receive proportionately all assets remaining after payment of all liabilities and liquidation preference on any shares of preferred stock or preference stock outstanding at the time. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or other subscription rights, and there are no conversion rights or redemption or sinking fund provisions with respect to common stock. As of March 31, 2008, there were approximately 209,795,732 shares of our common stock outstanding, net of 113,542,180 shares of treasury stock, and approximately 22,008,778 shares reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options, our dividend reinvestment and other corporate plans, and conversion of our 4% preferred shares and $2.12 preference shares. All of our outstanding common stock is fully paid and non-assessable, which means that the holders have paid their purchase price in full and we may not ask them for additional funds, and all of the shares of common stock that may be offered with this prospectus will be fully paid and non-assessable when issued.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Equiserve Trust Company, N.A.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "PBI."

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification Matters

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that a director of the Company will not be liable to the Company or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except in certain cases where liability is mandated by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

Our restated certificate of incorporation also provides for indemnification, to the fullest extent permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, of any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director or officer of the Company, or, at our request, serves or served as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against all expense, liability and loss, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, Employee Retirement Income Security Act excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement, reasonably incurred or suffered by that person in connection with the action, suit or proceeding. Our restated certificate of incorporation also provides that, to the extent authorized from time to time by our board of directors, we may provide to our employees and other agents rights of indemnification and to receive payment or reimbursement of expenses, including attorneys' fees, that are similar to the rights conferred by the restated certificate of incorporation on our directors and officers or persons serving at our request as directors, officers, employees or agents of any other enterprise.

Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware

Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware applies to the Company. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a "business combination" with an "interested stockholder," as defined in Section 203, for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. A "business combination" includes a merger, asset sale or a transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An "interested stockholder," as defined in Section 203, is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or, in certain cases, within the preceding three years, did own) 15% or more of the

corporation's outstanding voting stock. Under Section 203, a business combination between the Company and an interested stockholder is prohibited within the three-year period unless it satisfies one of the following conditions:

- before the stockholder became an interested stockholder, the board of directors of the Company must have approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the Company outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding, for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding, shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by employee stock plans in which employee participants do no have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or
- the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the Company and authorized at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least $66^{2}/_{3}$% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

See also "Certain Anti-Takeover Matters — Vote Required for Certain Business Combinations" for information about provisions in our certificate of incorporation that impose requirements similar to those of Section 203.

Certain Anti-Takeover Matters

Our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of encouraging persons considering unsolicited tender offers or other unilateral takeover proposals to negotiate with our board of directors rather than pursue non-negotiated takeover attempts. These provisions include:

Vote Required for Certain Business Combinations. Our restated certificate of incorporation generally requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of the then outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, which we call "voting stock," voting together as a single class, in addition to any other affirmative vote required by law or the restated certificate of incorporation, to approve:

- any merger or consolidation of the Company or any of our subsidiaries with an "interested stockholder," as defined in the restated certificate of incorporation and described below, or any other corporation which is, or after the merger or consolidation would be, an affiliate of an interested stockholder;
- any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition to or with any interested stockholder or any affiliate of any interested stockholder of any assets of the Company or any of our subsidiaries having an aggregate fair market value of $50,000,000 or more;
- the issuance or transfer by the Company or any of its subsidiaries of any securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to any interested stockholder or any affiliate of any interested stockholder in exchange for cash, securities or other property having an aggregate fair market value of $50,000,000 or more;
- the adoption of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company proposed by or on behalf of an interested stockholder or any affiliate of any interested stockholder; or
- any reclassification of securities or recapitalization of the Company, or any merger or consolidation of the Company with any of its subsidiaries or any other transaction which has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the outstanding shares of any class of equity or convertible securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries which is directly or indirectly owned by any interested stockholder or any affiliate of any interested stockholder.

An "interested stockholder" means any person, other than the Company or any of our subsidiaries, who or which:

- beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 20% of the voting power of the outstanding shares of voting stock;

- is an affiliate of the Company and at any time within the two-year period immediately before the date in question beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, 20% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding voting stock; or
- is the assignee of any shares of voting stock which were at any time within the two-year period immediately before the date in question beneficially owned by an interested stockholder, if the assignment of those shares occurred in the course of a transaction or series of transactions not involving a public offering within the meaning of the Securities Act.

