

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 14, 2022

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To prospectus dated December 17, 2021)

§
Hercules
C A P I T A L
% Notes due

We are an internally-managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio’s total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity-related investments.

We are offering \$ _____ in aggregate principal amount of _____ % notes due _____, or the “Notes.” The Notes will mature on _____. We will pay interest on the Notes on and of each year, beginning on _____, 2022. We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time, at the redemption price set forth under “Description of Notes and the Offering—Optional Redemption” in this prospectus supplement. In addition, holders of the Notes can require us to repurchase the Notes at 100% of their principal amount upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event (as defined herein). The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

The Notes will be our unsecured obligations and rank *pari passu*, or equally in right of payment, with all outstanding and future unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness issued by Hercules Capital, Inc.

An investment in the Notes involves risks that are described in the “[Supplementary Risk Factors](#)” section beginning on page S-14 in this prospectus supplement, the “[Risk Factors](#)” section beginning on page 11 of the accompanying prospectus and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, as well as any of our subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC.

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain important information you should know before investing in the Notes, including information about the risks related thereto. Please read these documents before investing and retain them for future reference. Additional information about us, including our annual, quarterly and current reports and proxy statements, has been filed with the SEC, and can be accessed free of charge at its website at www.sec.gov. This information is also available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, or by telephone by calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.htgc.com. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

CALCULATION OF FEE TABLE

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	%	\$
Underwriting discount (sales load)	%	\$
Proceeds to us (before expenses)(2)	%	\$

- (1) The public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the Notes will accrue from January _____, 2022 and must be paid by the purchaser if the Notes are delivered after January _____, 2022.
- (2) Before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, estimated at \$ _____. See “Underwriting” in this prospectus supplement for complete details of underwriters’ compensation.

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

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

Delivery of the Notes in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company will be made on or about January _____, 2022.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

RBC Capital Markets

SMBC Nikko

Co-Managers

HSBC

Zions Capital Markets

The date of this prospectus supplement is January _____, 2022.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes, the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, or any other information to which we have referred you. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information from that contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes do not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any of our securities by any person in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful for that person to make such an offer or solicitation or to any person in any jurisdiction to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. The information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes is complete and accurate only as of their respective dates, regardless of the time of their delivery or sale of our securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information and disclosure. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus together with the additional information described under the heading, “Available Information” before investing in our Notes.

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SUMMARY

The following summary highlights some of the information included elsewhere, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider before making any investment decision regarding the Notes offered hereby. To understand the Notes offered hereby before making any such investment decision, you should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein, and any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes, including the sections entitled “Supplementary Risk Factors,” “Risk Factors,” “Available Information,” “Incorporation by Reference,” and “Use of Proceeds,” and the financial statements contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Together, these documents describe the specific terms of the Notes. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the “Company,” “Hercules Capital,” “Hercules,” “we,” “us” and “our” refer to Hercules Capital, Inc. and our wholly owned subsidiaries.

Our Company

We are a specialty finance company focused on providing senior secured loans to high-growth, innovative venture capital-backed companies in a variety of technology, life sciences and sustainable and renewable technology industries. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio’s total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company, or BDC, under the 1940 Act. Effective January 1, 2006, we elected to be treated for tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code.

As of September 30, 2021, our total assets were approximately \$2.8 billion, of which our investments comprised \$2.5 billion at fair value and \$2.4 billion at cost. Since inception through September 30, 2021, we have made debt commitments of more than \$12 billion to our portfolio companies.

We also make investments in qualifying small businesses through our wholly owned small business investment company, or SBIC. Our SBIC subsidiary, Hercules Capital IV, L.P., or HC IV, holds approximately \$128.0 million in assets, and accounted for approximately 4.6% of our total assets, prior to consolidation as of September 30, 2021. As of September 30, 2021, we have issued \$64.5 million in SBA-guaranteed debentures in our SBIC subsidiary. See “Regulation—Small Business Administration Regulations” in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein for additional information regarding our SBIC subsidiary.

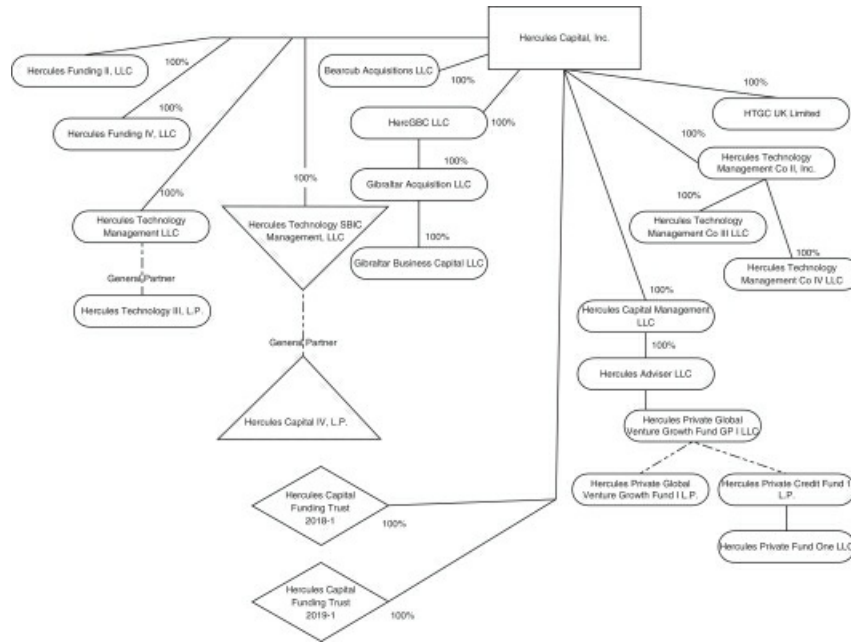
As of September 30, 2021, our investment professionals, including Scott Bluestein, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer, are currently comprised of 51 professionals. Managing Directors and Principals have, on average, more than 10 years of experience in venture capital, structured finance, commercial lending or acquisition finance with the types of technology-related companies that we are targeting. We believe that we can leverage the experience and relationships of our management team to successfully identify attractive investment opportunities, underwrite prospective portfolio companies and structure customized financing solutions.

In May 2020, Hercules Adviser LLC (the “Adviser Subsidiary”) was formed as a wholly owned Delaware limited liability subsidiary of the Company to provide investment advisory and related services to investment vehicles (“Adviser Funds”) owned by one or more unrelated third-party investors. The Adviser Subsidiary will

receive fee income for the services provided to Adviser Funds. The Company was granted no-action relief by the staff of the SEC to allow the Adviser Subsidiary to register as a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

Organizational Structure

The following chart summarizes our organizational structure as of September 30, 2021. This chart is provided for illustrative purposes only.



Our Market Opportunity

We believe that technology-related companies compete in one of the largest and most rapidly growing sectors of the U.S. economy and that continued growth is supported by ongoing innovation and performance improvements in technology products as well as the adoption of technology across virtually all industries in response to competitive pressures. We believe that an attractive market opportunity exists for a specialty finance company focused primarily on investments in structured debt with warrants in technology-related companies for the following reasons:

- Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;
- Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies due to the complexity of evaluating risk in these investments; and

- Structured debt with warrants products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds.

Technology-Related Companies are Underserved by Traditional Lenders. We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with these companies effectively.

The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies typically include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of these companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

Due to the difficulties described above, we believe traditional lenders generally refrain from entering the structured debt financing marketplace, instead preferring the risk-reward profile of asset-based lending. Traditional lenders generally do not have flexible product offerings that meet the needs of technology-related companies. The financing products offered by traditional lenders typically impose on borrowers many restrictive covenants and conditions, including limiting cash outflows and requiring a significant depository relationship to facilitate rapid liquidation.

Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies. Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently underserved. The venture capital market for the technology-related companies in which we invest has been active. Therefore, to the extent we have capital available, we believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

Structured Debt with Warrants Products Complement Equity Financing from Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds. We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured debt with warrants products provide access to growth capital that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we believe many technology-related companies at all stages of development target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have reached a more mature stage prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period sometimes required prior to liquidity events.

Our Business Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our investment objective includes the following key elements:

Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals. We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as

venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 10 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured debt, debt with warrants and equity investments in over 500 technology-related companies, representing more than \$12 billion in commitments from inception to September 30, 2021, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which we believe will enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

We focus our investing activities generally in industries in which our investment professionals have investment experience. We believe that our focus on financing technology-related companies will enable us to leverage our expertise in structuring prospective investments, to assess the value of both tangible and intangible assets, to evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of technology-related companies and to identify and originate potentially attractive investments with these types of companies.

Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities. We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk-adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from warrant and equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization after an initial interest only period, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities (typically between 36 – 48 months), security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, and on select investment covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment. Although we do not currently engage in hedging transactions, we may engage in hedging transactions in the future utilizing instruments such as forward contracts, currency options and interest rate swaps, caps, collars, and floors.

Historically our structured debt investments to technology-related companies typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In addition, in some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies, including the right to convert some portion of our debt into equity, in connection with future equity financing rounds. We believe these equity interests will create the potential for meaningful long-term capital gains in connection with the future liquidity events of these technology-related companies.

Provide Customized Financing Complementary to Financial Sponsors' Capital. We offer a broad range of investment structures and possess expertise and experience to effectively structure and price investments in technology-related companies. Unlike many of our competitors that only invest in companies that fit a specific set of investment parameters, we have the flexibility to structure our investments to suit the particular needs of our portfolio companies. We offer customized financing solutions ranging from senior debt, including below-investment grade debt instruments, also known as “junk bonds”, to equity capital, with a focus on structured debt with warrants.

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive and complimentary source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt

financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing round or a liquidity event.

Invest at Various Stages of Development. We provide growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development, including select publicly listed companies and select later stage sponsor-backed companies that require additional capital to fund acquisitions, recapitalizations and refinancings and established-stage companies. We believe that this provides us with a broader range of potential investment opportunities than those available to many of our competitors, who generally focus their investments on a particular stage in a company's development. Because of the flexible structure of our investments and the extensive experience of our investment professionals, we believe we are well positioned to take advantage of these investment opportunities at all stages of prospective portfolio companies' development.

Benefit from Our Efficient Organizational Structure. We believe that the perpetual nature of our corporate structure enables us to be a long-term partner for our portfolio companies in contrast to traditional investment funds, which typically have a limited life. In addition, because of our access to the equity markets, we believe that we may benefit from a lower cost of capital than that available to private investment funds. We are not subject to requirements to return invested capital to investors, nor do we have a finite investment horizon. Capital providers that are subject to such limitations are often required to seek a liquidity event more quickly than they otherwise might, which can result in a lower overall return on an investment.

Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database. We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based, or SQL, database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of September 30, 2021, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 50,000 technology-related companies and over 13,000 venture capital firms, private equity sponsors or investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

Recent Developments

Closed and Pending Commitments

Since the close of our third fiscal quarter of 2021 and as of December 31, 2021, we and the Adviser Funds have closed new debt and equity commitments of \$947.8 million and funded \$503.3 million. We and the Adviser Funds have pending debt and equity commitments of \$275.0 million in signed non-binding term sheets outstanding as of December 31, 2021. Excluding the commitments and fundings assigned and / or directly originated or funded by the Adviser Funds, during the same period, we have closed net debt and equity commitments of \$777.7 million and funded \$416.5 million.

Signed non-binding term sheets are subject to satisfactory completion of our due diligence and final investment committee approval process as well as negotiations of definitive documentation with the prospective portfolio companies. These non-binding term sheets generally convert to contractual commitments in approximately 90 days from signing and some portion has been and may be assigned or allocated to private funds managed by the Adviser Subsidiary prior to or after closing. It is important to note that not all signed non-binding term sheets are expected to close and they do not necessarily represent future cash requirements or investments.

General Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have offices in Boston, MA, New York, NY, Bethesda, MD, Westport, CT, Chicago, IL, San Diego, CA and London, United Kingdom.

Available Information

We file with or furnish to the SEC periodic and current reports, proxy statements and other information meeting the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). We maintain a website on the Internet at www.htgc.com. We make available on our website, free of charge, our proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, any amendments to those reports and other publicly filed information available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website, at www.sec.gov, that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, who file documents electronically with the SEC. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

THE OFFERING

This prospectus supplement sets forth certain terms of the Notes that we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement and supplements the accompanying prospectus that is attached to the back of this prospectus supplement. This section outlines the specific legal and financial terms of the Notes. You should read this section together with the section entitled "Description of Notes" in this prospectus supplement and the more general description of our debt securities in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of Our Debt Securities" before investing in the Notes.

Issuer	Hercules Capital, Inc.
Title of the securities	% Notes due
Aggregate principal amount being offered	\$
Initial public offering price	% of the aggregate principal amount.
Interest Rate	%
Yield to Maturity	%
Trade Date	January , 2022
Issue Date	January , 2022
Stated Maturity Date	
Day Count Basis	360-day year of twelve 30-day months
Interest payment dates for the Notes	Each and commencing , 2022. If an interest payment date falls on a non-business day, the applicable interest payment will be made on the next business day and no additional interest will accrue as a result of such delayed payment.
Regular Record Dates for Interest	Each and .
Specified Currency	U.S. Dollars
Place of Payment	New York City or such other office designated by the Trustee
Ranking of Notes	The Notes will be our unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our existing and future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated, or junior, in right of payment to the Notes. The Notes will not be guaranteed by any of our current or future subsidiaries. The Notes will rank <i>pari passu</i> , or equally, in right of payment with all of our existing and future liabilities that are not so subordinated, or junior. The Notes will effectively rank subordinated, or junior, to any of our secured indebtedness (including unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. The Notes will rank structurally

subordinated, or junior, to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities.

As of September 30, 2021, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$1.4 billion, which included:

- approximately \$150.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.625% notes due 2022 (the “2022 Notes”); approximately \$105.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.77% notes due 2024 (the “July 2024 Notes”); approximately \$50.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.28% notes due February 2025 (the “February 2025 Notes”); approximately \$70.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.31% notes due June 2025 (the “June 2025 Notes”); approximately \$50.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.50% notes due March 2026 (the “March 2026 A Notes”); approximately \$50.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.55% notes due March 2026 (the “March 2026 B Notes”); approximately \$40.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.25% notes due 2033 (the “2033 Notes”); approximately \$230.0 million of 4.375% convertible notes due 2022 (the “2022 Convertible Notes”), and approximately \$325.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 2.625% notes due September 2026 (the “September 2026 Notes”).
- indebtedness and other obligations of any of our subsidiaries, including, without limitation, \$64.5 million in principal outstanding under the SBA Debentures, borrowings under the \$75.0 million revolving senior secured credit facility with Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, (the “Wells Facility”), borrowings under the \$400.0 million revolving senior secured credit facility with MUFG Union Bank, N. A. (the “Union Bank Facility,” and together with the Wells Facility, the “Credit Facilities”), the approximately \$115.4 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.605% asset-backed notes due 2027 (the “2027 Asset-Backed Notes”) and the approximately \$173.8 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.703% asset-backed notes due 2028 (the “2028 Asset-Backed Notes”) and, together with the 2027 Asset-Backed Notes, the “Asset-Backed Notes”), each as of September 30, 2021. As of September 30, 2021, there was no outstanding borrowings under the Wells Facility and the Union Bank Facility. See “Capitalization”.

Denominations

We will issue the Notes in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Business Day

Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday that is not a day on which banking institutions in New York City, or in such other place of payment designated by the Trustee, are authorized or required by law or executive order to close.

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Optional Redemption	<p>We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time, or from time to time, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (exclusive of accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption) on the Notes to be redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using the applicable Treasury Rate plus basis points, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date; <i>provided</i>, however, that if we redeem any Notes on or after _____, (the date falling one month prior to the maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for the Notes will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.</p> <p>You may be prevented from exchanging or transferring the Notes when they are subject to redemption.</p> <p>If we are redeeming less than all of the Notes, the particular Notes to be redeemed will be selected in accordance with the applicable procedures of the Trustee and, so long as the Notes are registered to The Depository Trust Company or its nominee, DTC; provided, however, that no such partial redemption shall reduce the portion of the principal amount of a Note not redeemed to less than \$2,000. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the date of redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes or portions of the Notes called for redemption.</p>
Sinking Fund	<p>The Notes will not be subject to any sinking fund. A sinking fund is a reserve fund accumulated over a period of time for the retirement of debt.</p>
Offer to Purchase upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event	<p>If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs prior to maturity, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash some or all of the Notes at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date.</p>
Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance	<p>The Notes are subject to defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under “Description of Notes—Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance,” we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the Notes.</p>

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	<p>The Notes are subject to covenant defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under “Description of Notes— Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance,” we will be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture.</p>
Form of Notes	<p>The Notes will be represented by global securities that will be deposited and registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. Except in limited circumstances, you will not receive certificates for the Notes. Beneficial interests in the Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the Notes through either DTC, if they are a participant, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in DTC.</p>
Trustee, Paying Agent and Security Registrar	U.S. Bank National Association
Other Covenants	<p>In addition to the covenants described in the prospectus attached to this prospectus supplement, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate, whether or not we are subject to, Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act or any successor provisions, giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC (even if we are no longer subject to the 1940 Act). Currently, these provisions generally prohibit us from making additional borrowings, including through the issuance of additional debt or the sale of additional debt securities, unless our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 150% after such borrowings. See “Risk Factors—Risks Related to our Business Structure—Recently passed legislation allows us to incur additional leverage, which may increase the risk of investing with us,” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K.• If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the Trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial

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	statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable United States generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), as applicable.
Events of Default	If an event of default (as described herein under “Description of Notes”) on the Notes occurs, the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, may be declared immediately due and payable, subject to conditions set forth in the indenture. These amounts automatically become due and payable in the case of certain types of bankruptcy or insolvency events involving us.
No Established Trading Market	The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system. Although certain of the underwriters have informed us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any such market making activities at any time without notice. See “Underwriting.” Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid market for the Notes will develop or be maintained.
Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures	Interests in the Notes will trade in DTC’s Same Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such Notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. None of the issuer, the Trustee or the paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.
Further Issuances	We have the ability to issue additional debt securities under the indenture with terms different from the Notes and, without the consent of the holders thereof, to reopen the Notes and issue additional Notes.
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the \$ million aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering will be approximately \$ million after deducting the underwriting discount of approximately \$ million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$ payable by us. We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering (i) to repay the 2022 Convertible Notes, (ii) fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objective, and (iii) for other general corporate purposes.
Governing Law	The Notes and the indenture will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The matters discussed in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference herein and therein, and any applicable free writing prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference therein, as well as in future oral and written statements by management of Hercules Capital, Inc., that are forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. We generally identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “could,” “intends,” “target,” “projects,” “contemplates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential” or “continue” or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. Important assumptions include our ability to originate new investments, achieve certain margins and levels of profitability, the availability of additional capital, and the ability to maintain certain debt to asset ratios. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans or objectives will be achieved. The forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes involve risks and uncertainties, including statements as to:

- our current and future management structure;
- our future operating results;
- our business prospects and the prospects of our prospective portfolio companies;
- the impact of investments that we expect to make;
- our informal relationships with third parties including in the venture capital industry;
- the expected market for venture capital investments and our addressable market;
- the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- our ability to access debt markets and equity markets;
- the current and future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on us and our portfolio companies;
- the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
- our expected financings and investments;
- our regulatory structure and tax status;
- our ability to operate as a BDC, a SBIC and a RIC;
- the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
- the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies;
- the timing, form and amount of any distributions;
- the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;
- the valuation of any investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market; and
- our ability to recover unrealized losses.

For a discussion of factors that could cause our actual results to differ from forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, please see the discussion under “Supplementary

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Risk Factors” in this prospectus supplement and “Risk Factors” in the accompanying prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements because the matters they describe are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other unpredictable factors, many of which are beyond our control. In addition to other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, please read carefully the sections titled “Business,” “Risk Factors” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, as well as the section entitled “Forward-Looking Statements” in the accompanying prospectus, before making any investment in the Notes. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes, and the documents incorporated herein and therein, relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made and are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus supplement but advise you to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we may file in the future with the SEC, including our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K.

Industry and Market Data

We have compiled certain industry estimates presented in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus from internally generated information and data. While we believe our estimates are reliable, they have not been verified by any independent sources. The estimates are based on a number of assumptions, including increasing investment in venture capital and private equity-backed companies. Actual results may differ from projections and estimates, and this market may not grow at the rates projected, or at all. If this market fails to grow at projected rates, our business and the market price of our securities, including the Notes, could be materially adversely affected.

SUPPLEMENTARY RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a number of significant risks. Before you invest in our securities, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below and those set forth in the accompanying prospectus, our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and any subsequent filings with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in their entirety. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus related to the offering of the Notes, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below and in the documents referenced above are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or not presently deemed material by us may also impair our operations and performance. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be materially and adversely affected which could materially adversely affect our ability to repay principal and interest on the Notes. In addition, the market price of the Notes and our net asset value could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Please also read carefully the section titled “Forward-Looking Statements” in this prospectus supplement.

Risks Related to the Notes

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

The Notes will not be secured by any of our assets or any of the assets of our subsidiaries. As a result, the Notes are effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we or our subsidiaries have currently incurred and may incur in the future (or any indebtedness that is initially unsecured to which we subsequently grant security) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. In any liquidation, dissolution, bankruptcy or other similar proceeding, the holders of any of our existing or future secured indebtedness and the secured indebtedness of our subsidiaries may assert rights against the assets pledged to secure that indebtedness in order to receive full payment of their indebtedness before the assets may be used to pay other creditors, including the holders of the Notes. As of September 30, 2021, we had no outstanding borrowings under our Union Bank Facility, which is secured by all of the assets of Hercules Funding IV, a special purpose wholly owned subsidiary, no outstanding borrowings under our Wells Facility, which is secured by all of the assets of Hercules Funding II, a special purpose wholly owned subsidiary, \$64.5 million in outstanding borrowings under the SBA Debentures, which are secured by all of the assets of HC IV, a special purpose wholly owned subsidiary, and \$115.4 million in outstanding borrowings under our 2027 Asset-Backed Notes, which are secured by certain assets of certain of our portfolio companies and \$173.8 million in outstanding borrowings under our 2028 Asset-Backed Notes, which are secured by certain assets of certain of our portfolio companies.