The special voting requirement described above will not apply to a transaction of any of the kinds described above, and that transaction will require only any affirmative vote that is required by law and any other provisions of our certificate of incorporation, if either:

- the transaction is approved by a majority of our "disinterested directors," a term which is defined to mean any director who is unaffiliated with the interested stockholder and was a member of the board of directors before the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder, and any successor of a disinterested director who is unaffiliated with the interested stockholder and is recommended to succeed the disinterested director by a majority of disinterested directors then on the board; or
- all of the following conditions are met:
- the aggregate amount of the cash, and the fair market value as of the date of consummation of the transaction of consideration other than cash, to be received per share by holders of common stock in the transaction is at least equal to the higher of the following:
  - the highest per share price paid by the interested stockholder for any shares of common stock acquired by it within the two-year period immediately before the first public announcement of the proposal of the transaction, which we call the "announcement date," or in the transaction in which it became an interested stockholder, whichever is higher; and
  - the fair market value per share of common stock on the announcement date or the date on which the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder, whichever is higher;
- the aggregate amount of the cash, and the fair market value as of the date of consummation of the transaction of consideration other than cash, to be received per share by holders of shares of any other class of outstanding voting stock is at least equal to the highest of the following:
  - the highest per share price paid by the interested stockholder for any shares of that class of voting stock acquired by it within the two-year period immediately before the announcement date or in the transaction in which it became an interested stockholder, whichever is higher;
  - the highest preferential amount per share to which the holders of shares of that class of voting stock are entitled upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company; and
  - the fair market value per share of that class of voting stock on the announcement date or the date on which the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder, whichever is higher;
- the consideration to be received by holders of a particular class of outstanding voting stock will be in cash or in the same form as the interested stockholder has previously paid for shares of that class of voting stock; if the interested stockholder has paid for shares of any class of voting stock with varying forms of consideration, the consideration for that class will be either cash or the form used to acquire the largest number of shares of that class previously acquired by it;
- after the interested stockholder has become an interested stockholder and before the consummation of the transaction:
  - except as approved by a majority of the disinterested directors, the Company has not failed to declare and pay at the regular date any full quarterly dividends on the outstanding preferred stock or preference stock;

- except as approved by a majority of the disinterested directors, the Company has not reduced the annual rate of dividends on the common stock or failed to increase that rate to reflect any reclassification of the outstanding shares of common stock, including any reverse stock split; and the interested stockholder has not become the beneficial owner of any additional shares of voting stock except as part of the transaction which results in the interested stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- after the interested stockholder has become an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder has not received the benefit, except proportionately as a stockholder, of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial assistance or any tax credits or other tax advantages provided by the Company; and
- a proxy or information statement describing the proposed transaction and complying with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations under the Exchange Act has been mailed to our public stockholders at least 30 days before the consummation of the transaction, whether or not the proxy or information statement is required to be mailed under the Exchange Act.

Classified Board of Directors. Our restated certificate of incorporation provides for a board of directors divided into three classes, with one class to be elected each year to serve for a three-year term. As a result, at least two annual meetings of our stockholders may be required for the stockholders to change a majority of our board of directors. In addition, stockholders can only remove directors, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of voting stock, voting together as a single class. Except to the extent that the holders of preferred stock and preference stock have the right to fill vacancies on the board of directors in some circumstances, vacancies on our board of directors may be filled only by our board of directors. The classification of directors and the inability of stockholders to remove directors without the vote of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of voting stock or to fill vacancies on the board of directors make it more difficult to change the composition of our board of directors, but promote a continuity of existing management.

Advance Notice Requirements. Our by-laws establish advance notice procedures with regard to stockholder proposals relating to the nomination of candidates for election as directors or other business to be brought before meetings of our stockholders. These procedures provide that notice of stockholder proposals of these kinds must be timely given in writing to the Secretary of the Company before the meeting at which the action is to be taken. Generally, to be timely, notice of stockholder proposals other than nomination of director candidates must be received at the principal executive offices of the Company not less than 90 days before an annual meeting at which the proposals are to be presented, and notice of stockholder nominations of director candidates to be presented at an annual or special meeting must be received not later than 90 days before the annual meeting or the close of business on the seventh day following the date on which notice of the special meeting is first given to stockholders, as applicable. The notice must contain certain information specified in the by-laws.