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

The Notes are obligations exclusively of Hercules Capital, Inc. and not of any of our subsidiaries. None of our subsidiaries is a guarantor of the Notes and the Notes are not required to be guaranteed by any subsidiaries we may acquire or create in the future. A significant portion of the indebtedness required to be consolidated on our balance sheet is held through our SBIC subsidiary. For example, at September 30, 2021, we have issued \$64.5 million in SBA-guaranteed debentures in our SBIC subsidiary. The assets of such subsidiaries are not directly available to satisfy the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for more detail on the SBA-guaranteed debentures. Except to the extent we are a creditor with recognized claims against our subsidiaries, all claims of creditors (including trade creditors), if any, of our subsidiaries will have priority over our equity interests in such subsidiaries (and therefore the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes) with respect to the assets of such subsidiaries. Even if we are

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recognized as a creditor of one or more of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interests in the assets of any such subsidiary and to any indebtedness or other liabilities of any such subsidiary senior to our claims. Consequently, the Notes will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of any of our subsidiaries and any subsidiaries that we may in the future acquire or establish as financing vehicles or otherwise.

As of September 30, 2021, we had no outstanding borrowings under our Wells Facility nor under our Union Bank Facility, our \$115.4 million outstanding under the 2027 Asset-Backed Notes, our and \$173.8 million outstanding under the 2028 Asset-Backed Notes, and approximately \$64.5 million of indebtedness outstanding incurred by our SBIC subsidiary, HC IV. All of such indebtedness would be structurally senior to the Notes. In addition, our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, all of which would be structurally senior to the Notes.

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

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

- issue securities or otherwise incur additional indebtedness or other obligations, including (1) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be equal in right of payment to the Notes, (2) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be secured and therefore rank effectively senior in right of payment to the Notes to the extent of the values of the assets securing such debt, (3) indebtedness of ours that is guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries and which therefore is structurally senior to the Notes and (4) securities, indebtedness or obligations issued or incurred by our subsidiaries that would be senior to our equity interests in our subsidiaries and therefore rank structurally senior to the Notes with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries, in each case other than an incurrence of indebtedness or other obligation that would cause a violation of Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act or any successor provisions, whether or not we continue to be subject to such provisions of the 1940 Act, but giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC (currently, these provisions generally prohibit us from making additional borrowings, including through the issuance of additional debt or the sale of additional debt securities, unless our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 150% after such borrowings);
- pay distributions on, or purchase or redeem or make any payments in respect of, capital stock or other securities ranking junior in right of payment to the Notes;
- sell assets (other than certain limited restrictions on our ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets);
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- create liens (including liens on the shares of our subsidiaries) or enter into sale and leaseback transactions;
- make investments; or
- create restrictions on the payment of distributions or other amounts to us from our subsidiaries.

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

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

Certain of our current debt instruments include more protections for their holders than the indenture and the Notes. See “Risk Factors—In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, our 2022 Notes, July 2024 Notes, February 2025 Notes, April 2025 Notes, June 2025 Notes, March 2026 A Notes, 2033 Notes, 2022 Convertible Notes, and Credit Facilities contain various covenants which, if not complied with, could require accelerated repayment under the facility or require us to repurchase the 2022 Notes, July 2024 Notes, February 2025 Notes, April 2025 Notes, June 2025 Notes, March 2026 A Notes, 2033 Notes, or 2022 Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition, results of operations and ability to pay distributions” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition, other debt, including the March 2026 B Notes, and other debt we issue or incur in the future could contain more protections for its holders than the indenture and the Notes, including additional covenants and events of default. The issuance or incurrence of any such debt with incremental protections could affect the market for, and trading levels and prices of, the Notes.

An increase in market interest rates could result in a decrease in the market value of the Notes.

The condition of the financial markets and prevailing interest rates have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future, which could have an adverse effect on the market prices of the Notes. In general, as market interest rates rise, debt securities bearing interest at fixed rates of interest decline in value. Consequently, if you purchase Notes bearing interest at fixed rates and market interest rates increase, the market values of those Notes may decline. We cannot predict the future level of market interest rates.

The optional redemption provision may materially adversely affect your return on the Notes.

The Notes are redeemable in whole or in part upon certain conditions at any time or from time to time at our option. We may choose to redeem the Notes at times when prevailing interest rates are lower than the interest rate paid on the Notes. In this circumstance, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the Notes being redeemed.

Our amount of debt outstanding may increase as a result of this offering. Our current indebtedness could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt.

The use of debt could have significant consequences on our future operations, including:

- making it more difficult for us to meet our payment and other obligations under the Notes and our other outstanding debt;
- resulting in an event of default if we fail to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants contained in our financing arrangements, which event of default could result in substantially all of our debt becoming immediately due and payable;
- reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund investments, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes, and limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for these purposes;
- subjecting us to the risk of increased sensitivity to interest rate increases on our indebtedness with variable interest rates, including borrowings under our financing arrangements; and
- limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, and increasing our vulnerability to, changes in our business, the industry in which we operate and the general economy.

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Any of the above-listed factors could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt.

Our ability to meet our payment and other obligations under our financing arrangements depends on our ability to generate significant cash flow in the future. This, to some extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors as well as other factors that are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that our business will generate cash flow from operations, or that future borrowings will be available to us under our financing arrangements or otherwise, in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt and to fund other liquidity needs. If we are not able to generate sufficient cash flow to service our debt obligations, we may need to refinance or restructure our debt, including the Notes, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments, or seek to raise additional capital. If we are unable to implement one or more of these alternatives, we may not be able to meet our payment obligations under the Notes and our other debt.

We may not be able to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event, as defined in the indenture, as supplemented, subject to certain conditions, we will be required to offer to repurchase all outstanding Notes at 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The source of funds for that purchase of Notes will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other potential sources, including borrowings, investment repayments, sales of assets or sales of equity. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds from such sources will be available at the time of any Change of Control Repurchase Event to make required repurchases of Notes tendered. The terms of certain of our and our subsidiaries' financing arrangements provide that certain change of control events will constitute an event of default thereunder entitling the lenders to accelerate any indebtedness outstanding under our and our subsidiaries' financing arrangements at that time and to terminate the financing arrangements. In addition, the indenture governing our 2022 Convertible Notes contains a provision that would require us to offer to purchase the 2022 Convertible Notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change. A failure to purchase any tendered 2022 Convertible Notes would constitute an event of default under the indenture for the 2022 Convertible Notes, which would, in turn, constitute a default under the Credit Facilities and the indenture. Our and our subsidiaries' future debt instruments may also contain similar restrictions and provisions. If the holders of the Notes exercise their right to require us to repurchase Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the financial effect of this repurchase could cause a default under our and our subsidiaries' future debt instruments, even if the Change of Control Repurchase Event itself would not cause a default. It is possible that we will not have sufficient funds at the time of the Change of Control Repurchase Event to make the required repurchase of the Notes and/or our other debt. See "Description of Notes—Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event."

An active trading market for the Notes may not develop or be maintained, which could limit the market price of the Notes or your ability to sell them.

The Notes are a new issue of debt securities for which there currently is no trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the Notes on any automated dealer quotation system. If no active trading market develops, you may not be able to resell your Notes at their fair market value or at all. If the Notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our credit ratings, general economic conditions, our financial condition, performance and prospects and other factors. Certain of the underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, but they are not obligated to do so. Such underwriters may discontinue any market-making in the Notes at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop or be maintained for the Notes, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. To the extent an active trading market does not develop or is not maintained, the liquidity and trading price for the Notes may be harmed. Accordingly, you may be required to bear the financial risk of an investment in the Notes for an indefinite period of time.

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A downgrade, suspension or withdrawal of a credit rating assigned by a rating agency to us or our unsecured debt, if any, or change in the debt markets could cause the liquidity or market value of the Notes to decline significantly.

Our credit ratings are an assessment by rating agencies of our ability to pay our debts when due. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of the Notes. These credit ratings may not reflect the potential impact of risks relating to the structure or marketing of the Notes. Credit ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security, and may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the issuing organization in its sole discretion. Neither we nor any underwriter undertakes any obligation to maintain our credit ratings or to advise holders of Notes of any changes in our credit ratings. There can be no assurance that our credit ratings will remain for any given period of time or that such credit ratings will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies if in their judgment future circumstances relating to the basis of the credit ratings, such as adverse changes in our company, so warrant. The conditions of the financial markets and prevailing interest rates have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future, which could have an adverse effect on the market prices of the Notes.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in the Notes.

Our credit ratings are an assessment by third parties of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of the Notes. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential impact of risks related to market conditions generally or other factors discussed above on the market value of or trading market for the Notes.

If we default on our obligations to pay our other indebtedness, we may not be able to make payments on the Notes.

Any default under the agreements governing our indebtedness, including a default under the Wells Facility, the Union Bank Facility, the \$100.0 million revolving senior secured credit facility with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (the “SMBC Facility”), the SBA Debentures, the 2022 Notes, the July 2024 Notes, the February 2025 Notes, the June 2025 Notes, the March 2026 A Notes, the March 2026 B Notes, the September 2026 Notes, the 2033 Notes, and the 2022 Convertible Notes (together, our “Indebtedness”) or other indebtedness to which we may be a party, that is not waived by the required lenders or holders, and the remedies sought by the holders of such indebtedness, could make us unable to pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on the Notes and substantially decrease the market value of the Notes. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow and are otherwise unable to obtain funds necessary to meet required payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness, or if we otherwise fail to comply with the various covenants, including financial and operating covenants, in the instruments governing our indebtedness, we could be in default under the terms of the agreements governing such indebtedness. In the event of such default, the holders of such indebtedness could elect to declare all the funds borrowed thereunder to be due and payable, together with accrued and unpaid interest, the lenders under the Wells Facility, Union Bank Facility, and SMBC Facility or other debt we may incur in the future could elect to terminate their commitments, cease making further loans and institute foreclosure proceedings against our assets, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation. If our operating performance declines, we may in the future need to seek to obtain waivers from the required lenders or the required holders (as applicable) under our Indebtedness or other debt that we may incur in the future to avoid being in default. If we breach our covenants under our Indebtedness or other debt and seek a waiver, we may not be able to obtain a waiver from the required lenders or holders. If this occurs, we would be in default under our Indebtedness or other debt and, as applicable, the lenders or holders could exercise their rights as described above, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation. If we are unable to repay debt, lenders having secured obligations, including the lenders under the Wells Facility, Union Bank Facility, and SMBC Facility, could proceed against the collateral securing the debt. Because the Wells Facility, Union Bank Facility, and SMBC Facility have, and any future credit facilities will likely have, customary cross-default provisions, if the indebtedness under the Notes, our Indebtedness or under any future credit facility is accelerated, we may be unable to repay or finance the amounts due. See “Specific Terms of the Notes and the Offering” in this prospectus supplement.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of the \$ million aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering will be approximately \$, based on a public offering of % of par, after deducting the underwriting discount of approximately \$ million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$ payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering (i) to repay the 2022 Convertible Notes, (ii) to fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objective, and (iii) for other general corporate purposes.

As of September 30, 2021, the aggregate principal balance of the 2022 Convertible Notes was approximately \$230.0 million. The 2022 Convertible Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.375% per year, payable semiannually and mature, unless earlier repurchased or redeemed, on February 1, 2022.

We intend to seek to invest the net proceeds received in this offering as promptly as practicable after receipt thereof consistent with our investment objective. Pending such uses and investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds of this offering primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment. Our ability to achieve our investment objectives may be limited to the extent that the net proceeds of this offering, pending full investment, are held in lower yielding short-term instruments.

The amount of net proceeds may be more or less than the amount described in this preliminary prospectus supplement depending on the amount of Notes we sell in the offering, which will be determined at pricing. To the extent that we receive more than the amount described in this preliminary prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds for investment in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and general corporate purposes. To the extent we receive less, the amount we have available for such purposes will be reduced.

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth (i) our actual capitalization as of September 30, 2021, and (ii) our capitalization as adjusted to give effect to the sale of \$ aggregate principal amount of Notes in this offering, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions of approximately \$ million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$ payable by us and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as described under “Use of Proceeds.” You should read this table together with the “Use of Proceeds” section included in this prospectus supplement and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and our most recent consolidated financial statements and notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2021	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(in thousands)	
Investments at fair value	\$2,511,854	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 235,851	\$
Liabilities(1):		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 37,098	\$
Operating lease liability	7,877	
Long-term SBA debentures	62,368	
2022 Notes	149,432	
2033 Notes	38,690	
July 2024 Notes	104,164	
February 2025 Notes	49,608	
June 2025 Notes	69,393	
March 2026 A Notes	49,582	
March 2026 B Notes	49,544	
September 2026 Notes	320,127	
2027 Asset-Backed Notes	114,120	
2028 Asset-Backed Notes	172,324	
2022 Convertible Notes	229,349	
Credit Facilities	—	
Notes offered herein	—	
Total liabilities	<u>\$1,453,676</u>	<u>\$</u>
Net assets:		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share; 200,000,000 shares authorized; 115,925,093 shares issued and outstanding	\$ 116	\$
Capital in excess of par value	1,166,725	
Total distributable earnings	170,691	
Total net assets	<u>\$1,337,532</u>	<u>\$</u>
Total capitalization	<u>\$2,791,208</u>	<u>\$</u>

- (1) The above table reflects the carrying value of indebtedness outstanding as of September 30, 2021. As of December 31, 2021, indebtedness under the Long-term SBA debentures, 2022 Notes, 2033 Notes, July 2024 Notes, February 2025 Notes, June 2025 Notes, March 2026 A Notes, March 2026 B Notes, September 2026 Notes, the 2022 Convertible Notes, the SMBC Facility and the Union Bank Facility were \$150.5 million, \$150.0 million, \$40.0 million, \$105.0 million, \$50.0 million, \$70.0 million, \$50.0 million, \$50.0 million, \$50.0 million, \$325.0 million, \$230.0 million, \$29.9 million and \$0.0 million, respectively. The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes are expected to be used to repay the 2022 Convertible Notes, fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objective, and for other general corporate purposes. See “Use of Proceeds.”

SENIOR SECURITIES

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following table as of September 30, 2021, and December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011. The annual information is derived from our audited financial statements for these periods, which have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm. The “N/A” indicates information that the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage per Unit(2)	Average Market Value per Unit(3)
Securitized Credit Facility with Wells Fargo Capital Finance			
December 31, 2011	\$ 10,186,830	\$ 73,369	N/A
December 31, 2012(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2013(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2014(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 26,352	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 5,015,620	\$ 290,234	N/A
December 31, 2017(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 13,106,582	\$ 147,497	N/A
December 31, 2019(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2020(6)	—	—	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)(6)	—	—	N/A
Securitized Credit Facility with Union Bank, NA			
December 31, 2011(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2012(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2013(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2014(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2015(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2016(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2017(6)	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 39,849,010	\$ 48,513	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 103,918,736	\$ 23,423	N/A
December 31, 2020(6)	—	—	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	—	—	N/A
Small Business Administration Debentures (HT II)(4)			
December 31, 2011	\$ 125,000,000	\$ 5,979	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 76,000,000	\$ 14,786	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 76,000,000	\$ 16,075	N/A
December 31, 2014	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 31,535	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 31,981	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 35,333	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 39,814	N/A
December 31, 2018	—	—	N/A
Small Business Administration Debentures (HT III)(5)			
December 31, 2011	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 7,474	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 7,542	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,199	N/A
December 31, 2014	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,720	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,843	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 9,770	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 11,009	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 12,974	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 16,336	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 99,000,000	\$ 26,168	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	—	—	N/A

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Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage per Unit(2)	Average Market Value per Unit(3)
Small Business Administration Debentures (HC IV)(8)			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 64,500,000	\$ 42,788	N/A
2016 Convertible Notes			
December 31, 2011	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 10,623	\$ 885
December 31, 2012	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 15,731	\$ 1,038
December 31, 2013	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 16,847	\$ 1,403
December 31, 2014	\$ 17,674,000	\$ 74,905	\$ 1,290
December 31, 2015	\$ 17,604,000	\$ 74,847	\$ 1,110
December 31, 2016	—	—	N/A
April 2019 Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 13,300	\$ 986
December 31, 2013	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 14,460	\$ 1,021
December 31, 2014	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 15,377	\$ 1,023
December 31, 2015	\$ 64,489,500	\$ 20,431	\$ 1,017
December 31, 2016	\$ 64,489,500	\$ 22,573	\$ 1,022
December 31, 2017	—	—	N/A
September 2019 Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 13,086	\$ 1,003
December 31, 2013	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 14,227	\$ 1,016
December 31, 2014	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 15,129	\$ 1,026
December 31, 2015	\$ 45,875,000	\$ 28,722	\$ 1,009
December 31, 2016	\$ 45,875,000	\$ 31,732	\$ 1,023
December 31, 2017	—	—	N/A
2022 Notes			
December 31, 2017	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 10,935	\$ 1,014
December 31, 2018	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 12,888	\$ 976
December 31, 2019	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 16,227	\$ 1,008
December 31, 2020	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 17,271	\$ 1,017
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 18,399	\$ 1,018
2024 Notes			
December 31, 2014	\$ 103,000,000	\$ 12,614	\$ 1,010
December 31, 2015	\$ 103,000,000	\$ 12,792	\$ 1,014
December 31, 2016	\$ 252,873,175	\$ 5,757	\$ 1,016
December 31, 2017	\$ 183,509,600	\$ 8,939	\$ 1,025
December 31, 2018	\$ 83,509,600	\$ 23,149	\$ 1,011
December 31, 2019	—	—	N/A
2025 Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 25,776	\$ 962
December 31, 2019	—	—	—
December 31, 2020	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 32,454	\$ 1,032
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	—	—	N/A
2033 Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 48,330	\$ 934
December 31, 2019	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 60,851	\$ 1,054
December 31, 2020	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 64,765	\$ 1,072
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 68,996	\$ 1,058
July 2024 Notes			
December 31, 2019	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 23,181	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 24,672	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 26,284	N/A
February 2025 Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 51,812	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A

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Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage per Unit(2)	Average Market Value per Unit(3)
June 2025 Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 37,009	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 39,426	N/A
March 2026 A Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 51,812	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A
March 2026 B Notes			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A
September 2026 Notes			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 325,000,000	\$ 8,492	\$ 902
2017 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 8,691	\$ 1,000
December 31, 2013	\$ 89,556,972	\$ 13,642	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2014	\$ 16,049,144	\$ 80,953	\$ 1,375
December 31, 2015	—	—	N/A
2021 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2014	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 10,048	\$ 1,000
December 31, 2015	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 10,190	\$ 996
December 31, 2016	\$ 109,205,263	\$ 13,330	\$ 1,002
December 31, 2017	\$ 49,152,504	\$ 33,372	\$ 1,001
December 31, 2018	—	—	N/A
2027 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 9,666	\$ 1,006
December 31, 2019	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 12,170	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2020	\$ 180,988,022	\$ 14,314	\$ 1,001
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 115,373,367	\$ 23,921	\$ 1,000
2028 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2019	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 9,736	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2020	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 10,362	\$ 1,002
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 173,809,040	\$ 15,879	\$ 1,001
2022 Convertible Notes			
December 31, 2017	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 7,132	\$ 1,028
December 31, 2018	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 8,405	\$ 946
December 31, 2019	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 10,583	\$ 1,021
December 31, 2020	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 11,264	\$ 1,027
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 11,999	\$ 1,043
Total Senior Securities(7)			
December 31, 2011	\$ 310,186,830	\$ 2,409	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 599,664,500	\$ 1,874	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 559,921,472	\$ 2,182	N/A
December 31, 2014	\$ 626,587,644	\$ 2,073	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 600,468,500	\$ 2,194	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 667,658,558	\$ 2,180	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 802,862,104	\$ 2,043	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 980,465,192	\$ 1,972	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 1,302,918,736	\$ 1,868	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 1,299,988,022	\$ 1,993	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 1,423,682,407	\$ 1,939	N/A

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.
(2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, including

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senior securities not subject to asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act due to exemptive relief from the SEC, divided by senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by \$1,000 to determine the Asset Coverage per Unit.

- (3) Not applicable because senior securities are not registered for public trading.
- (4) Issued by Hercules Technology II, L.P., or HT II, one of our prior SBIC subsidiaries, to the Small Business Association, or SBA. On July 13, 2018, we completed repayment of the remaining outstanding HT II debentures and subsequently surrendered the SBA license with respect to HT II. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.
- (5) Issued by HT III, one of our prior SBIC subsidiaries, to the SBA. On May 5, 2021, we completed repayment of the remaining outstanding HT III debentures and subsequently surrendered the SBA license with respect to HT III. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.
- (6) The Company's Wells Facility and Union Bank Facility had no borrowings outstanding during the periods noted above.
- (7) The total senior securities and Asset Coverage per Unit shown for those securities do not represent the asset coverage ratio requirement under the 1940 Act, because the presentation includes senior securities not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC. As of September 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, our asset coverage ratio under our regulatory requirements as a business development company was 198.3% and 207.5%, respectively, excluding our SBA debentures as a result of our exemptive order from the SEC which allows us to exclude all SBA leverage from our asset coverage ratio.
- (8) Issued by Hercules Capital IV, L.P. or HC IV, a SBIC subsidiary, to the SBA. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

The following description of the particular terms of the % Notes due 20 supplements and, to the extent inconsistent with, replaces the description of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus.

We will issue the Notes under a base indenture dated as of March 6, 2012, between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the “trustee”), as supplemented by a separate supplemental indenture to be dated as of the settlement date for the Notes. As used in this section, all references to the “indenture” mean the base indenture as supplemented by the supplemental indenture. The terms of the Notes include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the TIA.

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the Notes and the indenture and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and is qualified by reference to all the provisions of the Notes and the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. We urge you to read these documents because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the Notes.

For purposes of this description, references to “we,” “our” and “us” refer only to Hercules Capital, Inc. and not to any of its current or future subsidiaries and references to “subsidiaries” refer only to our consolidated subsidiaries and exclude any investments held by Hercules Capital in the ordinary course of business which are not, under GAAP, consolidated on the financial statements of Hercules Capital and its subsidiaries.

General

The Notes:

- will be our general unsecured, senior obligations;
- will initially be issued in an aggregate principal amount of \$ million;
- will mature on , unless earlier redeemed or repurchased, as discussed below;
- will bear cash interest from , 2022 at an annual rate of % payable semi-annually on and of each year, beginning on , 2022;
- will not be subject to any sinking fund;
- will be subject to redemption at our option as described under “—Optional Redemption;”
- will be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders following a Change of Control Repurchase Event (as defined below under “—Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event”), at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date of repurchase;
- will be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereof; and
- will be represented by one or more registered Notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by Notes in definitive form. See “—Book-Entry, Settlement and Clearance.”

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt that may be issued by us or our subsidiaries under the indenture or otherwise. The indenture does not contain any financial covenants and does not restrict us from paying distributions or issuing or repurchasing our other securities. Other than restrictions described under “—Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event” and “—Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets” below, the indenture does not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the Notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.

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We may, without the consent of the holders, issue additional Notes under the indenture with the same terms (except for the issue date, public offering price and, if applicable, the initial interest payment date) and with the same CUSIP numbers as the Notes offered hereby in an unlimited aggregate principal amount; provided that if such additional Notes are not fungible with the Notes offered hereby (or any other tranche of additional Notes) for U.S. federal income tax purposes, then such additional Notes will have different CUSIP numbers from the Notes offered hereby (and any such other tranche of additional Notes).

We do not intend to apply to list the Notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

Payments on the Notes; Paying Agent and Registrar; Transfer and Exchange

We will pay the principal of, and interest on, Notes in global form registered in the name of or held by DTC or its nominee in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of such Global Note (as defined below).

Payment of principal of (and premium, if any) and any such interest on the Notes will be made at the corporate trust office of the trustee in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts; provided, however, that at our option payment of interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address shall appear in the security register.

A holder of Notes may transfer or exchange Notes at the office of the registrar in accordance with the indenture. The registrar and the trustee may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents. No service charge will be imposed by us, the trustee or the registrar for any registration of transfer or exchange of Notes, but we may require a holder to pay a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge required by law or permitted by the indenture.

The registered holder of a Note will be treated as its owner for all purposes.

Interest

The Notes will bear cash interest at a rate of % per year until maturity. Interest on the Notes will accrue from , 2022 or from the most recent date on which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest will be payable semiannually in arrears on and of each year, beginning on , 2022.

Interest will be paid to the person in whose name a Note is registered at 5:00 p.m. New York City time (the “close of business”) on or , as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date, redemption date, the maturity date or any earlier required repurchase date upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event (defined below) of a Note falls on a day that is not a business day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding business day and no interest on such payment will accrue in respect of the delay. The term “business day” means, with respect to any Note, any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in New York are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

Ranking

The Notes will be our unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our existing and future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated, or junior, in right of payment to the Notes. The Notes will not be guaranteed by any of our current or future subsidiaries. The Notes will rank pari passu, or equally, in right of payment with all of our existing and future liabilities that are not so subordinated, or junior. The Notes will

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effectively rank subordinated, or junior, to any of our secured indebtedness (including unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. The Notes will rank structurally subordinated, or junior, to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure secured debt will be available to pay obligations on the Notes only after all indebtedness under such secured debt has been repaid in full from such assets. We advise you that there may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all the Notes then outstanding.

As of September 30, 2021, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount outstanding, of which approximately \$353.7 million was secured indebtedness. After giving effect to the issuance of the Notes, our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$ _____ million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of September 30, 2021. See “Capitalization.”

Optional Redemption

We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time, or from time to time. If we choose to redeem any Notes prior to maturity, we will pay a redemption price equal to the greater of the following amounts, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date:

- 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, or
- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (exclusive of accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption) on the Notes to be redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using the applicable Treasury Rate plus basis points;

provided, however, that if we redeem any Notes on or after (the date falling one month prior to the maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for the Notes will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.

If we choose to redeem any Notes, we will deliver a notice of redemption to holders of Notes not less than 30 nor more than 60 days before the redemption date. If we are redeeming less than all of the Notes, the particular Notes to be redeemed will be selected in accordance with the applicable procedures of the trustee and, so long as the Notes are registered to DTC or its nominee, DTC; provided, however, that no such partial redemption shall reduce the portion of the principal amount of a Note not redeemed to less than \$2,000. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes or portions of the Notes called for redemption.

For purposes of calculating the redemption price in connection with the redemption of the Notes, on any redemption date, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

“Treasury Rate” means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield-to-maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue (computed as of the third business day immediately preceding the redemption), assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date. The redemption price and the Treasury Rate will be determined by us.

“Comparable Treasury Issue” means the United States Treasury security selected by the Reference Treasury Dealer as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financing practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes being redeemed.

“Comparable Treasury Price” means (1) the average of the remaining Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for the redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the

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Quotation Agent obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

“Quotation Agent” means a Reference Treasury Dealer selected by us.

“Reference Treasury Dealer” means each of (1) Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, (2) RBC Capital Markets, LLC, or (3) a primary U.S. government securities dealer selected by SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc., or their respective affiliates which are primary U.S. government securities dealers and their respective successors; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing or their affiliates shall cease to be a primary U.S. government securities dealer in the United States (a “Primary Treasury Dealer”), we shall select another Primary Treasury Dealer.

“Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations” means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 3:30 p.m. New York time on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

All determinations made by any Reference Treasury Dealer, including the Quotation Agent, with respect to determining the redemption price will be final and binding absent manifest error.

Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event

If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the Notes in full, we will make an offer to each holder of Notes to repurchase all or any part (in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 principal amount) of that holder’s Notes at a repurchase price in cash equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes repurchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes repurchased to, but not including, the date of purchase. Within 30 days following any Change of Control Repurchase Event or, at our option, prior to any Change of Control, but after the public announcement of the Change of Control, we will mail a notice to each holder describing the transaction or transactions that constitute or may constitute the Change of Control Repurchase Event and offering to repurchase Notes on the payment 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 notice shall, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the Change of Control, state that the offer to purchase is conditioned on the Change of Control Repurchase Event occurring on or prior to the payment date specified in the notice. 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 Repurchase Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes, we will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes by virtue of such conflict.

On the Change of Control Repurchase Event payment date, subject to extension if necessary to comply with the provisions of the 1940 Act, we will, to the extent lawful:

- (1) accept for payment all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered pursuant to our offer;
- (2) deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the aggregate purchase price in respect of all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered; and
- (3) 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 being purchased by us.

The paying agent will promptly remit to each holder of Notes properly tendered the purchase price for the Notes, and the trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book-entry) to each holder a

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new Note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of any Notes surrendered; provided that each new Note will be in a minimum principal amount of \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

We will not be required to make an offer to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event if a third party makes an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and such third party purchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer.

The source of funds that will be required to repurchase Notes in the event of a Change of Control Repurchase Event will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other potential sources, including funds provided by a purchaser in the Change of Control transaction, borrowings, sales of assets or sales of equity. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds from such sources will be available at the time of any Change of Control Repurchase Event to make required repurchases of Notes tendered. The terms of certain of our and our subsidiaries' financing arrangements provide that certain change of control events will constitute an event of default thereunder entitling the lenders to accelerate any indebtedness outstanding under our and our subsidiaries' financing arrangements at that time and to terminate the financing arrangements. In addition, the indenture governing our 2022 Convertible Notes contains a provision that would require us to offer to purchase the 2022 Convertible Notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change. A failure to purchase any tendered 2022 Convertible Notes would constitute an event of default under the indenture for the 2022 Convertible Notes, which would, in turn, constitute a default under the Credit Facilities and the indenture. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for a general discussion of our indebtedness. Our and our subsidiaries' future debt instruments may contain similar restrictions and provisions. If the holders of the Notes exercise their right to require us to repurchase Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the financial effect of this repurchase could cause a default under our and our subsidiaries' future debt instruments, even if the Change of Control Repurchase Event itself would not cause a default. It is possible that we will not have sufficient funds at the time of the Change of Control Repurchase Event to make the required repurchase of the Notes and/or our other debt. See "Supplementary Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Notes—We may not be able to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event."

The definition of "Change of Control" includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of "all or substantially all" of our properties or assets and those of our subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise, established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of Notes to require us to repurchase the Notes as a result of a sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

For purposes of the Notes:

"Below Investment Grade Rating Event" means the Notes are downgraded below Investment Grade by (i) one Rating Agency if the Notes are rated by less than two Rating Agencies, (ii) both Rating Agencies if the Notes are rated by two Rating Agencies or (iii) at least a majority of such Rating Agencies if the Notes are rated by three or more Rating Agencies on any date from the date of the public notice of an arrangement that results in a Change of Control until the end of the 60-day period following public notice of the occurrence of a Change of Control (which period shall be extended so long as the rating of the Notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies); provided that a Below Investment Grade Rating Event otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in rating shall not be deemed to have occurred in respect of a particular Change of Control (and thus shall not be deemed a Below Investment Grade Rating Event for purposes of the definition of Change of Control Repurchase Event hereunder) 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 its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance

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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 shall have occurred at the time of the Below Investment Grade Rating Event).

“Change of Control” means the occurrence of any of the following:

- (1) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation) in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the assets of Hercules Capital and its Controlled Subsidiaries taken as a whole to any “person” or “group” (as those terms are used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than to any Permitted Holders; provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, a pledge of assets pursuant to any secured debt instrument of Hercules Capital or its Controlled Subsidiaries shall not be deemed to be any such sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or disposition;
- (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any “person” or “group” (as those terms are used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) (other than any Permitted Holders) 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 outstanding Voting Stock of Hercules Capital, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; or
- (3) the approval by Hercules Capital’s stockholders of any plan or proposal relating to the liquidation or dissolution of Hercules Capital.

“Change of Control Repurchase Event” means the occurrence of a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

“Controlled Subsidiary” means any subsidiary of Hercules Capital, 50% or more of the outstanding equity interests of which are owned by Hercules Capital and its direct or indirect subsidiaries and of which Hercules Capital possesses, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies, whether through the ownership of voting equity interests, by agreement or otherwise.

“Fitch” means Fitch, Inc. or any successor thereto.

“Investment Grade” means a rating of Baa3 or better by Moody’s or a rating of BBB– or better by KBRA (or the equivalent rating under any successor rating categories of Moody’s or KBRA) or the equivalent of any other Rating Agency, as applicable, or in each case, the equivalent under any successor category of such Rating Agency.

“KBRA” means Kroll Bond Rating Agency, LLC or any successor thereto.

“Moody’s” means Moody’s Investors Services, Inc. or any successor thereto.

“Permitted Holders” means (i) us and (ii) one or more of our Controlled Subsidiaries.

“Rating Agency” means:

- (1) Moody’s;
- (2) KBRA; and
- (2) Fitch or S&P if either of them rates the Notes.

“S&P” means Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, a Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC business, or any successor thereto.

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“Voting Stock” as applied to stock of any person, means shares, interests, participations or other equivalents in the equity interest (however designated) in such person having ordinary voting power for the election of a majority of the directors (or the equivalent) of such person, other than shares, interests, participations or other equivalents having such power only by reason of the occurrence of a contingency.

Covenants

In addition to the covenants described in the base indenture, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes. To the extent of any conflict or inconsistency between the base indenture and the following covenants, the following covenants shall govern:

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

The indenture will provide that we will not merge or consolidate with or into any other person (other than a merger of a wholly owned subsidiary into us), or sell, transfer, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all our property (provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, a pledge of assets pursuant to any secured debt instrument of Hercules Capital or its Controlled Subsidiaries shall not be deemed to be any such sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or disposition) in any one transaction or series of related transactions unless:

- we are the surviving person (the “Surviving Person”) or the Surviving Person (if other than us) formed by such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or disposition is made shall be a corporation or limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or any state or territory thereof;
- the Surviving Person (if other than us) expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture in form reasonably satisfactory to the trustee, executed and delivered to the trustee by such Surviving Person, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, all the Notes outstanding, and the due and punctual performance and observance of all the covenants and conditions of the indenture to be performed by us;
- immediately before and immediately after giving effect to such transaction or series of related transactions, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and
- we shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the trustee, an officers’ certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such transaction and the supplemental indenture, if any, in respect thereto, comply with this covenant and that all conditions precedent in the indenture relating to such transaction have been complied with.

For the purposes of this covenant, the sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or other disposition of all the property of one or more of our subsidiaries, which property, if held by us instead of such subsidiaries, would constitute all or substantially all of our property on a consolidated basis, shall be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of our property.

Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase “substantially all,” there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve “all or substantially all” of the properties or assets of a person. As a result, it may be unclear as to whether the merger, consolidation or sale of assets covenant would apply to a particular transaction as described above absent a decision by a court of competent jurisdiction. Although these types of transactions are permitted under the indenture, certain of the foregoing transactions could constitute a Change of Control that results in a Change of Control Repurchase Event permitting each holder to require us to repurchase the Notes of such holder as described above.

An assumption by any person of obligations under the Notes and the indenture might be deemed for U.S. federal income tax purposes to be an exchange of the Notes for new Notes by the holders thereof, resulting in recognition of gain or loss for such purposes and possibly other adverse tax consequences to the holders. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of such an assumption.

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Other Covenants

- We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate, whether or not we are subject to, Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the 1940 Act or any successor provisions, giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC (even if we are no longer subject to the 1940 Act).
- If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP, as applicable.

Events of Default

Each of the following is an event of default:

- (1) default in the payment of any interest upon any Note when due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days;
- (2) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) any Note when it becomes due and payable at its maturity including upon any redemption date or required repurchase date;
- (3) our failure for 60 consecutive days after written notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Notes then outstanding has been received to comply with any of our other agreements contained in the Notes or indenture;
- (4) default by us or any of our significant subsidiaries, as defined in Article 1, Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X under the Exchange Act (but excluding any subsidiary which is (a) a non-recourse or limited recourse subsidiary, (b) a bankruptcy remote special purpose vehicle or (c) is not consolidated with Hercules Capital for purposes of GAAP), with respect to any mortgage, agreement or other instrument under which there may be outstanding, or by which there may be secured or evidenced, any indebtedness for money borrowed in excess of \$50 million in the aggregate of us and/or any such subsidiary, whether such indebtedness now exists or shall hereafter be created (i) resulting in such indebtedness becoming or being declared due and payable or (ii) constituting a failure to pay the principal or interest of any such debt when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise, unless, in either case, such indebtedness is discharged, or such acceleration is rescinded, stayed or annulled, within a period of 30 calendar days after written notice of such failure is given to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Notes then outstanding;
- (5) Pursuant to Section 18(a)(1)(C)(ii) and Section 61 of the 1940 Act, on the last business day of each of 24 consecutive calendar months, any class of securities shall have an asset coverage (as such term is used in the 1940 Act) of less than 100% giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC; or
- (6) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization involving us occur and remain undischarged or unstayed for a period of 60 days.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, then and in every such case (other than an event of default specified in item (6) above) the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Notes may declare the entire principal amount of Notes to be due and immediately payable, by a notice in writing to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal or specified portion thereof shall become immediately due and payable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of the events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization described in item (6) above, 100% of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes will automatically become due and payable.

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At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Notes has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes, by written notice to us and the trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if (i) we have paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay all overdue installments of interest, if any, on all outstanding Notes, the principal of (and premium, if any, on) all outstanding Notes that have become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration and interest thereon at the rate or rates borne by or provided for in such Notes, to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful interest upon overdue installments of interest at the rate or rates borne by or provided for in such Notes, and all sums paid or advanced by the trustee and the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the trustee, its agents and counsel, and (ii) all events of default with respect to the Notes, other than the nonpayment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on such Notes that have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived. No such rescission will affect any subsequent default or impair any right consequent thereon.

No holder of Notes will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless

- (i) such holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to the Notes,
- (ii) the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Notes shall have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such event of default;
- (iii) such holder or holders have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request;
- (iv) the trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and
- (v) no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee during such 60-day period by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes.

Notwithstanding any other provision in the indenture, the holder of any Note shall have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest, if any, on such Note on the stated maturity or maturity expressed in such Note (or, in the case of redemption, on the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of the holders, on the repayment date) and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights shall not be impaired without the consent of such holder.

The trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the Notes unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction. Subject to the foregoing, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the Notes, provided that (i) such direction shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with this indenture, (ii) the trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the trustee that is not inconsistent with such direction and (iii) the trustee need not take any action that it determines in good faith may involve it in personal liability or be unjustly prejudicial to the holders of Notes not consenting.

The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes may on behalf of the holders of all of the Notes waive any past default under the indenture with respect to the Notes and its consequences, except a default (i) in the payment of (or premium, if any, on) or interest, if any, on any Note, or (ii) in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder

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of each outstanding Note affected. Upon any such waiver, such default shall cease to exist, and any event of default arising therefrom shall be deemed to have been cured, for every purpose, but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other default or event of default or impair any right consequent thereto.

We are required to deliver to the trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, an officers' certificate stating that to the knowledge of the signers whether we are in default in the performance of any of the terms, provisions or conditions of the indenture.

Within 90 days after the occurrence of any default under the indenture with respect to the Notes, the trustee shall transmit notice of such default known to the trustee, unless such default shall have been cured or waived; provided, however, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest, if any, on any Note, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as the Board of Directors, the executive committee or a trust committee of directors of the trustee in good faith determines that withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders of the Notes.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

We may satisfy and discharge our obligations under the indenture by delivering to the securities registrar for cancellation all outstanding Notes or by depositing with the trustee or delivering to the holders, as applicable, after the Notes have become due and payable, or otherwise, moneys sufficient to pay all of the outstanding Notes and paying all other sums payable under the indenture by us. Such discharge is subject to terms contained in the indenture.

In addition, the Notes are subject to defeasance and covenant defeasance, in each case, in accordance with the terms of the indenture. Defeasance means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due date and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that (a) we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") a ruling, or (b) since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon, the holders and beneficial owners of the Notes and any coupons appertaining thereto will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the Notes. Covenant defeasance means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders and beneficial owners of the Notes and any coupons appertaining thereto will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such covenant defeasance had not occurred, we will be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture.

Trustee

U.S. Bank National Association is the trustee, security registrar and paying agent. U.S. Bank National Association, in each of its capacities, including without limitation as trustee, security registrar and paying agent, assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information concerning us or our affiliates or any other party contained in this document or the related documents or for any failure by us or any other party to disclose events that may have occurred and may affect the significance or accuracy of such information, or for any information provided to it by us, including but not limited to settlement amounts and any other information.

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We may maintain banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with the trustee and its affiliates.

Governing Law

The indenture provides that it and the Notes shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to principles of conflicts of laws that would cause the application of laws of another jurisdiction.

Book-Entry, Settlement and Clearance

Global Notes

The Notes will be initially issued in the form of one or more registered Notes in global form, without interest coupons (the “Global Notes”). Upon issuance, each of the Global Notes will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC (“DTC participants”) or persons who hold interests through DTC participants. We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

- upon deposit of a Global Note with DTC’s custodian, DTC will credit portions of the principal amount of the Global Note to the accounts of the DTC participants designated by the underwriters; and
- ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be shown on, and transfer of ownership of those interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to interests of DTC participants) and the records of DTC participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the Global Note).

Beneficial interests in Global Notes may not be exchanged for Notes in physical, certificated form except in the limited circumstances described below.

Book-Entry Procedures for Global Notes

All interests in the Global Notes will be subject to the operations and procedures of DTC. We provide the following summary of those operations and procedures solely for the convenience of investors. The operations and procedures of DTC are controlled by that settlement system and may be changed at any time. Neither we nor the underwriters are responsible for those operations or procedures.

DTC has advised us that it is:

- a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York State Banking Law;
- a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and
- a “clearing agency” registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its participants. DTC’s participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters; banks and trust companies; clearing corporations and other organizations. Indirect access to DTC’s system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies; these indirect participants clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC participant, either directly or indirectly. Investors who are not DTC participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through DTC participants or indirect participants in DTC.

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So long as DTC's nominee is the registered owner of a Global Note, that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Notes represented by that Global Note for all purposes under the indenture. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note:

- will not be entitled to have Notes represented by the Global Note registered in their names;
- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical, certificated Notes; and
- will not be considered the owners or holders of the Notes under the indenture for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee under the indenture.

As a result, each investor who owns a beneficial interest in a Global Note must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights of a holder of Notes under the indenture (and, if the investor is not a participant or an indirect participant in DTC, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which the investor owns its interest).

Payments of principal and interest with respect to the Notes represented by a Global Note will be made by the trustee to DTC's nominee as the registered holder of the Global Note. Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of amounts to owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note, for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of those interests by DTC, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to those interests.

Payments by participants and indirect participants in DTC to the owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be governed by standing instructions and customary industry practice and will be the responsibility of those participants or indirect participants and DTC.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected under DTC's procedures and will be settled in same-day funds.

Certificated Notes

Notes in physical, certificated form will be issued and delivered to each person that DTC identifies as a beneficial owner of the related Notes only if:

- DTC notifies us at any time that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the Global Notes and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days;
- DTC ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days; or
- an event of default with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing and such beneficial owner requests that its Notes be issued in physical, certificated form.

UNDERWRITING

We are offering the Notes described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus through a number of underwriters. Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, RBC Capital Markets, LLC, and SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc. are acting as representatives of the underwriters. We have entered into an underwriting agreement with the underwriters. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has severally and not jointly agreed to purchase from us, the aggregate principal amount of Notes listed next to its name in the following table:

Underwriter	Principal Amount
Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC	\$
RBC Capital Markets, LLC	
SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc.	
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	
Zions Direct, Inc.	
Total	\$

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

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

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

Commissions and Discounts

The following table shows the total underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	%	\$

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

The expenses of the offering, including up to \$ in reimbursement of underwriters' counsel fee, but not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$ and are payable by us.

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No Sales of Similar Securities

We have agreed not to directly or indirectly sell, offer to sell, enter into any agreement to sell, or otherwise dispose of, any debt securities issued by the Company which are substantially similar to the Notes or securities convertible into such debt securities which are substantially similar to the Notes during the period beginning on and including the date of this prospectus supplement through and including the settlement date of this offering without first obtaining the written consent of the representatives. This consent may be given at any time without public notice.

Listing

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system.

We have been advised by certain of the underwriters that certain of the underwriters presently intend to make a market in the Notes after completion of this offering as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. Such underwriters are not obligated, however, to make a market in the Notes and any such market-making may be discontinued at any time in the sole discretion of such underwriters without any notice. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that an active and liquid public trading market for the Notes will develop or be maintained. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected.

Price Stabilization, Short Positions

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

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

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

Neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the Notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation that the representatives will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Notes

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

Other Relationships

The underwriters and their affiliates have provided in the past and may provide from time to time in the future in the ordinary course of their business certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services to Hercules or our portfolio companies for which they have received or will be entitled to receive separate fees. In particular, the underwriters or their affiliates may execute transactions with Hercules or on behalf of Hercules or any of our portfolio companies.

The underwriters or their affiliates may also trade in our securities, securities of our portfolio companies or other financial instruments related thereto for their own accounts or for the account of others and may extend loans or financing directly or through derivative transactions to us or any of our portfolio companies.

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

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

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

The principal business address of Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC is 200 West Street, New York, New York 10282. The principal business address of RBC Capital Markets, LLC is 200 Vesey Street, 8th Floor, New York, New York, 10281. The principal business address of SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc. is 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10172.