No Ability of Stockholders to Call Special Meetings. Our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws deny stockholders the right to call a special meeting of stockholders, except to the extent that holders of preferred stock or preference stock have the right to call a special meeting in some circumstances. Our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws provide that, except to that extent, only the board of directors may call special meetings of the stockholders.

No Written Consent of Stockholders. Our restated certificate of incorporation requires all stockholder actions to be taken by a vote of the stockholders at an annual or special meeting, and does not permit our stockholders to act by written consent without a meeting.

Amendment of By-Laws and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. Our restated certificate of incorporation requires the approval of not less than 80% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of voting stock, voting as a single class, to amend any of the provisions of the restated certificate of incorporation relating to our classified board of directors, stockholder action by written consent, business combinations or amendment of our by-laws. In addition, our restated certificate of incorporation requires the approval of not less than 80% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of voting stock, voting as a single class, to amend provisions of the by-laws relating to quorum and voting requirements at stockholders meeting, our classified board of directors, stockholder nominations of director candidates, filling vacancies and newly created directorships on the board of directors, removal of directors and notification of nominations to the board of directors.

These provisions make it more difficult to dilute the anti-takeover effects of our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws.

Blank Check Preferred and Preference Stock. Our restated certificate of incorporation provides for 600,000 authorized shares of preferred stock and 5,000,000 authorized shares of preference stock. The existence of authorized but unissued shares of preferred and preference stock may enable the board of directors to render more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of the Company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. For example, if in the due exercise of its fiduciary obligations, the board of directors were to determine that a takeover proposal is not in the best interests of the Company, the board of directors could cause shares of preferred or preference stock to be issued without stockholder approval in one or more private offerings or other transactions that might dilute the voting or other rights of the proposed acquiror or insurgent stockholder or stockholder group. In this regard, the restated certificate of incorporation grants our board of directors broad power to establish the rights and preferences of authorized and unissued shares of preferred and preference stock. The issuance of shares of preferred or preference stock could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of shares of common stock. The issuance also may adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of those holders and may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of the Company.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of our debt securities or equity securities or securities of third parties including any of our affiliates, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and obligating us to sell to holders, at a future date, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula. Alternatively, we may issue purchase contracts obligating us to purchase from holders, and obligating holders to sell to us, at a future date, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula. We may satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the subject securities or by delivering the cash value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract. The purchase contracts may be entered into separately or as a part of units.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded and may be paid on a current or deferred basis. The purchase contracts may require holders thereof to secure their obligations under the contracts in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock or preference stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock or preference stock. If we exercise this option, we will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction, to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock or preference stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us. The depositary will have its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least $50,000,000. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock or preference stock underlying that depositary share. Those rights may include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under a deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying the depositary shares, in accordance with the terms of the offering. The following description of the material terms of the deposit agreement, the depositary shares and the depositary receipts is only a summary and you should refer to the forms of the deposit agreement and depositary receipts that will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the specific depositary shares.

Pending the preparation of definitive engraved depositary receipts, the depositary, upon our written order, may issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to the definitive depositary receipts but not in definitive form. These temporary depositary receipts would entitle their holders to all the rights of definitive depositary receipts. Temporary depositary receipts would be exchangeable for definitive depositary receipts at our expense.

Dividends and Other Distributions. The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received with respect to the underlying stock to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary would distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary, with our approval, would sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the applicable holders.

Withdrawal of Underlying Preferred or Preference Stock. Unless we say otherwise in a prospectus supplement, holders may surrender depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary and, upon payment of any unpaid amount due to the depositary, would be entitled to receive the number of whole shares of underlying preferred or preference stock and all money and other property represented by the related depositary shares. We will not issue any partial shares of preferred or preference stock. If the holder delivers depositary receipts evidencing a number of depositary shares that represent more than a whole number of shares of preferred or preference stock, the depositary will issue a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares to that holder.