European Economic Area and United Kingdom

The notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in any Member State of the European Economic Area or the United Kingdom (each, a “Relevant State”). For these purposes, a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of: (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended),

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“MiFID II”); (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2016/97/EU (as amended), where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MIFID II; or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Regulation 2017/1129 (EU) (as amended or superseded, the “Prospectus Regulation”). Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in a Relevant State has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in a Relevant State may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation. This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Relevant State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Regulation from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of notes. This prospectus supplement is not a prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Regulation.

United Kingdom

Each Underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended, the “FSMA”)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the company; and
- (b) it has complied 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.

Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (“Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance”) or which do not constitute an invitation to the public within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance Ordinance (Cap. 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (“Securities and Futures Ordinance”), or (ii) to “professional investors” as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” in Hong Kong as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made thereunder.

Singapore

This offering circular has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this offering circular and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the “SFA”)) under Section 274 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to conditions set forth in the SFA.

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Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor, the securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation has acquired the notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer in that corporation's securities pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore ("Regulation 32").

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an accredited investor, the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that such rights or interest are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction (whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets), (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32.

Israel

No action has been, or will be, taken in Israel that would permit an offering of the Notes or a distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the public in Israel. In particular, neither the prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus has been reviewed or approved by the Israel Securities Authority. The Notes are being offered to a limited number of qualified investors listed on the first addendum of the Securities Law (a "Qualified Investor"), in all cases under the circumstances that will fall within the private placement exemption of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968 ("Securities Law"). This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, nor be furnished to any other person other than those to whom copies have been sent. Any investor in the Notes shall be required to declare in writing prior to such purchase that it qualifies as a Qualified Investor, agrees to be deemed a Qualified Investor, and is aware of the consequences of being classified as a Qualified Investor, that it will comply with the guidelines of the Israel Securities Authority with respect to the sale or offer of securities to Qualified Investors (including those published on September 21, 2014), and that it is purchasing the Notes for its own benefit and on its own account and not with the aim or intention of distributing or offering the Notes to other parties. Nothing in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus should be considered 'investment advice', or 'investment marketing' as defined in the Regulation of Investment Advice, Investment Marketing and Portfolio Management Law of 1995. Any investor who purchases the Notes shall be required to declare in writing that it has the knowledge, expertise and experience in financial and business matters so as to be capable of evaluating the risks and merits of an investment in the Notes, without relying on any of the materials provided.

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations (and, in the case of a non-U.S. holder (as defined below), the material U.S. federal estate tax consequences) applicable to an investment in the Notes. This summary deals only with Notes that are purchased for cash in this offering for a price equal to the “issue price” of the Notes (i.e., the first price at which a substantial amount of the Notes is sold for money to investors, other than to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the income and estate tax considerations applicable to such an investment. The discussion is based upon the Code, Treasury Regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations, each as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change, potentially with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax aspects set forth below. You should consult your own tax advisor with respect to tax considerations that pertain to your acquisition, ownership and disposition of our Notes. For a summary of the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to us regarding our election to be treated as a RIC, please refer to “Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations—Election to be Taxed as a RIC” and “Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company” in the accompanying prospectus.

This discussion deals only with Notes held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment purposes) and does not purport to deal with persons in special tax situations, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities, former citizens of the United States, persons holding the Notes as a hedge against currency risks or as a position in a “straddle,” “hedge,” “constructive sale transaction” or “conversion transaction” for tax purposes, entities that are tax-exempt for U.S. federal income tax purposes, retirement plans, individual retirement accounts, tax-deferred accounts, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, pass-through entities (including partnerships and entities and arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes) and beneficial owners of pass-through entities, accrual method taxpayers for U.S. federal income tax purposes required to accelerate the recognition of any item of gross income with respect to the Notes as a result of such income being recognized on an applicable financial statement, or U.S. holders (as defined below) whose functional currency (as defined in Section 985 of the Code) is not the U.S. dollar. In addition, this discussion does not deal with any tax consequences other than U.S. federal income tax consequences (and, in the case of a non-U.S. holder, U.S. federal estate tax consequences). If you are considering acquiring the Notes, you should consult your own tax advisor concerning the application of the U.S. federal income and estate tax laws to you in light of your particular situation, as well as any consequences to you of purchasing, owning and disposing of the Notes under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

For purposes of this discussion, the term “U.S. holder” means a beneficial owner of a Note that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (iii) a trust (a) subject to the control of one or more U.S. persons and the primary supervision of a court in the United States, or (b) that existed on August 20, 1996 and has made a valid election (under applicable Treasury Regulations) to be treated as a domestic trust, or (iv) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

The term “non-U.S. holder” means a beneficial owner of a Note that is neither a U.S. holder nor a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes). An individual may, subject to certain exceptions, be subject to treatment as a resident alien, as opposed to a non-resident alien, for U.S. federal income tax purposes by, among other ways, being physically present in the U.S. (i) on at least 31 days during a calendar year, and (ii) for an aggregate period of at least 183 days during a three-year period ending in the current calendar year, counting for such purposes all of the days present in the current calendar year, one-third of the days present in the immediate preceding year, and one-sixth of the days present in the second preceding year. Resident aliens are subject to U.S. federal income tax as if they were U.S. citizens.

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If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds any Notes, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner of the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership and certain determinations made at the partner level. Partnerships holding Notes, and the persons holding interests in such partnerships, should consult their own tax advisors as to the consequences of investing in the Notes in their individual circumstances.

Taxation of Note Holders

Taxation of U.S. Holders.

Except as discussed below, payments or accruals of interest on a Note generally will be taxable to a U.S. holder as ordinary interest income at the time they are received (actually or constructively) or accrued, in accordance with the U.S. holder's regular method of tax accounting. If the issue price of a Note is less than its stated principal amount by more than a specified de minimis amount, the Note will be considered as having been issued for U.S. federal income tax purposes with original issue discount ("OID") in an amount equal to each excess. If the Note is issued with OID, a U.S. holder generally will be required to include the OID in gross income as ordinary interest income as the OID accrues, in advance of the receipt of cash attributable to that income and regardless of such holder's regular method of tax accounting. Such OID will be included in gross income for each day during each taxable year in which a Note is held by a U.S. holder using a constant yield to maturity method that reflects the compounding of interest. This means that a U.S. holder will be required to include increasingly greater amounts of OID over time.

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a Note, a U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition (excluding amounts representing accrued and unpaid interest, which are treated as ordinary income to the extent not previously included in income) and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will equal the U.S. holder's initial investment in the Note. Capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period in the Note was more than one year. Long-term capital gains generally are taxed at reduced rates for individuals and certain other non-corporate U.S. holders. The distinction between capital gain and loss and ordinary income and loss also is important for purposes of, among other things, the limitations imposed on a U.S. holder's ability to offset capital losses against ordinary income.

A tax of 3.8% will be imposed on certain "net investment income" (or "undistributed net investment income," in the case of estates and trusts) received by U.S. holders with modified adjusted gross income above certain threshold amounts. "Net investment income" as defined for U.S. federal Medicare contribution purposes generally includes interest payments on and gain recognized from the sale, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of the Notes. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this tax on their ownership and disposition of the Notes.

Under applicable Treasury Regulations, if a U.S. holder recognizes a loss with respect to the Notes or shares of our common stock of \$2 million or more for a non-corporate U.S. holder or \$10 million or more for a corporate U.S. holder in any single taxable year (or a greater loss over a combination of taxable years), the U.S. holder may be required to file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct U.S. holders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but, under current guidance, U.S. holders of a RIC are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to U.S. holders of most or all RICs. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Significant monetary penalties apply to a failure to comply with this reporting requirement. States may also have a similar reporting requirement. U.S. holders of the Notes or our common stock should consult their own tax advisors to determine the applicability of these Treasury Regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders.

Except as provided below under “Information Reporting and Backup Withholding” and “FATCA,” a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes on payments of principal or interest on a Note provided that (i) income on the Note is not effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a trade or business within the United States, (ii) the non-U.S. holder is not a controlled foreign corporation related to the Company through stock ownership, (iii) the non-U.S. holder is not a bank receiving interest described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (iv) the non-U.S. holder does not own (directly or indirectly, actually or constructively) 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company, and (v)(A) the non-U.S. holder provides the applicable withholding agent with a valid certification on an IRS Form W-8BEN, Form W-8BEN-E, or other applicable U.S. nonresident withholding tax certification form, certifying its non-U.S. holder status, or (B) a securities clearing organization, bank, or other financial institution that holds customer securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business (i.e., a “financial institution”) and holds a Note on a non-U.S. holder’s behalf certifies to the applicable withhold agent under penalties of perjury that either it or another financial institution has received the required statement from the non-U.S. holder certifying that it is a non-U.S. person and furnishes the applicable withhold agent with a copy of the statement.

A non-U.S. holder that is not exempt from tax under these rules generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding on payments of interest on the Notes at a rate of 30% unless (i) the income is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, so long as the non-U.S. holder has provided the applicable withhold agent with an IRS Form W-8ECI or substantially similar substitute U.S. nonresident withholding tax certification form stating that the interest on the Notes is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder’s conduct of a trade or business in the U.S. in which case the interest will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis as applicable to U.S. holders generally (unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise), or (ii) an applicable income tax treaty or provision in the Code provides for a lower rate of, or exemption from, withholding tax, so long as the non-U.S. holder has provided the applicable withhold agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E (or other applicable U.S. nonresident withholding tax certification form) signed under penalties of perjury, claiming such lower rate of, or exemption from, withholding tax under such income tax treaty.

To claim the benefit of an income tax treaty or to claim exemption from withholding because income is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder must timely provide the appropriate, properly executed IRS U.S. nonresident withholding tax certification form, signed under penalties of perjury, to the applicable withholding agent. These forms may be required to be updated periodically. Additionally, a non-U.S. holder who is claiming the benefits of an income tax treaty may be required to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and provide certain documentary evidence issued by a non-U.S. governmental authority in order to prove residence in a foreign country.

In the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation and that receives income that is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, such income may also be subject to a branch profits tax (which is generally imposed on a non-U.S. corporation on the actual or deemed repatriation from the United States of earnings and profits attributable to a U.S. trade or business) at a 30% rate. The branch profits tax may not apply (or may apply at a reduced rate) if the non-U.S. holder is a qualified resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty and provides the applicable withhold agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E claiming exemption from, or entitlement to a lower rate of, branch profits tax under such treaty.

Generally, a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes on any amount that constitutes capital gain upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a Note, provided that the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the non-U.S. holder (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a United States “permanent establishment” maintained by the non-U.S. holder). Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors with regard to whether taxes will be imposed on capital gain in their individual circumstances.

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

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding.

A U.S. holder (other than an "exempt recipient," including a corporation and certain other persons who, when required, demonstrate their exempt status) may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 24% on, and to information reporting requirements with respect to, payments of principal and interest on, and proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of, the Notes. In general, if a non-corporate U.S. holder subject to information reporting fails to furnish a correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with applicable backup withholding requirements, backup withholding at the applicable rate may apply.

If you are a non-U.S. holder, generally, the applicable withholding agent must report to the IRS and to you payments of interest on the Notes and the amount of tax, if any, withheld with respect to those payments. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest payments and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside under the provisions of a treaty or agreement. In general, backup withholding will apply to payments of interest on your Notes, unless you have provided to the applicable withholding agent the required certification that you are not a U.S. person or you otherwise establish an exemption, and the applicable withholding agent does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person. Information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding will apply to payment to you of the proceeds of a sale or other disposition (including a retirement or redemption) of the Notes within the U.S. or conducted through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries, unless you certify under penalties of perjury that you are not a U.S. person or you otherwise establish an exemption, and the applicable withholding agent does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person.

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

FATCA.

Certain provisions of the Code, commonly known as FATCA, generally impose a withholding tax of 30% on certain payments to certain foreign entities (including financial intermediaries) unless various U.S. information reporting and diligence requirements (that are in addition to the requirement to deliver an applicable U.S. nonresident withholding tax certification form (e.g., IRS Form W-8BEN), as discussed above) and certain other requirements have been satisfied. FATCA withholding generally applies to payments of interest ("withholdable payments"), including interest on the notes, to certain non-U.S. entities (including, in some circumstances, where such an entity is acting as an intermediary) that fail to comply with certain certification, identification, withholding and information reporting requirements imposed by FATCA. FATCA withholding taxes generally apply to all withholdable payments without regard to whether the beneficial owner of the payment would otherwise be entitled to an exemption from withholding taxes pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty with the U.S. or under U.S. domestic law. If FATCA withholding taxes are imposed with respect to any payments of interest or proceeds made under the Notes, holders that are otherwise eligible for an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. federal withholding taxes with respect to such interest or proceeds will be required to seek a credit or refund from the IRS in order to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction, if any. Holders of or prospective holders of the Notes may be required to provide additional information to enable the applicable

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withholding agent to determine whether withholding is required. Persons located in jurisdictions that have entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the U.S. to implement FATCA may be subject to different rules. FATCA withholding would have applied to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition (including a retirement or redemption) of the Notes; however, under proposed Treasury Regulations that may be relied upon pending finalization, the withholding tax on gross proceeds would be eliminated and, consequently, FATCA withholding on gross proceeds is not expected to apply. Non-U.S. holders, and U.S. holders that expect to hold the Notes through non-U.S. entities, should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of these withholding and reporting provisions.

The preceding discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations is for general information only and is not tax advice. We urge you to consult your own tax advisor with respect to the particular tax consequences to you of an investment in the Notes, including the possible effect of any pending legislation or proposed regulations.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Dechert LLP. Certain legal matters in connection with the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for the underwriters by Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a universal shelf registration statement, of which this prospectus supplement forms a part, on Form N-2, together with all amendments and related exhibits, under the Securities Act, with respect to the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the securities being offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

We file with or submit to the SEC annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information meeting the informational requirements of the Exchange Act. The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed electronically by us with the SEC at www.sec.gov. Copies of these reports, proxy and information statements and other information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov. This information is also available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, or by telephone by calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.htgc.com. Information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, and you should not consider such information to be part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement the documents listed below and any future reports and other documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement have been sold or we otherwise terminate the offering of these securities (such reports and other documents deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and other documents); provided, however, that information "furnished" under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K, or other information "furnished" to the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act will not be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement:

- our Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, filed with the SEC on February 23, 2021;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2021, filed with the SEC on [October 28, 2021](#), our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2021, filed with the SEC on [July 29, 2021](#), and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2021, filed with the SEC on [April 29, 2021](#); and

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- our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on [February 23, 2021](#), [March 4, 2021](#), [March 8, 2021](#), [April 29, 2021](#), [May 28, 2021](#), [June 25, 2021](#), [July 13, 2021](#), [July 29, 2021](#), [September 15, 2021](#), [September 16, 2021](#), [September 24, 2021](#), [October 20, 2021](#), [October 28, 2021](#), [November 10, 2021](#), [November 29, 2021](#), and [January 10, 2022](#).

Any reports filed by us with the SEC before the date that any offering of any securities by means of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

To obtain copies of these filings, see “Available Information” in this prospectus supplement.

PROSPECTUS

Hercules Capital, Inc.

Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants
Subscription Rights
Debt Securities
Units

This prospectus relates to the offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series of shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, subscription rights, debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, which we refer to, collectively, as the “securities.” The preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights and warrants (including as part of a unit) offered hereby may be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock. We may sell our securities through underwriters or dealers, “at-the-market” to or through a market maker into an existing trading market or otherwise directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, or through agents or through a combination of methods of sale, including auctions. The identities of such underwriters, dealers, market makers or agents, as the case may be, will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

In the event we offer common stock, the offering price per share will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering except (1) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (2) with the consent of the holders of the majority of our voting securities and approval of our Board of Directors, or (3) under such circumstances as the Securities and Exchange Commission may permit. See “Risk Factors” for more information.

We are a specialty finance company focused on providing senior secured loans to high-growth, innovative venture capital-backed and institutional-backed companies in a variety of technology, life sciences and sustainable and renewable technology industries. We source our investments through our principal office located in Palo Alto, CA, as well as through additional offices in Boston, MA, New York, NY, Bethesda, MD, and San Diego, CA. Our goal is to be the leading structured debt financing provider for venture capital-backed companies in technology-related industries requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. We invest primarily in structured debt with warrants and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity investments. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity investments.

We use the term “structured debt with warrants” to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or other rights to purchase or convert into common or preferred stock. Our structured debt with warrants investments typically are secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol “HTGC.” On December 16, 2021, the last reported sale price of a share of our common stock on the NYSE, was \$16.20. The net asset value per share of our common stock as of September 30, 2021 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus on which we determined net asset value) was \$11.54.

An investment in our securities may be speculative and involves risks including a heightened risk of total loss of investment. In addition, the companies in which we invest are subject to special risks. See “Risk Factors” on page 11 of this prospectus, in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, in any of our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and in any applicable prospectus supplement and in any free writing prospectus to read about risks that you should consider before investing in our securities, including the risk of leverage.

Please read this prospectus and any free writing prospectus before investing and keep it for future reference. It contains important information about us that a prospective investor ought to know before investing in our securities. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information is available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301 or by telephone calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.htgc.com. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

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

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

The date of this prospectus is December 17, 2021

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, or any other information which we have referred to. We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to provide you with different information or to make representations as to matters not stated in this prospectus or in any free writing prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, and any free writing prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities by any person in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful for that person to make such an offer or solicitation or to any person in any jurisdiction to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. The information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, and any free writing prospectus is accurate only as of its date, and under no circumstances should the delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, or any free writing prospectus or the sale of any securities imply that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any later date or that the affairs of Hercules Capital, Inc. have not changed since the date hereof. This prospectus will be updated to reflect material changes.

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Hercules Capital, Inc., our logo and other trademarks of Hercules Capital, Inc. mentioned in this prospectus are the property of Hercules Capital, Inc. All other trademarks or trade names referred to in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using the “shelf” registration process as a “well-known seasoned issuer,” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under the shelf registration process, which constitutes a delayed offering in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, our common stock, preferred stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, subscription rights or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We may sell our securities through underwriters or dealers, “at-the-market” to or through a market maker, into an existing trading market or otherwise directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, or through agents or through a combination of methods of sale. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. Such prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus (collectively referred to hereinafter as the “prospectus supplement”) may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in the documents we incorporate by reference herein. This prospectus and the prospectus supplement, together with any documents incorporated by reference herein, will include all material information relating to the applicable offering. Please carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement, together with any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, any exhibits and the additional information described under the headings “Available Information,” “Incorporation of Certain Information By Reference,” “Prospectus Summary” and “Risk Factors” before you make an investment decision.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under “Risk Factors” and the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. In this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the “Company,” “Hercules,” “HTGC,” “we,” “us” and “our” refer to Hercules Capital, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries and its affiliated securitization trusts.

THE COMPANY

Overview

We are a specialty finance company focused on providing senior secured loans to high-growth, innovative venture capital-backed and institutional-backed companies in a variety of technology, life sciences and sustainable and renewable technology industries. We source our investments through our principal office located in Palo Alto, CA, as well as through additional offices in Boston, MA, New York, NY, Bethesda, MD, and San Diego, CA.

Our goal is to be the leading structured debt financing provider for venture capital-backed companies in technology-related industries requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of technology-related industries including technology, drug discovery and development, biotechnology, life sciences, healthcare, and sustainable and renewable technology and to offer a full suite of growth capital products. We focus our investments in companies active in the technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including, but not limited to, computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, renewable or alternative energy, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we generally focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, drug discovery, drug delivery, drug development, health care services and information systems companies. Within the sustainable and renewable technology sub-sector, we focus on sustainable and renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency and monitoring technologies. We refer to all of these companies as “technology-related” companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our total assets in such businesses.

We invest primarily in structured debt with warrants and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in private companies but also have investments in public companies. We use the term “structured debt with warrants” to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or other rights to purchase or convert into common or preferred stock. Our structured debt with warrants investments typically are secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company. We also provide “unitranche” loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position.

Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our warrant and equity investments. Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value, or NAV, by investing in structured debt with warrants and equity of venture capital-backed companies in technology-related industries with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our equity ownership in our portfolio companies may exceed 25% of the voting securities of such companies, which represents a controlling interest under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital-backed companies in technology-related industries is generally used for growth and general working capital purposes as well as in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

In May 2020, Hercules Adviser LLC, or Adviser Subsidiary, was formed as our wholly owned Delaware limited liability subsidiary to provide investment advisory and related services to investment vehicles, or Adviser Funds, owned by one or more unrelated third-party investors, or External Parties. The Adviser Subsidiary will receive fee income for the services provided to Adviser Funds. We were granted no-action relief by the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, to allow the Adviser Subsidiary to register as a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

See “Business” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional information about us.

Corporate Information

We are an internally-managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a BDC, under the 1940 Act. Effective January 1, 2006, we elected to be treated for tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code.

As a RIC, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the portion of our investment company taxable income and net capital gain (i.e., net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses) we distribute (or are deemed to distribute) as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to stockholders with respect to that taxable year. We will be subject to a 4% non-deductible U.S. federal excise tax on certain undistributed income and gains unless we make distributions treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes in a timely manner to our stockholders in respect of each calendar year subject to certain requirements as defined for RICs. See “Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K incorporated by reference herein for additional information about our tax requirements. Additionally, we have established wholly-owned subsidiaries that are not consolidated for income tax purposes and may generate income tax expense, or benefit, and tax assets and liabilities as a result of their ownership of certain portfolio investments.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in December 2003 that began investment operations in September 2004. Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060.

Risk Factors

Investing in Hercules involves risks. The following is a summary of the principal risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see “Risk Factors” beginning on page 11 and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q incorporated by reference herein for a more detailed discussion of the principal risks as well as certain other risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

- As an internally managed BDC, we are subject to certain restrictions that may adversely affect our business and are dependent upon the availability of key management personnel for our future success. If we are not able to hire and retain qualified personnel, or if we lose any member of our senior management team, our ability to implement our business strategy could be significantly harmed.
- Our business model depends (to a significant extent) upon strong referral relationships with venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, and our inability to develop or maintain these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.
- We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

- Regulations governing our operations as a BDC may affect our ability to, and the manner in which, we raise additional capital. If additional funds are unavailable or not available on favorable terms, our ability to grow will be impaired.
- Our operating flexibility and financial condition could be negatively affected if we fail to qualify as a BDC or RIC.
- Our executive officers and employees, through Adviser Subsidiary, are expected to manage other investment funds or accounts, including External Parties, that operate in the same or a related line of business as we do, which may result in significant conflicts of interest.
- Our investments in Adviser Funds managed by our Adviser Subsidiary may create conflicts of interests.
- Our revenues and results of operations relating to our Adviser Subsidiary's business depend on the management fees and performance fees received from Adviser Funds.
- Because we have substantial indebtedness, there could be increased risk in investing in our company.
- There is a risk that you may not receive distributions or that our distributions may not grow over time.
- We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.
- The discontinuation of LIBOR may affect the value of the financial obligations to be held or issued by us that are linked to LIBOR.
- Our financial results could be negatively affected if a significant portfolio investment fails to perform as expected.
- Our investments may be in portfolio companies that have limited operating histories and resources.
- Our investment strategy focuses on technology-related companies, which are subject to many risks, including volatility, intense competition, shortened product life cycles, changes in regulatory and governmental programs and periodic downturns, and you could lose all or part of your investment.
- Price declines and illiquidity in the corporate debt markets could adversely affect the fair value of our portfolio investments, reducing our NAV through increased net unrealized depreciation.
- Economic recessions or slowdowns could impair the ability of our portfolio companies to repay loans, which, in turn, could increase our non-performing assets, decrease the value of our portfolio, reduce our volume of new loans and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.
- Our portfolio companies may be unable to repay or refinance outstanding principal on their loans at or prior to maturity, and rising interest rates may make it more difficult for portfolio companies to make periodic payments on their loans.
- Any unrealized depreciation we experience on our investment portfolio may be an indication of future realized losses, which could reduce our income available for distribution and could impair our ability to service our borrowings.
- A lack of IPO or merger and acquisition opportunities may cause companies to stay in our portfolio longer, leading to lower returns, unrealized depreciation, or realized losses.
- The majority of our portfolio companies will need multiple rounds of additional financing to repay their debts to us and continue operations. Our portfolio companies may not be able to raise additional financing, which could harm our investment returns.
- If the assets securing the loans that we make decrease in value, then we may lack sufficient collateral to cover losses. We may suffer a loss if a portfolio company defaults on a loan and the underlying collateral is not sufficient.

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- An investment strategy focused on privately-held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies, a dependence on the talents and efforts of only a few key portfolio company personnel, and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.
- If our portfolio companies are unable to protect their intellectual property rights or are required to devote significant resources to protecting their intellectual property rights, then our investments could be harmed.
- We generally will not control our portfolio companies.
- The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business and, if we need to sell any of our investments, we may not be able to do so at a favorable price.
- Our warrant and equity-related investments are highly speculative, and we may not realize gains from these investments.
- Prepayments of our debt investments by our portfolio companies could adversely impact our results of operations and reduce our return on equity.
- Our common stock may trade below its NAV per share, which limits our ability to raise additional equity capital.
- Our common stock price has been and continues to be volatile and may decrease substantially.
- The effects of the outbreak of COVID-19 have negatively affected the global economy and the United States economy, and may disrupt our operations, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
- We may be the target of litigation.
- Changes in laws or regulations governing our business could negatively affect the profitability of our operations.

Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial may also have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and/or operating results.

OFFERINGS

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We will offer our securities at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, generally will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of an offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such other circumstances as the SEC may permit. Any such issuance of shares of our common stock below net asset value may be dilutive to the net asset value of our common stock. See “Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Securities” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K as well as “Risk Factors” included in this prospectus.

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

Use of proceeds	Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus relating to an offering, we intend to use the net proceeds from selling our securities to fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objectives, to make acquisitions, to retire certain debt obligations and for other general corporate purposes. Each supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. See “Use of Proceeds.”
Distributions	Subject to applicable legal restrictions and the sole discretion of our board of directors, we intend to declare and pay regular cash distributions on a quarterly basis. From time to time, we may also pay special interim distributions in the form of cash or shares of our common stock at the discretion of our board of directors. The timing and amount of any future distributions to stockholders are subject to applicable legal restrictions and the sole discretion of our board of directors. See “Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions.”
Taxation	We have elected to be subject to tax as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As a RIC, we generally will not be subject to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we timely distribute each tax year as distributions for U.S. federal income tax purposes to our stockholders. To qualify for and maintain our qualification as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements (as described herein). See “Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.”

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Distribution reinvestment plan	We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan, through which all distributions are paid to our stockholders in the form of additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash as provided below. In this way, a stockholder can maintain an undiluted investment in our common stock and still allow us to pay out the required distributable income. See “Dividend Reinvestment Plan” below.
NYSE Trading Symbol	“HTGC”
Leverage	We borrow funds to make additional investments. We use this practice, which is known as “leverage,” to attempt to increase returns to our stockholders, but it involves significant risks. See “Risk Factors” and “Senior Securities”. We are currently allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as calculated pursuant to the Investment Company Act, equals at least 150% after such borrowing. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and “ Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources” in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.
Available information	We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed electronically by us with the SEC which are available on the SEC’s Internet website at http://www.sec.gov . We maintain a website on the Internet at www.htgc.com . Except for the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, the information on our website is not part of this prospectus. We make available, free of charge, on our website our proxy statement, annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. See “Available Information.”
Incorporation by reference	This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to comprise a part of this prospectus from the date we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC before the date that any offering of any securities by means of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See “Incorporation by Reference.”

FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. However, we caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. The footnotes to the fee table state which items are estimates. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by “you” or “us” or that “we” will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Hercules Capital, Inc.

Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price):	
Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) ⁽¹⁾	— %
Offering expenses	— %(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan fees	— %(3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price)	— %(4)
Annual Expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):⁽⁵⁾	
Operating expenses	5.01%(6)(7)
Interest and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds	4.92%(8)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.01%(10)
Total annual expenses	9.94%(9)

(1) In the event that our securities are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement to this prospectus will disclose the applicable sales load.

(2) In the event that we conduct an offering of our securities, a corresponding prospectus supplement to this prospectus will disclose the estimated offering expenses.

(3) The expenses associated with the administration of our dividend reinvestment plan are included in “Operating expenses.” We pay all brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases, if any, made by the administrator under the plan. For more details about the plan, see “Dividend Reinvestment Plan.”

(4) Total stockholder transaction expenses may include sales load and will be disclosed in a future prospectus supplement, if any.

(5) “Net assets attributable to common stock” equals the weighted average net assets for the nine months ended September 30, 2021, which is approximately \$1,327.7 million.

(6) “Operating expenses” represents our estimated operating expenses by annualizing our actual incurred for the nine months ended September 30, 2021, including all fees and expenses of our consolidated subsidiaries and excluding interests and fees on our debt.

(7) We do not have an investment adviser and are internally managed by our executive officers under the supervision of our Board of Directors. As a result, we do not pay investment advisory fees, but instead we pay the operating costs associated with employing investment management professionals.

(8) “Interest and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds” represents our estimated interest, fees and credit facility expenses by annualizing our actual interest, fees and credit facility expenses incurred for the nine months ended September 30, 2021.

(9) “Total annual expenses” is the sum of “operating expenses,” “interest and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds,” and “Acquired fund fees and expenses.” “Total annual expenses” is presented as a percentage of weighted average net assets attributable to common stockholders because the holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) bear all of our fees and expenses, including the fees and expenses of our wholly-owned consolidated subsidiaries, all of which are included in this fee table presentation.

(10) Acquired fund fees and expenses represent the estimated indirect expense incurred due to investments in other investment companies and private funds.

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Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses that would be incurred over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. These amounts are based upon our payment of annual operating expenses at the levels set forth in the table above and assume no additional leverage.

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 97	\$ 277	\$ 440	\$ 784

The example and the expenses in the tables above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses may be greater or lesser than those shown. Moreover, while the example assumes, as required by the applicable rules of the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or lesser than 5%. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all distributions at NAV, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan may receive shares valued at the market price in effect at that time. This price may be at, above or below NAV. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial data set forth in the following table as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 are derived from our consolidated financial statements. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016, are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report thereon is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011 are derived from audited consolidated financial statements not incorporated by reference in this prospectus, which may be obtained from www.sec.gov or upon request. The financial data set forth in the following table as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2021 is derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim period. Interim results as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2021 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2021. You should read these financial highlights in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” incorporated by reference into this prospectus, any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, or our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q incorporated by reference herein.

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	As of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2021	Year Ended December 31,									
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Per share data ⁽¹⁾ :											
Net asset value at beginning of period	\$ 11.26	\$ 10.55	\$ 9.90	\$ 9.96	\$ 9.90	\$ 9.94	\$ 10.18	\$ 10.51	\$ 9.75	\$ 9.83	\$ 9.50
Net investment income	0.95	1.39	1.41	1.20	1.17	1.36	1.06	1.16	1.24	0.98	0.92
Net realized gain (loss)	0.12	(0.50)	0.16	(0.12)	(0.32)	0.06	0.07	0.32	0.25	0.06	0.06
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	0.40	1.13	0.14	(0.23)	0.11	(0.49)	(0.51)	(0.33)	0.20	(0.09)	0.11
Total from investment operations	1.47	2.02	1.71	0.85	0.96	0.93	0.62	1.15	1.69	0.95	1.09
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from capital share transactions ⁽¹⁾	(0.11)	0.01	0.20	0.23	0.26	0.18	0.26	(0.37)	0.10	(0.14)	0.07
Distributions of net investment income ⁽⁶⁾	(1.06)	(1.03)	(1.15)	(1.26)	(1.07)	(1.14)	(1.26)	(1.27)	(1.13)	(0.98)	(0.90)
Distributions of capital gains ⁽⁶⁾	(0.09)	(0.36)	(0.18)	—	(0.18)	(0.11)	—	—	—	—	—
Stock-based compensation expense included in investment income ⁽²⁾	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.09	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.10	0.09	0.07
Net asset value at end of period	\$ 11.54	\$ 11.26	\$ 10.55	\$ 9.90	\$ 9.96	\$ 9.94	\$ 10.18	\$ 10.51	\$ 9.75	\$ 9.83	
Ratios and supplemental data:											
Per share market value at end of period	\$ 16.61	\$ 14.42	\$ 14.02	\$ 11.05	\$ 13.12	\$ 14.11	\$ 12.19	\$ 14.88	\$ 16.40	\$ 11.13	\$ 9.44
Total return ⁽³⁾	23.05%	14.31%	39.36%	(7.56%)	1.47%	26.87%	(9.70%)	(1.75%)	58.49%	28.28%	(0.83%)
Shares outstanding at end of period	115,925	114,726	107,364	96,501	84,424	79,555	72,118	64,715	61,837	52,925	43,853
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	114,590	111,985	101,132	90,929	82,519	73,753	69,479	61,862	58,838	49,068	42,988
Net assets at end of period	\$ 1,337,532	\$ 1,291,704	\$ 1,133,049	\$ 955,444	\$ 840,967	\$ 787,944	\$ 717,134	\$ 658,864	\$ 650,007	\$ 515,968	\$ 431,041
Ratio of total expense to average net asset ⁽⁴⁾	9.93%	11.30%	11.95%	10.73%	11.37%	11.25%	11.55%	10.97%	11.06%	10.28%	9.61%
Ratio of net investment income before investment gains and losses to average net assets ⁽⁴⁾	11.01%	13.64%	13.74%	11.78%	11.61%	13.65%	10.15%	10.94%	12.12%	10.01%	9.45%
Portfolio turnover rate ⁽⁵⁾	33.14%	32.38%	31.30%	38.76%	49.03%	36.22%	46.34%	56.15%	56.05%	N/A	N/A
Weighted average debt outstanding	\$ 1,246,769	\$ 1,309,903	\$ 1,177,379	\$ 826,931	\$ 784,455	\$ 635,365	\$ 615,198	\$ 535,127	\$ 580,053	\$ 360,857	\$ 238,873
Weighted average debt per common share	\$ 10.88	\$ 11.70	\$ 11.64	\$ 9.09	\$ 9.51	\$ 8.61	\$ 8.85	\$ 8.65	\$ 9.86	\$ 7.35	\$ 5.56

- (1) All per share activity is calculated based on the weighted average shares outstanding for the relevant period, except net increase (decrease) in net assets from capital share transactions, which is based on the common shares outstanding as of the relevant balance sheet date.
- (2) Stock option expense is a non-cash expense that has no effect on net asset value. Pursuant to ASC Topic 718, net investment income includes the expense associated with the granting of stock options which is offset by a corresponding increase in paid-in capital.
- (3) The total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2021 and the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 equals to the change in the ending market value over the beginning of the period price per share plus distributions paid per share during the period, divided by the beginning price assuming the distribution is reinvested on the date of the distribution. As such, the total return is not annualized. The total return does not reflect any sales load that must be paid by investors.
- (4) The ratios are calculated based on weighted average net assets for the relevant period and are annualized.
- (5) The portfolio turnover rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2021 and the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 equals to the lesser of investment portfolio purchases or sales during the period, divided by the average investment portfolio value during the period. As such, portfolio turnover rate is not annualized.
- (6) Includes distributions on invested restricted stock awards.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risk factors described below, and in the section titled “Risk Factors” in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and the risks discussed in the section titled “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, the section titled “Item 1A. Risk Factors,” which are incorporated by reference herein, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference herein, and any subsequent filings we have made with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and any documents incorporated by reference herein, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below and described in such documents are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, the net asset value of our common stock and the trading price, if any, of our securities could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

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

We generally expect the public offering price of any offering of shares of our common stock to be higher than the book value per share of our outstanding common stock (unless we offer shares pursuant to a rights offering or after obtaining prior approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors). Accordingly, investors purchasing shares of our common stock in offerings pursuant to this prospectus may pay a price per share that exceeds the tangible book value per share after such offering.

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

In the event we issue subscription rights, stockholders who do not fully exercise their subscription rights should expect that they will, at the completion of a rights offering pursuant to this prospectus, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case if they fully exercised their rights. We cannot state precisely the amount of any such dilution in share ownership because we do not know at this time what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering.

In addition, if the subscription price is less than the net asset value per share of our common stock, then our stockholders would experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of their shares as a result of the offering. The amount of any decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price and net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of a rights offering or what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. Such dilution could be substantial. See “Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Securities—We have received the approval from our stockholders to issue shares of our common stock at prices below the then current NAV per share of our common stock, subject to certain limitations and with the approval from our independent directors. If we receive such approval from the independent directors, we may periodically issue shares of our common stock at a price below the then current NAV per share of common stock. Any such issuance could materially dilute your interest in our common stock and reduce our NAV per share.” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and “Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value” below.

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

We may initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These

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securities generally earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not, for a time, be able to achieve our investment objective and/or we may need to, for a time, decrease the amount of any dividend that we may pay to our stockholders to a level that is substantially lower than the level that we expect to pay when the net proceeds of offerings are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our shares may decline.

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

In order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement applicable to RICs, we have the ability to declare a large portion of a dividend in shares of our common stock instead of in cash. As long as a portion of such dividend is paid in cash (which portion could be as low as 20%) and certain requirements are met, the entire distribution would be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a stockholder would be taxed on 100% of the fair market value of the shares received as part of the dividend on the date a stockholder received it in the same manner as a cash dividend, even though most of the dividend was paid in shares of our common stock.

We cannot predict how tax reform legislation will affect us, our investments, or our stockholders, and any such legislation could adversely affect our business.

Legislative or other actions relating to taxes could have a negative effect on us. The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) and the U.S. Treasury Department. In December 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate passed tax reform legislation the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which the President signed into law. Such legislation has made many changes to the Code, including significant changes to the taxation of business entities, the deductibility of interest expense, and the tax treatment of capital investment. We cannot predict with certainty how any changes in the tax laws might affect us, our stockholders, or our portfolio investments. New legislation and any U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions interpreting such legislation could significantly and negatively affect our ability to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC or the U.S. federal income tax consequences to us and our stockholders of such qualification, or could have other adverse consequences. Stockholders are urged to consult with their tax advisor regarding tax legislative, regulatory, or administrative developments and proposals and their potential effect on an investment in our securities.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The matters discussed in this prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference herein, and any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, including the documents we incorporate by reference therein, as well as in future oral and written statements by management of Hercules Capital, Inc., that are forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. We generally identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “could,” “intends,” “target,” “projects,” “contemplates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential” or “continue” or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. Important assumptions include our ability to originate new investments, achieve certain margins and levels of profitability, the availability of additional capital, and the ability to maintain certain debt to asset ratios. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans or objectives will be achieved. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus include statements as to:

- our current and future management structure;
- our future operating results;
- our business prospects and the prospects of our prospective portfolio companies;
- the impact of investments that we expect to make;
- our informal relationships with third parties including in the venture capital industry;
- the expected market for venture capital investments and our addressable market;
- the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- our ability to access debt markets and equity markets;
- the current and future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on us and our portfolio companies;
- the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
- our expected financings and investments;
- our regulatory structure and tax status;
- our ability to operate as a BDC, a SBIC and a RIC;
- the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
- the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies;
- the timing, form and amount of any distributions;
- the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;
- the valuation of any investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market; and
- our ability to recover unrealized depreciation on investments.

You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus, any free writing prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling our securities to fund investments in debt and equity securities in accordance with our investment objectives, to make acquisitions, to retire certain debt obligations and for other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus or any free writing prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from any offering of our securities will be used as described above within twelve months, but in no event longer than two years. Pending such uses and investments, we will invest the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment. Our ability to achieve our investment objective may be limited to the extent that the net proceeds of any offering, pending full investment, are held in lower yielding short-term instruments.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Our common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol “HTGC.”

The following table sets forth the range of high and low closing sales prices of our common stock, the sales price as a percentage of NAV and the distributions declared by us for each fiscal quarter. The stock quotations are interdealer quotations and do not include markups, markdowns or commissions.

	NAV(1)	Price Range		Premium/ Discount of High Sales Price to NAV	Premium/ Discount of Low Sales Price to NAV	Cash Distribution per Share(2)
		High	Low			
2019						
First quarter	\$10.26	\$ 14.04	\$ 11.23	36.8%	9.5%	\$ 0.330
Second quarter	\$10.59	\$ 13.75	\$ 12.57	29.8%	18.7%	\$ 0.340
Third quarter	\$10.38	\$ 13.44	\$ 12.66	29.5%	22.0%	\$ 0.350
Fourth quarter	\$10.55	\$ 14.44	\$ 12.98	36.9%	23.0%	\$ 0.400
2020						
First quarter	\$ 9.92	\$ 15.99	\$ 6.81	61.2%	(31.4)%	\$ 0.320
Second quarter	\$10.19	\$ 11.83	\$ 6.64	16.1%	(34.8)%	\$ 0.320
Third quarter	\$10.26	\$ 11.97	\$ 10.02	16.7%	(2.3)%	\$ 0.340
Fourth quarter	\$11.26	\$ 14.42	\$ 11.13	28.1%	(1.2)%	\$ 0.370
2021						
First quarter	\$11.36	\$ 16.60	\$ 14.21	45.4%	25.1%	\$ 0.370
Second quarter	\$11.71	\$ 17.66	\$ 15.98	50.8%	36.5%	\$ 0.390
Third quarter	\$11.54	\$ 17.56	\$ 16.50	52.2%	43.0%	\$ 0.390
Fourth quarter (through December 16, 2021)	*	\$ 18.07	\$ 16.20	*	*	\$ 0.400

- (1) NAV per share is generally determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the NAV per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The NAVs shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.
- (2) Represents the dividends or distributions declared in the relevant quarter.
- * NAV has not yet been calculated for this period.
- ** Cash distribution per share has not yet been determined for this period.

The last reported price for our common stock on December 16, 2021 was \$16.20 per share.

Shares of BDCs may trade at a market price that is less than the value of the net assets attributable to those shares. The possibility that our shares of common stock will trade at a discount from NAV or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term are separate and distinct from the risk that our NAV will decrease. At times, our shares of common stock have traded at a premium to NAV and at times our shares of common stock have traded at a discount to the net assets attributable to those shares. It is not possible to predict whether the shares offered hereby will trade at, above, or below NAV.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The information contained under the captions "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q are incorporated by reference herein.

PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

The following tables set forth certain information as of September 30, 2021 regarding each portfolio company in which we had a debt or equity investment. Other than these investments, our only formal relationship with our portfolio companies is the offer to make available significant managerial assistance. In addition, we may have board representation or receive rights to observe the Board of Directors' meetings of our portfolio companies.