Redemption of Depositary Shares. If a series of preferred stock or preference stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares would be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of underlying stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share would be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to that series of underlying stock. Whenever we redeem shares of underlying stock that are held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the shares of underlying stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or proportionately, as may be determined by the depositary.

Voting. Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the underlying stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares underlying the preferred stock or preference stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date,

which will be the same date as the record date for the underlying stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the underlying stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will then try, as far as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock or preference stock underlying those depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all actions which may be deemed necessary by the depositary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote the underlying shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares underlying the preferred stock or preference stock.

Conversion of Preferred or Preference Stock. If the prospectus supplement relating to the depositary shares says that the deposited preferred or preference stock is convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or preferred or preference stock of another series of Pitney Bowes or securities of any third party, the following will apply. The depositary shares, as such, will not be convertible into or exchangeable for any securities of Pitney Bowes or any third party. Rather, any holder of the depositary shares may surrender the related depositary receipts to the depositary with written instructions to instruct us to cause conversion or exchange of the preferred or preference stock represented by the depositary shares into or for whole shares of common stock or shares of another series of preferred or preference stock of Pitney Bowes or securities of the relevant third party, as applicable. Upon receipt of those instructions and any amounts payable by the holder in connection with the conversion or exchange, we will cause the conversion or exchange using the same procedures as those provided for conversion or exchange of the deposited preferred or preference stock. If only some of the depositary shares are to be converted or exchanged, a new depositary receipt or receipts will be issued for any depositary shares not to be converted or exchanged.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement. The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended at any time by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement may be terminated by us or by the depositary only if all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or converted or exchanged for any other securities into which the underlying preferred or preference stock is convertible or exchangeable or there has been a final distribution of the underlying stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and the underlying stock has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Depositary. We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the underlying stock and any redemption of the underlying stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and those other charges, including a fee for any permitted withdrawal of shares of underlying stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Reports. The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that we deliver to the depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the underlying stock.

Limitation on Liability. Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or underlying stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting underlying stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

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

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, equity securities or securities of third parties, including any of our affiliates, or other rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified securities. We may offer warrants separately or together with any other securities in the form of units, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent.

The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Warrants

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any warrants being offered, including:

- the title and the aggregate number of warrants;
- the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;
- the currency or currencies in which the price of the warrants will be payable;
- the securities or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- the price at which, and the currency or currencies in which, the securities or other rights purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;
- the periods during which, and places at which, the warrants are exercisable;
- the date or dates on which the warrants shall commence and the date or dates on which the warrants will expire;
- the terms of any mandatory or optional call provisions;
- the price or prices, if any, at which the warrants may be redeemed at the option of the holder or will be redeemed upon expiration;
- whether the warrants will be sold separately or with other securities as part of a unit;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;
- if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- any provisions for the adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of warrants;
- the identity of the warrant agent;
- the exchanges, if any, on which the warrants may be listed;
- the maximum or minimum number of warrants which may be exercised at any time;
- if applicable, a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations;
- whether the warrants shall be issued in book-entry form; and
- any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

We will issue warrants under one or more warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, in one or more series, which will be described in a prospectus supplement for the warrants. The following summaries of significant provisions of the warrant agreements are not intended to be

comprehensive and you should review the detailed provisions of the relevant warrant agreement to be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of specific warrants for a full description and for other information regarding the warrants.

Significant Provisions of the Warrant Agreements

The following terms and conditions of the warrant agreement will apply to each warrant, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement:

Modifications without Consent of Warrant Holders. We and the warrant agent may amend the terms of the warrants and the warrant certificates without the consent of the holders to:

- cure any ambiguity;
- cure, correct or supplement any defective or inconsistent provision;
- amend the terms in any other manner which we may deem necessary or desirable and which will not adversely affect the interests of the affected holders in any material respect; or
- reduce the exercise price of the warrants.