**As of September 30, 2021
(dollar amounts in thousands)
(unaudited)**

Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)	
Debt Investments							
Communications & Networking							
1-5 Years Maturity							
Cytracom Holdings LLC(11)(17)(18) 450 Century Parkway Allen, TX 75013	Senior Secured	February 2025	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.25% or Floor rate of 10.31%	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,789	\$ 8,797	
Rocket Lab Global Services, LLC(14)(16) 3881 McGowen Street Long Beach, CA 90808	Senior Secured	June 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.90% or Floor rate of 8.15%, PIK Interest 1.25%, 3.25% Exit Fee	\$ 88,263	87,722	87,722	
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>96,511</u>	<u>96,519</u>	
Subtotal: Communications & Networking (7.22%)*					<u>96,511</u>	<u>96,519</u>	
Consumer & Business Products							
1-5 Years Maturity							
Grove Collaborative, Inc.(17)(19) 1301 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111	Senior Secured	April 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 8.75%, 6.75% Exit Fee	\$ 19,600	19,177	19,177	
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>19,177</u>	<u>19,177</u>	
Subtotal: Consumer & Business Products (1.43%)*					<u>19,177</u>	<u>19,177</u>	
Diversified Financial Services							
Under 1 Year Maturity							
Newfront(9) 55 2nd Street, Floor 18 San Francisco, CA 94105	Convertible Debt	August 2022	PIK Interest 0.19%	\$ 403	402	403	
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity					<u>402</u>	<u>403</u>	
1-5 Years Maturity							
Gibraltar Business Capital, LLC(7) 400 Skokie Blvd #375 Northbrook, IL 60062	Unsecured	September 2026	Interest rate FIXED 14.50%	\$ 15,000	14,651	13,957	
	Unsecured	September 2026	Interest rate FIXED 11.50%	\$10,000	9,815	9,446	
Total Gibraltar Business Capital, LLC					<u>25,000</u>	<u>24,466</u>	<u>23,403</u>
Hercules Adviser LLC(7) 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310 Palo Alto, CA 94301	Unsecured	May 2023	Interest rate FIXED 5.00%	\$ 6,100	6,100	6,100	
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>30,566</u>	<u>29,503</u>	
Subtotal: Diversified Financial Services (2.24%)*					<u>30,968</u>	<u>29,906</u>	

As of September 30, 2021
(dollar amounts in thousands)
(unaudited)

Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Drug Delivery						
1-5 Years Maturity						
Antares Pharma Inc. (10)(11) 100 Princeton South Suite 300 Ewing, NJ 08628	Senior Secured	July 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.50% or Floor rate of 8.50%, 4.03% Exit Fee	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,671	\$ 20,765
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>20,671</u>	<u>20,765</u>
Subtotal: Drug Delivery (1.55%)*					<u>20,671</u>	<u>20,765</u>
Drug Discovery & Development						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Mesoblast (5)(10)(11)(13) 55 Collins Street Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3000	Senior Secured	March 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 4.95% or Floor rate of 9.70%, 9.40% Exit Fee	\$ 50,000	54,310	54,310
Petros Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (p.k.a. Metuchen Pharmaceuticals LLC) 11 Commerce Drive Cranford, NJ 07016	Senior Secured	December 2021	Interest rate PRIME + 7.25% or Floor rate of 11.50%, 3.05% Exit Fee	\$ 1,741	1,740	1,740
TG Therapeutics, Inc.(10)(13) 787 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019	Senior Secured	March 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 4.75% or Floor rate of 10.25%, 3.25% Exit Fee	\$ 15,410	16,298	16,298
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity					<u>72,348</u>	<u>72,348</u>
1-5 Years Maturity						
Albireo Pharma, Inc.(10)(11)(17) 50 Milk Street Boston, MA 02109	Senior Secured	July 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.90% or Floor rate of 9.15%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 10,000	10,177	10,268
Aldeyra Therapeutics, Inc.(11) 131 Hartwell Ave Lexington, MA 02421	Senior Secured	October 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 3.10% or Floor rate of 8.60%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 15,000	15,579	15,773
Applied Genetic Technologies Corporation(11) 14193 Northwest 119th Terrace Alachua, FL 32615	Senior Secured	April 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.50% or Floor rate of 9.75%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 20,000	20,241	20,238
Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(11)(15) 30 Winter Street Boston, MA 02108	Senior Secured	September 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 6.40% or Floor rate of 9.65%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 35,000	35,603	35,214
Axsome Therapeutics, Inc.(10)(13) 22 Courtlandt St. New York, NY 10007	Senior Secured	October 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.90% or Floor rate of 9.15%, 5.82% Exit Fee	\$ 50,000	49,627	51,618
Bicycle Therapeutics PLC(5)(10)(11) Meditrina Building, B900 Cambridge, UK CB22 3AT	Senior Secured	October 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.60% or Floor rate of 8.85%, 5.00% Exit Fee	\$ 24,000	24,182	24,153
BiomX, INC (5)(10) 7 Pinhas Sapir St., 2nd Floor Ness Ziona, Israel 7403635	Senior Secured	September 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.70% or Floor rate of 8.95%, 6.55% Exit Fee	\$ 9,000	8,927	8,927
BridgeBio Pharma LLC (12)(13)(16)(17) 421 Kipling Street Palo Alto, CA 94301	Senior Secured	May 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 4.40% or Floor rate of 7.65%, 5.54% Exit Fee	\$ 100,000	103,238	104,680
Century Therapeutics(11) 3675 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104	Senior Secured	April 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.30% or Floor rate of 9.55%, 3.95% Exit Fee	\$ 10,000	10,028	10,397
Chemocentryx, Inc.(10)(11) 850 Maude Avenue Mountain View, CA 94043	Senior Secured	December 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 3.30% or Floor rate of 8.05%, 6.25% Exit Fee	\$ 18,951	19,958	19,955

As of September 30, 2021
(dollar amounts in thousands)
(unaudited)

Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
	Senior Secured	February 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 3.25% or Floor rate of 8.50%, 7.15% Exit Fee	\$ 5,000	\$5,130	\$5,131
Total Chemocentryx, Inc.				\$ 23,951	25,088	25,086
Codiak Biosciences, Inc.(11)(17) 500 Technology Square Cambridge, MA 02139	Senior Secured	October 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.00% or Floor rate of 8.25%, 5.50% Exit Fee	\$ 25,000	25,404	25,374
Corium, Inc.(16) 4558 50th Street, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512	Senior Secured	September 2026	Interest rate PRIME + 5.70% or Floor rate of 8.95%, 7.75% Exit Fee	\$ 91,500	90,618	90,618
Eloxx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(15) 480 Arsenal Way, Suite 130 Watertown, MA 02472	Senior Secured	April 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 6.25% or Floor rate of 9.50%, 6.55% Exit Fee	\$ 12,500	12,360	12,360
G1 Therapeutics, Inc.(10)(11)(17) 700 Park Offices Drive Research Triangle Park, NC 27709	Senior Secured	June 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 6.20% or Floor rate of 9.45%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 26,000	26,341	26,524
Geron Corporation(10)(13) 149 Commonwealth Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025	Senior Secured	October 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.75% or Floor rate of 9.00%, 6.55% Exit Fee	\$ 22,750	22,913	22,933
Hibercell, Inc.(15) 619 West 54th Street New York, NY 10019	Senior Secured	May 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.40% or Floor rate of 8.65%, 4.95% Exit Fee	\$ 17,000	16,968	16,968
Humanigen, Inc.(9)(10) 533 Airport Boulevard Burlingame, CA 94010	Senior Secured	March 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 8.75%, 6.75% Exit Fee	\$ 20,000	20,126	19,957
Kaleido Biosciences, Inc.(13) 65 Hayden Avenue Lexington, MA 02421	Senior Secured	January 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.10% or Floor rate of 9.35%, 7.55% Exit Fee	\$ 22,500	23,351	23,371
Locus Biosciences(15) 523 Davis Drive, Suite 350 Morrisville, NC 27709	Senior Secured	July 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 6.10% or Floor rate of 9.35%, 4.95% Exit Fee	\$ 8,000	7,938	7,896
Nabriva Therapeutics(5)(10) 25-28 North Wall Quay IFSC, Dublin 1, Ireland	Senior Secured	June 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 4.30% or Floor rate of 9.80%, 6.95% Exit Fee	\$ 5,000	5,444	5,418
Phathom Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(10)(15)(16) 100 Campus Drive, Suite 102 Florham Park, NJ 07932	Senior Secured	October 2026	Interest rate PRIME + 2.25% or Floor rate of 5.50%, PIK Interest 3.35%, 7.50% Exit Fee	\$ 86,500	85,035	85,035
Scynexis, Inc. 101 Hudson Street, Suite 3610 Jersey City, NJ 07302	Senior Secured	March 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.80% or Floor rate of 9.05%, 3.95% Exit Fee	\$ 16,000	15,765	15,765
Seres Therapeutics, Inc.(11) 215 First St Cambridge, MA 02142	Senior Secured	November 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 4.40% or Floor rate of 9.65%, 4.85% Exit Fee	\$ 25,000	25,598	26,265
Syndax Pharmaceuticals Inc.(13) 35 Gatehouse Drive Waltham, MA 02451	Senior Secured	September 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.10% or Floor rate of 9.85%, 4.99% Exit Fee	\$ 20,000	20,538	20,872
uniQure B.V.(5)(10)(11)(13)(16)(17) Paasheuvelweg 25a 1105 BP Amsterdam, Netherlands	Senior Secured	June 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 3.35% or Floor rate of 8.85%, 4.95% Exit Fee	\$ 35,000	35,975	36,345
	Senior Secured	June 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.00% or Floor rate of 8.25%, 1.65% Exit Fee	\$ 35,000	35,354	35,698
Total uniQure B.V.				\$ 70,000	71,329	72,043

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(unaudited)

Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Unity Biotechnology, Inc.(10)(11) 3280 Bayshore Blvd Brisbane, CA 94005	Senior Secured	August 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.10% or Floor rate of 9.35%, 6.25% Exit Fee	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,346	\$ 25,921
Valo Health, LLC (p.k.a. Integral Health Holdings, LLC)(11) 399 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116	Senior Secured	May 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.45% or Floor rate of 9.70%, 3.85% Exit Fee	\$ 11,500	11,481	11,537
X4 Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(11)(13) 955 Massachusetts Ave Cambridge, MA 02139	Senior Secured	July 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 3.75% or Floor rate of 8.75%, 8.80% Exit Fee	\$ 32,500	33,870	34,177
Yumanity Therapeutics, Inc.(11) 790 Memorial Drive Suite 2C Cambridge, MA 02139	Senior Secured	January 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.00% or Floor rate of 8.75%, 5.92% Exit Fee	\$ 14,106	14,542	14,588
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>857,657</u>	<u>863,976</u>
Subtotal: Drug Discovery & Development (70.00%)*					<u>930,005</u>	<u>936,324</u>
Healthcare Services, Other						
1-5 Years Maturity						
Carbon Health Technologies, Inc.(13)(17)(19) 55 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100 San Francisco, CA 94111	Senior Secured	March 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.60% or Floor rate of 8.85%, 3.95% Exit Fee	\$ 11,250	11,241	11,258
Equality Health, LLC (13)(14)(17) 521 S. 3rd St. Phoenix, AZ 85004	Senior Secured	February 2026	Interest rate PRIME + 6.25% or Floor rate of 9.50%, PIK Interest 1.55%	\$ 35,306	34,984	35,075
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>46,225</u>	<u>46,333</u>
Subtotal: Healthcare Services, Other (3.46%)*					<u>46,225</u>	<u>46,333</u>
Information Services						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Planet Labs, Inc. (11) 490 2nd Street San Francisco, CA 94107	Senior Secured	June 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 11.00%, 3.00% Exit Fee	\$ 25,000	25,317	25,317
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity					<u>25,317</u>	<u>25,317</u>
1-5 Years Maturity						
Yipit, LLC (17)(18) 22 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011	Senior Secured	September 2026	Interest rate 1-month LIBOR + 9.08% or Floor rate of 10.08%	\$ 45,900	44,984	44,984
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>44,984</u>	<u>44,984</u>
Subtotal: Information Services (5.26%)*					<u>70,301</u>	<u>70,301</u>
Internet Consumer & Business Services						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Nextroll, Inc. (13)(14)(19) 2300 Harrison Street San Francisco, CA 94110	Senior Secured	June 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 3.75% or Floor rate of 7.00%, PIK Interest 2.95%, 3.50% Exit Fee	\$ 21,395	21,950	21,950
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity					<u>21,950</u>	<u>21,950</u>
1-5 Years Maturity						
AppDirect, Inc. (11)(17) 650 California Street San Francisco, CA 92108	Senior Secured	August 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.90% or Floor rate of 9.15%, 7.95% Exit Fee	\$ 30,790	31,230	32,253
ePayPolicy Holdings, LLC (11)(17) 1120 S. Capital of Texas Hwy Austin, TX 78746	Senior Secured	December 2024	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 8.50% or Floor rate of 9.50%	\$ 8,169	7,999	8,129
EverFi, Inc. (13)(14)(16) 3299 K St NW Washington, D.C., DC 20007	Senior Secured	May 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 3.90% or Floor rate of 9.15%, PIK Interest 1.50%	\$ 85,564	85,210	85,210
Houzz, Inc. (9)(14) 540 Bryant Street Palo Alto, CA 94301	Convertible Debt	May 2028	PIK Interest 5.50%	\$ 20,390	20,390	20,390

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(dollar amounts in thousands)
(unaudited)

Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Landing Holdings Inc. (14)(15) 535 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94105	Senior Secured	March 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 6.00% or Floor rate of 9.25%, PIK Interest 2.55%	\$ 10,127	\$ 9,974	\$ 10,431
Rhino Labs, Inc. (14)(15)(17) 99 Wall Street New York, NY 10005	Senior Secured	March 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 8.75%, PIK Interest 2.25%	\$ 8,089	7,913	7,995
SeatGeek, Inc. (14) 902 Broadway New York, NY 10013	Senior Secured	June 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.00% or Floor rate of 10.50%, PIK Interest 0.50%	\$ 60,531	59,805	59,902
Skyword, Inc.(14) 38 Chauncy Street Boston, MA 02109	Senior Secured	September 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 3.88% or Floor rate of 9.38%, PIK Interest 1.90%, 4.00% Exit Fee	\$ 12,367	12,568	12,487
Tectura Corporation(7)(8)(14) 951 Old County Road Belmont, CA 94002	Senior Secured	July 2024	PIK Interest 5.00%	\$ 10,680	240	—
	Senior Secured	July 2024	Interest rate FIXED 8.25%	\$ 8,250	8,250	8,250
	Senior Secured	July 2024	PIK Interest 5.00%	\$ 13,023	13,023	44
Total Tectura Corporation				\$ 31,953	21,513	8,294
Thumbtack, Inc.(13)(14) 1001 Page Street San Francisco, CA 94117	Senior Secured	September 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 3.45% or Floor rate of 8.95%, PIK Interest 1.50%, 3.95% Exit Fee	\$ 25,521	25,741	26,362
Zepz (p.k.a. Worldremit Group Limited)(5)(10)(16)(19) Kensington Centre 66 Hammersmith Road London, England W14 8UD	Senior Secured	February 2025	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.25% or Floor rate of 10.25%, 3.00% Exit Fee	\$ 103,000	101,381	101,131
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity				<u>383,724</u>	<u>372,584</u>	
Subtotal: Internet Consumer & Business Services (29.50%)*				<u>405,674</u>	<u>394,534</u>	
Manufacturing Technology						
1-5 Years Maturity						
Velo3d, Inc.(19) 511 Division Street Campbell, CA 95008	Senior Secured	October 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.75% or Floor rate of 9.00%, 3.00% Exit Fee	\$ 7,143	7,199	7,199
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity				<u>7,199</u>	<u>7,199</u>	
Subtotal: Manufacturing Technology (0.54%)*				<u>7,199</u>	<u>7,199</u>	
Medical Devices & Equipment						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Quanterix Corporation(11) 900 Middlesex Turnpike Billerica, MA 01821	Senior Secured	October 2021	Interest rate PRIME + 2.75% or Floor rate of 8.00%, 0.96% Exit Fee	\$ 1,943	1,993	1,993
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity				<u>1,993</u>	<u>1,993</u>	
Subtotal: Medical Devices & Equipment (0.15%)*				<u>1,993</u>	<u>1,993</u>	
Software						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Regent Education(8)(14) 47 E. South Street Suite 201 Frederick, MD 21701	Senior Secured	January 2022	Interest rate FIXED 10.00%, PIK Interest 2.00%, 7.94% Exit Fee	\$ 3,029	3,142	1,106
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity				<u>3,142</u>	<u>1,106</u>	
1-5 Years Maturity						
3GTMS, LLC. (11)(17)(18) 4 Armstrong Rd Shelton, CT 06484	Senior Secured	February 2025	Interest rate 6-Month LIBOR + 9.28% or Floor rate of 10.28%	\$ 10,000	9,799	9,990

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Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Bitsight Technologies, Inc.(13)(17)(19) 100 Cambridge Park Drive Cambridge, MA 02140	Senior Secured	November 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 6.75% or Floor rate of 10.00%, 3.50% Exit Fee	\$ 12,500	\$12,377	\$ 13,190
Businessolver.com, Inc.(11)(17) 1025 Ashworth Road West Des Moines, IA 50265	Senior Secured	May 2023	Interest rate 6-month LIBOR + 7.50% or Floor rate of 8.50%	\$ 41,197	40,821	41,176
Campaign Monitor Limited(11)(19) 9 Lea Ave Nashville, TN 37210	Senior Secured	November 2025	Interest rate 6-month LIBOR + 8.90% or Floor rate of 9.90%	\$ 33,000	32,430	33,000
Ceros, LLC(17)(18) 40 West 25th Street New York, NY 10010	Senior Secured	September 2026	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 8.89% or Floor rate of 9.89%	\$ 17,978	17,452	17,452
Clarabridge, Inc.(12)(13)(14)(17) 11400 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 500 Reston, VA 20191	Senior Secured	May 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 5.30% or Floor rate of 8.55%, PIK Interest 2.25%	\$ 56,787	56,416	57,356
Cloud 9 Software (13) 10 Mansell Court East Roswell, GA 30076	Senior Secured	April 2024	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 8.20% or Floor rate of 9.20%	\$ 9,953	9,846	9,953
CloudBolt Software Inc.(11)(19) 51 Monroe Street Rockville, MD 20850	Senior Secured	October 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 6.70% or Floor rate of 9.95%, 2.95% Exit Fee	\$ 10,000	9,877	10,075
Cybermaxx Intermediate Holdings, Inc.(17) 2115 Yeaman Place Nashville, TN 37206	Senior Secured	August 2026	Interest rate 6-month LIBOR + 9.28% or Floor rate of 10.28%	\$ 8,000	7,792	7,792
Dashlane, Inc.(11)(14)(17)(19) 44 West 18th Street New York, NY 10011	Senior Secured	July 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 3.05% or Floor rate of 7.55%, PIK Interest 1.10%, 7.10% Exit Fee	\$ 20,661	21,614	21,614
Delphix Corp.(13)(19) 1400A Seaport Blvd #200 Redwood City, CA	Senior Secured	February 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 10.25%, 5.00% Exit Fee	\$ 60,000	61,258	62,345
Demandbase, Inc.(17)(19) 680 Folsom Street San Francisco, CA 94107	Senior Secured	August 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 5.25% or Floor rate of 8.50%, 2.00% Exit Fee	\$ 16,875	16,365	16,365
Enmark Systems(17)(18) 3520 Green CT, Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48105	Senior Secured	September 2026	Interest rate 6-Month Libor LIBOR + 6.83% or Floor rate of 7.83%, PIK Interest 2.19%	\$ 8,000	7,789	7,789
Esentire, Inc.(5)(10)(18) 278 Pinebush Road, Suite 200 Cambridge, Canada N3C 4E8	Senior Secured	May 2024	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.96% or Floor rate of 10.96%	\$ 21,000	20,671	20,671
Gryphon Networks Corp.(17) 711 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 124 Boston, MA 02111	Senior Secured	January 2026	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.69% or Floor rate of 10.69%	\$ 5,232	5,099	5,152
Ikon Science Limited(5)(10)(11)(17)(18) 1 The Crescent London, UK KT6 4BN	Senior Secured	October 2024	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.00% or Floor rate of 10.00%	\$ 7,000	6,791	7,000
Jolt Software, Inc.(14) 877 East 1200 South Orem, UT 84097	Senior Secured	October 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 3.00% or Floor rate of 8.50%, PIK Interest 1.75%, 4.50% Exit Fee	\$ 7,741	7,929	7,986
Kazoo, Inc. (p.k.a. YouEamedIt, Inc.)(11)(18) 206 East 9th Street, Floor 18 Austin, TX 78701	Senior Secured	July 2023	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 10.14% or Floor rate of 11.14%	\$ 8,628	8,433	8,459
Khoros (p.k.a Lithium Technologies)(11)(17) 225 Bush St. San Francisco, CA 94111	Senior Secured	October 2022	Interest rate 6-month LIBOR + 8.00% or Floor rate of 9.00%	\$ 55,000	54,507	55,000
Logicworks(13)(17) 155 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10013	Senior Secured	January 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 7.50% or Floor rate of 10.75%	\$ 10,000	9,846	10,031

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Portfolio Company	Type of Investment(1)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate and Floor (2)	Principal Amount	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Mixpanel, Inc.(14)(19) One Front Street San Francisco, CA 94111	Senior Secured	August 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.70% or Floor rate of 7.95%, PIK Interest 1.80%, 3.00% Exit Fee	\$ 20,339	\$ 20,189	\$ 21,065
Mobile Solutions Services(11)(17)(18) 10731 E. Easter Ave Centennial, CO 80112	Senior Secured	December 2025	Interest rate 6-month LIBOR + 9.87% or Floor rate of 10.87%	\$ 18,933	18,408	18,910
Nuvolo Technologies Corporation(13)(19) 115 W Century Rd Paramus, NJ 07652	Senior Secured	July 2025	Interest rate PRIME + 7.70% or Floor rate of 10.95%, 1.75% Exit Fee	\$ 15,000	14,943	15,049
Pollen, Inc.(14)(15) 2000 Shawnee Mission Parkway Mission Woods, KS 66205	Senior Secured	November 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 4.75% or Floor rate of 8.00%, PIK Interest 0.50%, 4.50% Exit Fee	\$ 20,448	20,374	20,195
Pymetrics, Inc (14) 102 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016	Senior Secured	October 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 5.50% or Floor rate of 8.75%, PIK Interest 1.75%, 4.00% Exit Fee	\$ 9,624	9,732	9,856
Reltio, Inc.(13)(14)(19) 100 Marine Parkway Redwood Shores, CA 94065	Senior Secured	July 2023	Interest rate PRIME + 5.70% or Floor rate of 8.95%, PIK Interest 1.70%, 4.95% Exit Fee	\$ 10,204	10,231	10,527
Tact.ai Technologies, Inc.(11)(14) 2400 Broadway Street Redwood City, CA 94063	Senior Secured	February 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.00% or Floor rate of 8.75%, PIK Interest 2.00%, 5.50% Exit Fee	\$ 5,159	5,248	5,210
ThreatConnect, Inc.(13)(17)(18) 3865 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22203	Senior Secured	May 2026	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 9.00% or Floor rate of 10.00%	\$ 11,172	10,844	10,844
Udacity, Inc.(14)(17) 2440 W El Camino Real Mountain View, CA 94040	Senior Secured	September 2024	Interest rate PRIME + 4.50% or Floor rate of 7.75%, PIK Interest 2.00%, 3.00% Exit Fee	\$ 35,669	35,502	36,767
Zimperium, Inc.(18) 560 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94105	Senior Secured	July 2024	Interest rate 1-month LIBOR + 8.95% or Floor rate of 9.95%	\$ 15,673	15,361	15,361
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>577,944</u>	<u>586,180</u>
Greater than 5 Years Maturity						
Imperva, Inc.(19) One Curiosity Way, Suite 203 San Mateo, CA 94403	Senior Secured	January 2027	Interest rate 3-month LIBOR + 7.75% or Floor rate of 8.75%	\$ 20,000	19,845	20,200
Subtotal: Greater than 5 Years Maturity					<u>19,845</u>	<u>20,200</u>
Subtotal: Software (45.42%)*					<u>600,931</u>	<u>607,486</u>
Sustainable and Renewable Technology						
Under 1 Year Maturity						
Impossible Foods, Inc.(12)(13) 525 Chesapeake Drive Redwood City, CA 94063	Senior Secured	July 2022	Interest rate PRIME + 3.95% or Floor rate of 8.95%, 9.00% Exit Fee	\$ 21,188	25,385	25,385
Pineapple Energy LLC(6)(9)(14)(17) 315 Lake Street East Wayzata, MN 55391	Senior Secured	January 2022	Interest rate FIXED 10.00%	\$ 120	120	120
Subtotal: Under 1 Year Maturity					<u>25,505</u>	<u>25,505</u>
1-5 Years Maturity						
Pineapple Energy LLC(6)(8)(9)(14)(17) 315 Lake Street East Wayzata, MN 55391	Senior Secured	December 2023	PIK Interest 10.00%	\$ 7,500	7,500	7,500
Subtotal: 1-5 Years Maturity					<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Subtotal: Sustainable and Renewable Technology (2.47%)*					<u>33,005</u>	<u>33,005</u>
Total: Debt Investments (169.23%)*					<u>\$2,262,660</u>	<u>\$2,263,542</u>

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Equity Investments								
Communications & Networking								
Peerless Network Holdings, Inc. 222 South Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606	3.58%	Communications & Networking	Equity	Common Stock	April 11, 2008	3,328	\$ —	\$ 8
		Communications & Networking	Equity	Preferred Series A	April 11, 2008	1,135,000	1,230	4,322
Total Peerless Network Holdings, Inc.						<u>1,138,328</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>4,330</u>
Subtotal: Communications & Networking (0.32%)*							<u>1,230</u>	<u>4,330</u>
Consumer & Business Products								
TechStyle, Inc. (p.k.a. Just Fabulous, Inc.) 2301 Rosecrans Avenue El Segundo, CA 90245	0.49%	Consumer & Business Products	Equity	Common Stock	April 30, 2010	42,989	128	373
Subtotal: Consumer & Business Products (0.03%)*							<u>128</u>	<u>373</u>
Diversified Financial Services								
Gibraltar Business Capital, LLC(7) 400 Skokie Blvd #375 Northbrook, IL 60062	100.00%	Diversified Financial Services	Equity	Common Stock	March 1, 2018	830,000	1,884	1,166
		Diversified Financial Services	Equity	Preferred Series A	March 1, 2018	10,602,752	26,122	16,168
Total Gibraltar Business Capital, LLC						<u>11,432,752</u>	<u>28,006</u>	<u>17,334</u>
Hercules Adviser LLC (7) 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310 Palo Alto, CA 94301	100.00%	Diversified Financial Services	Equity	Member Units	May 26, 2020		35	10,704
Subtotal: Diversified Financial Services (2.10%)*							<u>28,041</u>	<u>28,038</u>
Drug Delivery								
AccelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (4) 351 Galveston Drive Redwood City, CA 94063	0.15%	Drug Delivery	Equity	Common Stock	June 29, 2011	17,673	1,329	180
Aytu BioScience, Inc. (p.k.a. Neos Therapeutics, Inc.) (4) 2940 N. Highway 360, Suite 100 Grand Prairie, TX 75050	0.05%	Drug Delivery	Equity	Common Stock	March 28, 2014	13,600	1,500	39
BioQ Pharma Incorporated 185 Berry Street, Suite 160 San Francisco, CA 94107	1.77%	Drug Delivery	Equity	Preferred Series D	December 8, 2015	165,000	500	173
Kaleo, Inc. 111 Virginia Street Richmond, VA 23219	0.46%	Drug Delivery	Equity	Preferred Series B	May 24, 2012	82,500	1,007	2,340
PDS Biotechnology Corporation (p.k.a. Edge Therapeutics, Inc.) (4) 300 Connell Drive, Suite 4000 Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922	0.02%	Drug Delivery	Equity	Common Stock	November 7, 2014	2,498	309	37
Subtotal: Drug Delivery (0.21%)*							<u>4,645</u>	<u>2,769</u>
Drug Discovery & Development								
Albireo Pharma, Inc. (4)(10) 50 Milk Street Boston, MA 02109	0.16%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	September 14, 2020	25,000	1,000	780

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Applied Molecular Transport(4)(10) 1 Tower Place, Suite 850 San Francisco, CA 94080	0.00%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	April 6, 2021	1,000	\$ 42	\$ 26
Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4) 30 Winter Street Boston, MA 02108	0.55%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	July 31, 2011	190,179	1,715	1,174
Bicycle Therapeutics PLC(4)(5)(10) Meditrina Building, B900 Cambridge, UK CB22 3AT	0.41%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	October 5, 2020	98,100	1,871	4,080
BridgeBio Pharma LLC(4)(16) 421 Kipling Street Palo Alto, CA 94301	0.15%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	June 21, 2018	231,329	2,255	10,843
Avalo Therapeutics, Inc. (p.k.a. Corecor, Inc.)(4) 400 E Pratt Street, Suite 606 Baltimore, MD 21202	0.12%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	August 19, 2014	119,087	1,000	260
Chemocentryx, Inc.(4)(10) 850 Maude Avenue Mountain View, CA 94043	0.02%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	June 15, 2020	17,241	1,000	295
Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4)(10) 99 Hayden Avenue, Suite 100 Lexington, MA 02421	0.41%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	February 13, 2014	70,796	1,367	231
Dare Biosciences, Inc.(4) 11119 N Torrey Pines Road La Jolla, CA 92037	0.02%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	January 8, 2015	13,550	1,000	23
Dynavax Technologies(4)(10) 2929 Seventh Street, Suite 100 Berkeley, CA 94710	0.02%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	July 22, 2015	20,000	550	384
Genocea Biosciences, Inc.(4) 161 First Street, Suite 2C Cambridge, MA 02142	0.12%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	November 20, 2014	27,933	2,000	54
Hibercell, Inc.(15) 619 West 54th Street New York, NY 10019	1.14%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Preferred Series B	May 7, 2021	3,466,840	4,250	4,252
Humanigen, Inc.(4)(10) 533 Airport Boulevard Burlingame, CA 94010	0.07%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	March 31, 2021	43,243	800	256
Kaleido Biosciences, Inc.(4) 65 Hayden Avenue Lexington, MA 02421	0.20%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	February 10, 2021	86,585	1,000	473
Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4) 75 Park Plaza Boston, MA 02116	1.14%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	February 26, 2007	76,362	2,744	372
Rocket Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.(4) The Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10118	0.00%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	August 22, 2007	944	1,500	28
Savara, Inc.(4) 900 S. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 150 Austin, TX 78746	0.01%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	August 11, 2015	11,119	203	15
Sio Gene Therapies, Inc. (p.k.a. Axovant Gene Therapies Ltd.)(4)(10) 11 Times Square New York, NY 10036	0.02%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	February 2, 2017	16,228	1,269	35

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Tricida, Inc.(4) 7000 Shoreline Court South San Francisco, CA 94080	0.20%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	February 28, 2018	68,816	\$ 863	\$ 320
uniQure B.V. (4)(5)(10)(16) Paasheuvelweg 25a Amsterdam, Netherlands 1105 BP	0.04%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	September 20, 2013	17,175	332	550
Valo Health, LLC (p.k.a. Integral Health Holdings, LLC) 399 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116	0.31%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Preferred Series B	December 11, 2020	510,308	3,000	4,183
X4 Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4) 955 Massachusetts Ave Cambridge, MA 02139	1.25%	Drug Discovery & Development	Equity	Common Stock	November 26, 2019	198,277	1,641	1,049
Subtotal: Drug Discovery & Development (2.22%)*							31,402	29,683
Healthcare Services, Other								
23andMe, Inc.(4)(20) 899 West Evelyn Avenue Mountain View, CA 94041	0.20%	Healthcare Services, Other	Equity	Common Stock	March 11, 2019	828,360	5,094	6,692
Carbon Health Technologies, Inc. 55 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100 San Francisco, CA 94111	0.21%	Healthcare Services, Other	Equity	Preferred Series C	March 30, 2021	217,880	1,687	2,039
Subtotal: Healthcare Services, Other (0.65%)*							6,781	8,731
Information Services								
Zeta Global Corp.(4)(20) 3 Park Avenue, 33rd Floor New York, NY 10016	0.16%	Information Services	Equity	Common Stock	November 20, 2007	295,861	—	1,565
Subtotal: Information Services (0.12%)*							—	1,565
Internet Consumer & Business Services								
Black Crow AI, Inc.(6) 75 Varick Street New York, NY 10013	5.31%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Series Seed	December 6, 2016	872,797	1,000	1,243
Black Crow AI, Inc. affiliates(21) 75 Varick Street New York, NY 10013	0.00%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Note	December 6, 2016	3	3,000	3,000
Brigade Group, Inc. 3871 Piedmont Avenue Oakland, CA 94611	0.05%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	March 1, 2013	9,023	93	—
Contentful Global, Inc. (p.k.a. Contentful, Inc.)(5)(10) Ritterstr. 12-14 Berlin, Germany 10969	0.17%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Series C	September 24, 2018	41,000	138	516
			Equity	Preferred Series D	November 20, 2018	108,500	500	1,409
Total Contentful Global, Inc. (p.k.a. Contentful, Inc.)						149,500	638	1,925
DoorDash, Inc.(4) 901 Market Street, 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94103	0.03%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	December 20, 2018	100,000	1,153	20,598
Lyft, Inc. (4) 185 Berry Street, #5000 San Francisco, CA 94107	0.03%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	December 26, 2018	100,738	5,262	5,399
Nerdy Inc.(4)(20) 101 South Hanley Road Clayton, MO 63105	0.12%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	September 17, 2021	100,000	1,000	836

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Nextdoor.com, Inc. 875 Stevenson Street San Francisco, CA 94103	0.54%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	August 1, 2018	328,190	\$ 4,854	\$ 9,435
OfferUp, Inc. 227 Bellevue Way Northeast Bellevue, WA 98004	0.16%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Series A	October 25, 2016	286,080	1,663	1,719
		Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Series A-1	October 25, 2016	108,710	632	653
Total OfferUp, Inc.						394,790	2,295	2,372
Opportun(4) 171 Constitution Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025	0.17%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	June 28, 2013	48,365	578	1,211
Reischling Press, Inc. (p.k.a. Blurb, Inc.) 3325 South 116th Street, Suite 161 Seattle, WA 98168	0.05%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	December 29, 2006	1,163	15	—
Savage X Holding, LLC 800 Apollo Drive El Segundo, CA 90245	0.07%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Class A Units	April 30, 2010	42,137	13	64
Tectura Corporation(7) 951 Old County Road Belmont, CA 94002	49.50%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	April 9, 2007	414,994,863	900	—
		Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Preferred Series BB	April 9, 2007	1,000,000	—	—
Total Tectura Corporation						415,994,863	900	—
TFG Holding, Inc. 800 Apollo Drive El Segundo, CA 90245	0.08%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	April 30, 2010	42,989	89	231
Uber Technologies, Inc. (p.k.a. Postmates, Inc.)(4) 540 Washington Street San Francisco, CA 94111	0.00%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Equity	Common Stock	August 30, 2018	32,991	317	1,478
Subtotal: Internet Consumer & Business Services (3.57%)*							21,207	47,792
Medical Devices & Equipment								
Flowonix Medical Incorporated 500 International Drive Mount Olive, NJ 07828	0.34%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series AA	November 3, 2014	221,893	1,500	—
Gelesis, Inc. 500 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116	2.39%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Common Stock	November 30, 2009	227,013	—	4,636
		Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series A-1	December 30, 2011	243,432	503	4,973
		Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series A-2	December 31, 2011	191,626	500	3,914
Total Gelesis, Inc.						662,071	1,003	13,523
Medrobotics Corporation 475 Paramount Drive Raynham, MA 02767	0.74%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series E	September 12, 2013	136,798	250	—
		Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series F	October 22, 2014	73,971	155	—

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
		Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Preferred Series G	October 16, 2015	163,934	\$ 500	\$ —
Total Medrobotics Corporation						374,703	905	—
ViewRay, Inc.(4) 2 Thermo Fisher Way Oakwood Village, OH 44146	0.02%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Equity	Common Stock	December 16, 2013	36,457	333	263
Subtotal: Medical Devices & Equipment (1.03%)*							3,741	13,786
Semiconductors								
Achronix Semiconductor Corporation 2903 Bunker Hill Lane Santa Clara, CA 95054	0.32%	Semiconductors	Equity	Preferred Series C	July 1, 2011	277,995	160	726
Subtotal: Semiconductors (0.05%)*							160	726
Software								
3GTMS, LLC. 4 Armstrong Road Shelton, CT 06484	0.89%	Software	Equity	Common Stock	August 9, 2021	1,000,000	1,000	857
CapLinked, Inc. 2015 Manhattan Beach Boulevard #108 Redondo Beach, CA 90278	0.29%	Software	Equity	Preferred Series A-3	October 26, 2012	53,614	51	88
Docker, Inc. 144 Townsend Street San Francisco, CA 94107	0.03%	Software	Equity	Common Stock	November 29, 2018	20,000	4,284	8
Druva Holdings, Inc. (p.k.a. Druva, Inc.) 800 W California Avenue #100 Sunnyvale, CA 94041	0.26%	Software	Equity	Preferred Series 2	October 22, 2015	458,841	1,000	2,024
		Software	Equity	Preferred Series 3	August 24, 2017	93,620	300	460
Total Druva Holdings, Inc. (p.k.a. Druva, Inc.)						552,461	1,300	2,484
HighRoads, Inc. 120 Presidential Way, Suite 330 Woburn, MA 01801	0.00%	Software	Equity	Common Stock	January 18, 2013	190	307	—
Lightbend, Inc. 625 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94105	0.61%	Software	Equity	Preferred Series D	December 4, 2020	384,616	265	85
Palantir Technologies(4) 1555 Blake Street, Suite 250 Denver, CO 80202	0.07%	Software	Equity	Common Stock	June 30, 2016	1,418,337	8,669	34,097
SingleStore, Inc. (p.k.a. memsql, Inc.) 380 10th Street Suite 25 San Francisco, CA 94103	0.55%	Software	Equity	Preferred Series E	November 25, 2020	580,983	2,000	2,500
		Software	Equity	Preferred Series F	August 12, 2021	52,956	280	272
Total SingleStore, Inc. (p.k.a. memsql, Inc.)						633,939	2,280	2,772
Sprinklr, Inc.(4)(20) 29 West 35th Street, 7th Floor New York, NY 10001	0.27%	Software	Equity	Common Stock	March 22, 2017	700,000	3,749	10,854
Verana Health, Inc. 600 Harrison Street, Suite 250 San Francisco, CA 94028	0.49%	Software	Equity	Preferred Series E	July 8, 2021	952,562	2,000	1,936
Subtotal: Software (3.98%)*							23,905	53,181

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Surgical Devices								
Gynesonics, Inc. 600 Chesapeake Drive Redwood City, CA 94063	0.56%	Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series B	January 18, 2007	219,298	\$ 250	\$ 19
		Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series C	June 16, 2010	656,538	282	56
		Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series D	February 8, 2013	1,991,157	712	181
		Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series E	July 14, 2015	2,786,367	429	284
		Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series F	December 18, 2018	1,523,693	118	220
		Surgical Devices	Equity	Preferred Series F-1	December 18, 2018	2,418,125	150	316
Total Gynesonics, Inc.						<u>9,595,178</u>	<u>1,941</u>	<u>1,076</u>
Subtotal: Surgical Devices (0.08%)*							<u>1,941</u>	<u>1,076</u>
Sustainable and Renewable Technology								
Impossible Foods, Inc. 525 Chesapeake Drive Redwood City, CA 94063	0.07%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Preferred Series E-1	May 10, 2019	188,611	2,000	3,352
Modumetal, Inc. Northlake R&D Center Seattle, WA 98103	0.05%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Preferred Series A-1	June 1, 2015	103,584	500	—
NantEnergy, LLC (p.k.a. Fluidic, Inc.) 8455 North 90th Street, Suite 4 Scottsdale, AZ 85258	0.00%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Common Units	August 31, 2013	59,665	102	—
Pineapple Energy LLC (6) 315 Lake Street East Wayzata, MN 55391	15.67%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Class A Units	March 31, 2015	17,647	4,767	849
Proterra, Inc.(4)(20) 1815 Rollins Road Burlingame, CA 94010	0.22%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Common Stock	May 28, 2015	457,841	543	4,140
Pivot Bio, Inc. 2929 7th Street Suite 120 Berkeley, CA 94710	0.28%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Equity	Preferred Series D	June 28, 2021	59,307	4,500	4,020
Subtotal: Sustainable and Renewable Technology (0.92%)*							<u>12,412</u>	<u>12,361</u>
Total: Equity Investments (15.28%)*							<u>\$135,593</u>	<u>\$204,411</u>
Warrant Investments								
Communications & Networking								
Spring Mobile Solutions, Inc. 11710 Plaza America Drive Reston, VA 20190	0.57%	Communications & Networking	Warrant	Common Stock	April 19, 2013	2,834,375	\$ 418	\$ —
Subtotal: Communications & Networking (0.00%)*							<u>418</u>	<u>—</u>
Consumer & Business Products								
Penumbra Brands, LLC (p.k.a. Gadget Guard) 1010 South Highway 101, Suite 105 Encinitas, CA 92024	0.88%	Consumer & Business Products	Warrant	Common Stock	June 3, 2014	1,662,441	228	—
Grove Collaborative, Inc. 1301 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111	0.06%	Consumer & Business Products	Warrant	Common Stock	April 30, 2021	83,625	432	317
TechStyle, Inc. (p.k.a. Just Fabulous, Inc.) 2301 Rosecrans Avenue El Segundo, CA 90245	0.49%	Consumer & Business Products	Warrant	Preferred Series B	July 16, 2013	206,185	1,102	1,890

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
The Neat Company 3401 Market Street, Suite 120 Philadelphia, PA 19104	0.01%	Consumer & Business Products	Warrant	Common Stock	August 13, 2014	54,054	\$ 365	\$ —
Whoop, Inc. 401 Park Drive Boston, MA 02215	0.10%	Consumer & Business Products	Warrant	Preferred Series C	June 27, 2018	68,627	18	605
Subtotal: Consumer & Business Products (0.21%)*							<u>2,145</u>	<u>2,812</u>
Drug Delivery								
Aerami Therapeutics (p.k.a. Dance Biopharm, Inc.) 2520 Meridian Parkway Durham, NC 94103	0.25%	Drug Delivery	Warrant	Common Stock	September 30, 2015	110,882	74	—
BioQ Pharma Incorporated 185 Berry Street, Suite 160 San Francisco, CA 94107	1.77%	Drug Delivery	Warrant	Common Stock	October 27, 2014	459,183	1	26
PDS Biotechnology Corporation (p.k.a. Edge Therapeutics, Inc.)(4)	0.02%	Drug Delivery	Warrant	Common Stock	August 28, 2014	3,929	390	3
Subtotal: Drug Delivery (0.00%)*							<u>465</u>	<u>29</u>
Drug Discovery & Development								
Acacia Pharma Inc.(4)(5)(10) Harston Mill Cambridge, UK CB22 7GG	0.20%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	June 29, 2018	201,330	304	35
ADMA Biologics, Inc.(4) 465 Route 17S Ramsey, NJ 07446	0.07%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	December 21, 2012	89,750	295	—
Albireo Pharma, Inc.(4)(10) 50 Milk Street Boston, MA 02109	0.16%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	June 8, 2020	5,311	60	70
Axsome Therapeutics, Inc.(4)(10) 22 Courtlandt St. New York, NY 10007	0.04%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	September 25, 2020	15,541	681	171
Brickell Biotech, Inc.(4) 5777 Central Avenue, Suite 102 Boulder, CO 80301	0.01%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	February 18, 2016	9,005	118	—
Century Therapeutics(4) 3675 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104	0.03%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Units	September 14, 2020	16,112	37	156
Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4)(10) 99 Hayden Avenue, Suite 100 Lexington, MA 02421	0.41%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	December 22, 2011	61,273	178	3
Dermavant Sciences Ltd. (10) 3780 Kilroy Airport Way Long Beach, CA 90806	0.18%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	May 31, 2019	223,642	100	388
Evofem Biosciences, Inc.(4) 12400 High Bluff Drive, Suite 600 San Diego, CA 92130	0.01%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	June 11, 2014	7,806	266	—

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Genocoe Biosciences, Inc.(4) 161 First Street, Suite 2C Cambridge, MA 02142	0.12%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	April 24, 2018	41,176	\$ 165	\$ 4
Motif Bio PLC(10) 125 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017	40.90%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	November 14, 2017	121,337,041	282	—
Myovant Sciences, Ltd.(4)(10) 2000 Sierra Point Parkway Brisbane, CA 94005	0.08%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	October 16, 2017	73,710	460	647
Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4) 75 Park Plaza Boston, MA 02116	1.14%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	December 12, 2016	469,388	644	550
Phathom Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4)(10)(15)(16) 100 Campus Drive, Suite 102 Florham Park, NJ 07932	0.22%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	September 17, 2021	64,687	848	792
Stealth Bio Therapeutics Corp.(4)(10) 275 Grove Street Auburndale, MA 02466	0.87%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	June 30, 2017	500,000	158	1
Scynexis, Inc.(4) 101 Hudson Street, Suite 3610 Jersey City, NJ 07302	0.26%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	May 14, 2021	60,591	188	118
TG Therapeutics, Inc.(4)(10) 787 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019	0.11%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	February 28, 2019	147,058	564	3,236
Tricida, Inc.(4) 7000 Shoreline Court South San Francisco, CA 94080	0.20%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	March 27, 2019	31,352	281	1
Valo Health, LLC (p.k.a. Integral Health Holdings, LLC) 399 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116	0.31%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Units	June 15, 2020	102,216	257	838
X4 Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(4) 955 Massachusetts Ave Cambridge, MA 02139	1.25%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	October 19, 2018	108,334	673	36
Yumanity Therapeutics, Inc.(4) 790 Memorial Drive, Suite 2C Cambridge, MA 02139	0.15%	Drug Discovery & Development	Warrant	Common Stock	December 20, 2019	15,414	110	41
Subtotal: Drug Discovery & Development (0.53%)*							6,669	7,087
Electronics & Computer Hardware								
908 Devices, Inc.(4) 645 Summer Street Boston, MA 02210	0.18%	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Warrant	Common Stock	March 15, 2017	49,078	101	860
Subtotal: Electronics & Computer Hardware (0.06%)*							101	860