Modifications with Consent of Warrant Holders. We and the warrant agent, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in number of the then outstanding unexercised warrants affected, may modify or amend the warrant agreements. However, we and the warrant agent may not make any of the following modifications or amendments without the consent of each affected warrant holder:

- increase the exercise price of the warrants;
- reduce the amount or number receivable upon exercise, cancellation or expiration of the warrants other than in accordance with the antidilution provisions or other similar adjustment provisions included in the terms of the warrants;
- shorten the period of time during which the warrants may be exercised;
- materially and adversely affect the rights of the owners of the warrants; or
- reduce the percentage of outstanding warrants the consent of whose owners is required for the modification of the applicable warrant agreement.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale of Assets. If at any time we merge or consolidate or transfer substantially all of our assets, the successor corporation will succeed to and assume all of our obligations under each warrant agreement and the warrant certificates. We will then be relieved of any further obligation under the warrant agreements and the warrants issued thereunder. See “Description of Debt Securities — Merger.”

Enforceability of Rights of Warrant Holders. The warrant agents will act solely as our agents in connection with the warrant certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrant certificates or beneficial owners of warrants. Any holder of warrant certificates and any beneficial owner of warrants, without the consent of any other person, may enforce by appropriate legal action, on its own behalf, its right to exercise the warrants evidenced by the warrant certificates in the manner provided for in that series of warrants or pursuant to the applicable warrant agreement. No holder of any warrant certificate or beneficial owner of any warrants will be entitled to any of the rights of a holder of the debt securities or any other securities, including common stock, preference stock or preferred stock, or any other warrant property purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, including the right to receive dividends, if any, or interest on any securities, the right to receive payments on debt securities or any other warrant property or to enforce any of the covenants or rights in the relevant indenture or any other similar agreement.

Registration and Transfer of Warrants. Subject to the terms of the applicable warrant agreement, warrants in registered definitive form may be presented for exchange and for registration of transfer at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent for that series of warrants or at any other office indicated in the

prospectus supplement relating to that series of warrants, without service charge. However, the holder will be required to pay any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the warrant agreement. The registration of transfer or exchange will be effected only if the warrant agent for the series of warrants is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request.

New York Law to Govern. The warrants and each warrant agreement will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities or other securities, including common stock, preference stock, preferred stock, purchase contracts, depositary shares, warrants or any combination thereof, as described in a prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

- the designation and the terms of the units and of the debt securities, preferred stock, preference stock, common stock, purchase contracts, depositary shares and warrants constituting the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;
- any additional terms of the governing unit agreement;
- any additional provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the debt securities, preferred stock, preference stock, common stock, purchase contracts, depositary shares or warrants constituting the units; and
- any applicable United States federal income tax consequences.

The terms and conditions described under "Description of Debt Securities," "Description of Preferred Stock and Preference Stock," "Description of Common Stock," "Description of Purchase Contracts," "Description of Depositary Shares," "Description of Warrants" and those described under "Significant Provisions of the Unit Agreement" will apply to each unit and to any debt security, preferred stock, preference stock, common stock, purchase contract, depositary share or warrant included in each unit, respectively, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will issue the units under one or more unit agreements, each referred to as a unit agreement, to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as unit agent. We may issue units in one or more series, which will be described in a prospectus supplement. The following descriptions of material provisions and terms of the unit agreement and units are not complete, and you should review the detailed provisions of the unit agreement to be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of specific units for a full description, including the definition of some of the terms used in this prospectus and for other information regarding the units.

Significant Provisions of the Unit Agreement

The following terms and conditions of the unit agreement will apply to each unit and to any debt security, preferred stock, preference stock, common stock, purchase contract, depositary share or warrant included in each unit, respectively, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement:

Obligations of Unit Holder. Under the terms of the unit agreement, each owner of a unit will consent to and agree to be bound by the terms of the unit agreement.

Assumption of Obligations by Transferee. Upon the registration of transfer of a unit, the transferee will assume the obligations, if any, of the transferor under any security constituting that unit, and the transferor will be released from those obligations. Under the unit agreement, we consent to the transfer of these obligations to the transferee, to the assumption of these obligations by the transferee and to the release of the transferor, if the transfer is made in accordance with the provisions of the unit agreement.

Remedies. Upon the acceleration of the debt securities constituting any units, our obligations also may be accelerated upon the request of the owners of not less than 25% of the affected units, on behalf of all the owners.

Limitation on Actions by You as an Individual Holder. No owner of any unit will have any right under the unit agreement to institute any action or proceeding at law or in equity or in bankruptcy or otherwise regarding the unit agreement, or for the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official, unless the owner has given written notice to the unit agent and to us of the occurrence and continuance of a default thereunder and in the case of an event of default under the debt securities or the relevant indenture,

unless the procedures, including notice to us and the trustee, described in the applicable indenture have been complied with.

If these conditions have been satisfied, any owner of an affected unit may then, but only then, institute an action or proceeding.

Absence of Protections against All Potential Actions. There are no covenants or other provisions in the unit agreement providing for a put right or increased interest or otherwise that would afford holders of units additional protection in the event of a recapitalization transaction, a change of control or a highly leveraged transaction.

Modification without Consent of Holders. We and the unit agent may amend the unit agreement without the consent of the holders to:

- cure any ambiguity;
- correct or supplement any defective or inconsistent provision; or
- amend the terms in any other manner which we may deem necessary or desirable and which will not adversely affect the interests of the affected holders in any material respect.

Modification with Consent of Holders. We and the unit agent, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority of all series of outstanding units affected, voting as one class, may modify the rights of the holders of the units of each series so affected. However, we and the unit agent may not make any of the following modifications without the consent of the holder of each outstanding unit affected by the modification:

- materially and adversely affect the holders' units or the terms of the unit agreement; or
- reduce the percentage of outstanding units the consent of whose owners is required for the modification of the provisions of the unit agreement.

Modifications of any debt securities included in units may be made only in accordance with the applicable indenture, as described under "Description of Debt Securities — Modification of the Indentures."

Consolidation, Merger or Sale of Assets. The unit agreement provides that we may not consolidate or combine with or merge with or into or, directly or indirectly, sell, assign, convey, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our properties and assets to any person or persons in a single transaction or through a series of transactions, unless:

- we shall be the continuing person or, if we are not the continuing person, the resulting, surviving or transferee person (the **"surviving entity"**) is a company organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any State or territory;
- the surviving entity expressly assumes all of our obligations under the debt securities and each indenture, and will, if required by law to effectuate the assumption, execute supplemental indentures which will be delivered to the unit agents and will be in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the trustees;
- immediately after giving effect to such transaction or series of transactions on a pro forma basis, no default has occurred and is continuing; and
- we or the surviving entity have delivered to the unit agents an officers' certificate and opinion of counsel stating that the transaction or series of transactions and a supplemental indenture, if any, complies with this covenant and that all conditions precedent in the applicable indenture relating to the transaction or series of transactions have been satisfied.

If any consolidation or merger or any sale, assignment, conveyance, lease, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets occurs in accordance with the indentures, the successor corporation will succeed to and be substituted for us, and may exercise our rights and powers, under the indentures with the same effect as if such successor corporation had been named as us.

Unit Agreement Not Qualified under Trust Indenture Act. The unit agreement will not be qualified as an indenture under, and the unit agent will not be required to qualify as a trustee under, the Trust Indenture Act.

Accordingly, the holders of units will not have the benefits of the protections of the Trust Indenture Act. However, any debt securities issued as part of a unit will be issued under an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act, and the trustee under that indenture will be qualified as a trustee under the Trust Indenture Act.

Title. We, the unit agent, the trustees, the warrant agent and any of their agents will treat the registered owner of any unit as its owner, notwithstanding any notice to the contrary, for all purposes.

New York Law to Govern. The unit agreement, the units and the purchase contracts constituting part of the units will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Equiserve Trust Company, N.A. is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock. We will designate the transfer agent for each series of preferred stock in the applicable prospectus supplement.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement a description of the plan of distribution of the securities that may be offered under this prospectus.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, New York, New York. If legal matters in connection with offerings made by this prospectus are passed on by other counsel for us or by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of the securities, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given their authority as experts in auditing and accounting.

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% Notes Due 2019

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

March , 2009

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC **J.P. Morgan**