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Information Services								
InMobi Inc. (10) 475 Brannan Street, Suite 410 San Francisco, CA 94107	0.16%	Information Services	Warrant	Common Stock	November 19, 2014	65,587	\$ 82	\$ —
Netbase Solutions, Inc. 3960 Freedom Circle Santa Clara, CA 95054	0.01%	Information Services	Warrant	Preferred Series 1	August 22, 2017	60,000	356	525
Planet Labs, Inc. 490 2nd Street San Francisco, CA 94107	0.25%	Information Services	Warrant	Common Stock	June 21, 2019	357,752	615	4,178
Sapphire Digital, Inc. (p.k.a. MDX Medical, Inc.) 210 Clay Avenue, 140 Lyndhurst, NJ 07071	0.92%	Information Services	Warrant	Common Stock	May 25, 2017	2,812,500	283	744
Subtotal: Information Services (0.41%)*							1,336	5,447
Internet Consumer & Business Services								
Aria Systems, Inc. 575 Market Street, 10th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105	0.14%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series G	May 22, 2015	231,535	73	—
Cloudpay, Inc.(5)(10) 1 & 2 The Woodford Centre Salisbury, England Wiltshire SP4 6BU	0.39%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series B	April 10, 2018	6,763	54	300
First Insight, Inc. 2000 Ericsson Drive, Suite 200 Warrendale, PA 15086	0.37%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series B	May 10, 2018	75,917	96	80
Houzz, Inc. 540 Bryant Street Palo Alto, CA 94301	0.14%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	October 29, 2019	529,661	20	153
Interactions Corporation 31 Hayward Street Franklin, MA 02038	0.06%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series G-3	June 16, 2015	68,187	204	520
Landing Holdings Inc.(15) 535 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94105	0.13%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	March 12, 2021	11,806	116	169
Lendio, Inc. 10235 South Jordan Gateway South Jordan, UT 84095	0.07%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series D	March 29, 2019	127,032	39	92
LogicSource 20 Marshall Street South Norwalk, CT 06854	0.39%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series C	March 21, 2016	79,625	30	165
Rhino Labs, Inc.(15) 99 Wall Street New York, NY 10005	0.28%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	March 12, 2021	13,106	471	144
RumbleON, Inc.(4) 4521 Sharon Road, Suite 370 Charlotte, NC 28211	0.15%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	April 30, 2018	5,139	87	35
SeatGeek, Inc. 902 Broadway New York, NY 10013	0.74%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	June 12, 2019	1,379,761	843	1,080
ShareThis, Inc. 4009 Miranda Avenue, Suite 200 Palo Alto, CA 94304	0.91%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series C	December 14, 2012	493,502	547	—

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Skyword, Inc. 38 Chauncy Street Boston, MA 02109	0.31%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series B	August 23, 2019	444,444	\$ 83	\$ 16
Snagajob.com, Inc. 1919 N Lynn Street Arlington, VA 22209	1.46%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	April 20, 2020	600,000	16	67
		Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series A	June 30, 2016	1,800,000	782	66
		Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series B	August 1, 2018	1,211,537	62	30
Total Snagajob.com, Inc.						3,611,537	860	163
Tapjoy, Inc. 353 Sacramento Street San Francisco, CA 94111	0.35%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series D	July 1, 2014	748,670	316	80
The Faction Group LLC 303 East 17th Avenue Denver, CO 80203	1.40%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series AA	November 3, 2014	8,076	234	802
Thumbtack, Inc. 1001 Page Street San Francisco, CA 94117	0.08%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	May 1, 2018	190,953	553	984
Zepp (p.k.a. Worldremit Group Limited) (5)(10)(16) Kensington Centre 66 Hammersmith Road London, England W14 8UD	0.16%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series D	February 11, 2021	77,215	129	1,915
		Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Preferred Series E	August 27, 2021	1,868	26	22
Total Zepp (p.k.a. Worldremit Group Limited)						79,083	155	1,937
Xometry, Inc. (4)(20) 7951 Cessna Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20879	1.01%	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Warrant	Common Stock	May 9, 2018	87,784	47	2,973
Subtotal: Internet Consumer & Business Services (0.72%)*							4,828	9,693
Media/Content/Info								
Zoom Media Group, Inc. 112 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor New York, NY 10016	0.44%	Media/Content/Info	Warrant	Preferred Series A	December 21, 2012	1,204	348	—
Subtotal: Media/Content/Info (0.00%)*							348	—
Medical Devices & Equipment								
Aspire Bariatrics, Inc. 319 North Pottstown Pike Exton, PA 19406	0.21%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Common Stock	January 28, 2015	22,572	455	—
Flowonix Medical Incorporated 500 International Drive Mount Olive, NJ 07828	0.34%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Preferred Series AA	November 3, 2014	155,325	362	—
		Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Preferred Series BB	September 21, 2018	725,806	351	—
Total Flowonix Medical Incorporated						881,131	713	—

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Intuity Medical, Inc. 3500 West Warren Avenue Fremont, CA 94538	0.29%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Preferred Series B-1	December 29, 2017	3,076,323	\$ 294	\$ 287
Medrobotics Corporation 475 Paramount Drive Raynham, MA 02767	0.74%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Preferred Series E	March 13, 2013	455,539	370	—
Outset Medical, Inc. (4) 3052 Orchard Drive San Jose, CA 95134	0.14%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Common Stock	September 27, 2013	62,794	402	1,955
SonaCare Medical, LLC 801 E. Morehead Street, Suite 201 Charlotte, NC 28202	0.02%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Preferred Series A	September 28, 2012	6,464	188	—
Tela Bio, Inc. (4) One Great Valley Parkway, Suite 24 Malvern, PA 19355	0.11%	Medical Devices & Equipment	Warrant	Common Stock	March 31, 2017	15,712	61	6
Subtotal: Medical Devices & Equipment (0.17%)*							2,483	2,248
Semiconductors								
Achronix Semiconductor Corporation 2903 Bunker Hill Lane Santa Clara, CA 95054	0.32%	Semiconductors	Warrant	Preferred Series D-2	June 26, 2015	750,000	99	1,951
Subtotal: Semiconductors (0.15%)*							99	1,951
Software								
Bitsight Technologies, Inc. 100 Cambridge Park Drive Cambridge, MA 02140	0.12%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	November 18, 2020	29,691	284	600
CloudBolt Software Inc. 51 Monroe Street Rockville, MD 20850	0.31%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	September 30, 2020	211,342	117	109
Cloudian, Inc. 2600 Campus Drive San Mateo, CA 94403	0.17%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	November 6, 2018	477,454	72	41
Couchbase, Inc. (4)(20) 3250 Olcott Street Santa Clara, CA 95054	0.24%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	April 25, 2019	105,350	462	1,493
Dashlane, Inc. 44 West 18th Street New York, NY 10011	0.45%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	March 11, 2019	560,536	405	422
Demandbase, Inc. 680 Folsom Street San Francisco, CA 94107	0.15%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	August 2, 2021	483,248	404	463
Delphix Corp. 1400A Seaport Blvd #200 Redwood City, CA	0.58%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	October 8, 2019	718,898	1,593	2,842
DNAexus, Inc. 420 Florence Street Palo Alto, CA 94301	0.14%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series C	March 21, 2014	909,091	97	95
Evernote Corporation 305 Walnut Street Redwood City, CA 94063	0.05%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	September 30, 2016	62,500	106	75

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Fuze, Inc. 2 Copley Place Boston, MA 02116	0.09%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series F	June 30, 2017	256,158	\$ 89	\$ —
Lightbend, Inc. 625 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94105	0.61%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series C-1	February 14, 2018	854,787	130	59
Mixpanel, Inc. One Front Street San Francisco, CA 94111	0.23%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	September 30, 2020	82,362	252	503
Nuvolo Technologies Corporation 115 W Century Road Paramus, NJ 07652	0.15%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	March 29, 2019	50,000	89	367
OneLogin, Inc. 848 Battery Street San Francisco, CA 94111	0.40%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	February 2, 2016	381,620	305	1,560
Poplicus, Inc. 19 South Park Avenue San Francisco, CA 94107	0.33%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	May 28, 2014	132,168	—	—
Pymetrics, Inc. 102 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016	0.45%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	September 15, 2020	150,943	76	149
RapidMiner, Inc. 10 Milk Street Boston, MA 02110	0.30%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series C-1	November 28, 2017	4,982	24	47
Reltio, Inc. 100 Marine Parkway Redwood Shores, CA 94065	0.10%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	June 30, 2020	69,120	215	290
Signpost, Inc. 333 Hudson Street New York, NY 10014	0.32%	Software	Warrant	Series Junior 1 Preferred	January 13, 2016	474,019	314	—
SingleStore, Inc. (p.k.a. memsql, Inc.) 380 10th Street, Suite 25 San Francisco, CA 94103	0.55%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series D	April 28, 2020	312,596	103	713
Tact.ai Technologies, Inc. 2400 Broadway Street Redwood City, CA 94063	0.82%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	February 13, 2020	1,041,667	206	188
Udacity, Inc. 2440 W El Camino Real Mountain View, CA 94040	0.28%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	September 25, 2020	486,359	218	297
ZeroFox, Inc. 1111 Light Street, 3rd Floor Baltimore, MD 21230	0.20%	Software	Warrant	Preferred Series C-1	May 7, 2020	648,350	100	302
Zimperium, Inc. 560 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94105	0.04%	Software	Warrant	Common Stock	July 2, 2021	20,563	72	70
Subtotal: Software (0.80%)*							<u>5,733</u>	<u>10,685</u>

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Portfolio Company	Percentage Ownership	Sub-Industry	Type of Investment(1)	Series	Initial Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost(3)	Value(4)
Specialty Pharmaceuticals								
Alimera Sciences, Inc.(4) 6120 Windward Parkway, Suite 290 Alpharetta, GA 30005	0.44%	Specialty Pharmaceuticals	Warrant	Common Stock	October 20, 2016	30,581	\$ 132	\$ 6
Subtotal: Specialty Pharmaceuticals (0.00%)*							<u>132</u>	<u>6</u>
Surgical Devices								
Gynesonics, Inc. 600 Chesapeake Drive Redwood City, CA 94063	0.56%	Surgical Devices	Warrant	Preferred Series C	February 8, 2012	151,123	67	14
TransMedics Group, Inc. (p.k.a Transmedics, Inc.)(4) 200 Minuteman Road, Suite 302 Andover, MA 01810	0.23%	Surgical Devices	Warrant	Common Stock	November 7, 2012	64,440	139	1,102
Subtotal: Surgical Devices (0.08%)*							<u>206</u>	<u>1,116</u>
Sustainable and Renewable Technology								
Agrivida, Inc. 78E Olympia Avenue Woburn, MA 01801	0.32%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Warrant	Preferred Series D	June 20, 2013	471,327	120	—
Fulcrum Bioenergy, Inc. 4900 Hopyard Road Pleasanton, CA 94588	0.15%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Warrant	Preferred Series C-1	September 13, 2012	280,897	275	706
Halio, Inc. (p.k.a. Kinestral Technologies, Inc.) 400 East Jamie Court South San Francisco, CA 94080	0.36%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Warrant	Preferred Series A	April 22, 2014	325,000	155	165
			Warrant	Preferred Series B	April 7, 2015	131,883	62	54
Total Halio, Inc. (p.k.a. Kinestral Technologies, Inc.)						<u>456,883</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>219</u>
Polyera Corporation 8025 Lamont Avenue Skokie, IL 60077	1.08%	Sustainable and Renewable Technology	Warrant	Preferred Series C	December 11, 2012	311,609	338	—
Subtotal: Sustainable and Renewable Technology (0.07%)*							<u>950</u>	<u>925</u>
Total: Warrant Investments (3.20%)*							<u>\$ 25,913</u>	<u>\$ 42,859</u>
Total: Investments in Securities (187.72%)*							<u>\$2,424,166</u>	<u>\$2,510,812</u>
Investment Funds & Vehicles								
Forbion Growth Opportunities Fund I.C.V.(5)(10)(17) Gooimeer 2-35 Naarden, Netherlands 1411 DVC	1.39%	Drug Discovery & Development	Investment Funds & Vehicles		November 16, 2020		\$ 1,223	\$ 1,042
Total: Investments in Investment Funds & Vehicles (0.08%)*							<u>\$ 1,223</u>	<u>\$ 1,042</u>
Total: Investments before Cash and Cash Equivalents (187.80%)*							<u>\$2,425,389</u>	<u>\$2,511,854</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents								
GS Financial Square Government Fund			Cash & Cash Equivalents	Institutional Shares			\$ 206,000	\$ 206,000
Total: Investments in Cash & Cash Equivalents (15.40%)*							<u>\$ 206,000</u>	<u>\$ 206,000</u>
Total: Investments after Cash and Cash Equivalents (203.20%)*							<u>\$2,631,389</u>	<u>\$2,717,854</u>

* Value as a percent of net assets

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- (1) Preferred and common stock, warrants, and equity interests are generally non-income producing.
- (2) Interest rate PRIME represents 3.25% as of September 30, 2021. 1-month LIBOR, 3-month LIBOR and 6-month LIBOR represent 0.08%, 0.13%, and 0.16%, respectively, as of September 30, 2021.
- (3) Gross unrealized appreciation, gross unrealized depreciation, and net unrealized appreciation for federal income tax purposes totaled \$158.6 million, \$70.5 million and \$88.1 million, respectively. The tax cost of investments is \$2.4 billion.
- (4) Except for warrants in 27 publicly traded companies and common stock in 34 publicly traded companies, all investments are restricted as of September 30, 2021 and were valued at fair value using Level 3 significant unobservable inputs as determined in good faith by the Company's board of directors (the "Board"). No unrestricted securities of the same issuer are outstanding. The Company uses the Standard Industrial Code for classifying the industry grouping of its portfolio companies.
- (5) Non-U.S. company or the company's principal place of business is outside the United States.
- (6) Affiliate investment as defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (the "1940 Act") in which Hercules owns at least 5% but generally less than 25% of the company's voting securities.
- (7) Control investment as defined under the 1940 Act in which Hercules owns at least 25% of the company's voting securities or has greater than 50% representation on its board.
- (8) Debt is on non-accrual status as of September 30, 2021, and is therefore considered non-income producing. Note that as of September 30, 2021, only the PIK, or payment-in-kind, portion is on non-accrual for the Company's debt investment in Tectura Corporation.
- (9) Denotes that all or a portion of the debt investment is convertible debt.
- (10) Indicates assets that the Company deems not "qualifying assets" under section 55(a) of 1940 Act. Qualifying assets must represent at least 70% of the Company's total assets at the time of acquisition of any additional non-qualifying assets.
- (11) Denotes that all or a portion of the debt investment secures the notes offered in the 2027 Asset-Backed Notes or 2028 Asset-Backed Notes.
- (12) Denotes that all or a portion of the debt investment is pledged as collateral under the Wells Facility.
- (13) Denotes that all or a portion of the debt investment is pledged as collateral under the Union Bank Facility.
- (14) Denotes that all or a portion of the debt investment principal includes accumulated PIK interest and is net of repayments.
- (15) Denotes that all or a portion of the investment in this portfolio company is held by Hercules Capital IV, L.P., the Company's wholly owned small business investment company.
- (16) Denotes that the fair value of the Company's total investments in this portfolio company represent greater than 5% of the Company's total net assets as of September 30, 2021.
- (17) Denotes that there is an unfunded contractual commitment available at the request of this portfolio company as of September 30, 2021.
- (18) Denotes unitranche debt with first lien "last-out" senior secured position and security interest in all assets of the portfolio company whereby the "last-out" portion will be subordinated to the "first-out" portion in a liquidation, sale or other disposition.
- (19) Denotes second lien senior secured debt.
- (20) Denotes all or a portion of the public equity or warrant investment was acquired in a transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") and may be deemed to be "restricted securities" under the Securities Act. As of September 30, 2021, the aggregate fair value of these securities is \$28,553, or 2.13% of the Company's net assets.
- (21) Denotes investment in a non-voting security in the form of a promissory note. The terms of the notes provide the Company with a lien on the issuers' shares of Common Stock in portfolio company Black Crow AI, Inc., subject to release upon repayment of the outstanding balance of the notes. As of September 30, 2021, the Black Crow AI, Inc. affiliate promissory notes had an outstanding balance of \$3.0 million.

SENIOR SECURITIES

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following table as of September 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011. The annual information is derived from our audited consolidated financial statements for these periods, which have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm. The “N/A” indicates information that the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities⁽¹⁾	Asset Coverage per Unit ⁽²⁾	Average Market Value per Unit⁽³⁾
Securitized Credit Facility with Wells Fargo Capital Finance			
December 31, 2011	\$ 10,186,830	\$ 73,369	N/A
December 31, 2012 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2013 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2014 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 26,352	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 5,015,620	\$ 290,234	N/A
December 31, 2017 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 13,106,582	\$ 147,497	N/A
December 31, 2019 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2020 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited) ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
Securitized Credit Facility with Union Bank, NA			
December 31, 2011 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2012 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2013 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2014 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2015 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2016 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2017 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 39,849,010	\$ 48,513	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 103,918,736	\$ 23,423	N/A
December 31, 2020 ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited) ⁽⁶⁾	—	—	N/A
Small Business Administration Debentures (HT II)⁽⁴⁾			
December 31, 2011	\$ 125,000,000	\$ 5,979	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 76,000,000	\$ 14,786	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 76,000,000	\$ 16,075	N/A
December 31, 2014	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 31,535	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 31,981	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 35,333	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 41,200,000	\$ 39,814	N/A
December 31, 2018	—	—	N/A
Small Business Administration Debentures (HT III)⁽⁵⁾			
December 31, 2011	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 7,474	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 7,542	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,199	N/A
December 31, 2014	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,720	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 8,843	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 9,770	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 11,009	N/A

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<u>Class and Year</u>	<u>Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)</u>	<u>Asset Coverage per Unit (2)</u>	<u>Average Market Value per Unit(3)</u>
December 31, 2018	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 12,974	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 149,000,000	\$ 16,336	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 99,000,000	\$ 26,168	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	—	—	N/A
Small Business Administration Debentures (HC IV)(8)			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 64,500,000	\$ 42,788	N/A
2016 Convertible Notes			
December 31, 2011	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 10,623	\$ 885
December 31, 2012	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 15,731	\$ 1,038
December 31, 2013	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 16,847	\$ 1,403
December 31, 2014	\$ 17,674,000	\$ 74,905	\$ 1,290
December 31, 2015	\$ 17,604,000	\$ 74,847	\$ 1,110
December 31, 2016	—	—	N/A
April 2019 Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 13,300	\$ 986
December 31, 2013	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 14,460	\$ 1,021
December 31, 2014	\$ 84,489,500	\$ 15,377	\$ 1,023
December 31, 2015	\$ 64,489,500	\$ 20,431	\$ 1,017
December 31, 2016	\$ 64,489,500	\$ 22,573	\$ 1,022
December 31, 2017	—	—	N/A
September 2019 Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 13,086	\$ 1,003
December 31, 2013	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 14,227	\$ 1,016
December 31, 2014	\$ 85,875,000	\$ 15,129	\$ 1,026
December 31, 2015	\$ 45,875,000	\$ 28,722	\$ 1,009
December 31, 2016	\$ 45,875,000	\$ 31,732	\$ 1,023
December 31, 2017	—	—	N/A
2022 Notes			
December 31, 2017	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 10,935	\$ 1,014
December 31, 2018	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 12,888	\$ 976
December 31, 2019	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 16,227	\$ 1,008
December 31, 2020	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 17,271	\$ 1,017
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 18,399	\$ 1,018
2024 Notes			
December 31, 2014	\$ 103,000,000	\$ 12,614	\$ 1,010
December 31, 2015	\$ 103,000,000	\$ 12,792	\$ 1,014
December 31, 2016	\$ 252,873,175	\$ 5,757	\$ 1,016
December 31, 2017	\$ 183,509,600	\$ 8,939	\$ 1,025
December 31, 2018	\$ 83,509,600	\$ 23,149	\$ 1,011
December 31, 2019	—	—	N/A
2025 Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 25,776	\$ 962
December 31, 2019	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 32,454	\$ 1,032
December 31, 2020	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 34,541	\$ 1,020
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ —	\$ —	N/A

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<u>Class and Year</u>	<u>Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)</u>	<u>Asset Coverage per Unit (2)</u>	<u>Average Market Value per Unit(3)</u>
2033 Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 48,330	\$ 934
December 31, 2019	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 60,851	\$ 1,054
December 31, 2020	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 64,765	\$ 1,072
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 68,996	\$ 1,058
July 2024 Notes			
December 31, 2019	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 23,181	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 24,672	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 26,284	N/A
February 2025 Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 51,812	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A
June 2025 Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 37,009	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 39,426	N/A
March 2026 A Notes			
December 31, 2020	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 51,812	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A
March 2026 B Notes			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,197	N/A
September 2026 Notes			
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 325,000,000	\$ 8,492	\$ 902
2017 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2012	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 8,691	\$ 1,000
December 31, 2013	\$ 89,556,972	\$ 13,642	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2014	\$ 16,049,144	\$ 80,953	\$ 1,375
December 31, 2015	—	—	N/A
2021 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2014	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 10,048	\$ 1,000
December 31, 2015	\$ 129,300,000	\$ 10,190	\$ 996
December 31, 2016	\$ 109,205,263	\$ 13,330	\$ 1,002
December 31, 2017	\$ 49,152,504	\$ 33,372	\$ 1,001
December 31, 2018	—	—	N/A
2027 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2018	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 9,666	\$ 1,006
December 31, 2019	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 12,170	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2020	\$ 180,988,022	\$ 14,314	\$ 1,001
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 115,373,367	\$ 23,921	\$ 1,000
2028 Asset-Backed Notes			
December 31, 2019	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 9,736	\$ 1,004
December 31, 2020	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 10,362	\$ 1,002
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 173,809,040	\$ 15,879	\$ 1,001
2022 Convertible Notes			
December 31, 2017	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 7,132	\$ 1,028
December 31, 2018	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 8,405	\$ 946
December 31, 2019	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 10,583	\$ 1,021
December 31, 2020	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 11,264	\$ 1,027
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 230,000,000	\$ 11,999	\$ 1,043
Total Senior Securities(7)			
December 31, 2011	\$ 310,186,830	\$ 2,409	N/A
December 31, 2012	\$ 599,664,500	\$ 1,874	N/A
December 31, 2013	\$ 559,921,472	\$ 2,182	N/A

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Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of	Asset Coverage	Average
	Treasury Securities(1)	per Unit (2)	Market Value per Unit(3)
December 31, 2014	\$ 626,587,644	\$ 2,073	N/A
December 31, 2015	\$ 600,468,500	\$ 2,194	N/A
December 31, 2016	\$ 667,658,558	\$ 2,180	N/A
December 31, 2017	\$ 802,862,104	\$ 2,043	N/A
December 31, 2018	\$ 980,465,192	\$ 1,972	N/A
December 31, 2019	\$ 1,302,918,736	\$ 1,868	N/A
December 31, 2020	\$ 1,299,988,022	\$ 1,993	N/A
September 30, 2021 (unaudited)	\$ 1,423,682,407	\$ 1,939	N/A

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.
- (2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, including senior securities not subject to asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act due to exemptive relief from the SEC, divided by senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by \$1,000 to determine the Asset Coverage per Unit.
- (3) Not applicable because senior securities are not registered for public trading.
- (4) Issued by Hercules Technology II, L.P., or HT II, one of our prior SBIC subsidiaries, to the Small Business Association, or SBA. On July 13, 2018, we completed repayment of the remaining outstanding HT II debentures and subsequently surrendered the SBA license with respect to HT II. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.
- (5) Issued by HT III, one of our prior SBIC subsidiaries, to the SBA. On May 5, 2021, we completed repayment of the remaining outstanding HT III debentures and subsequently surrendered the SBA license with respect to HT III. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.
- (6) The Company's Wells Facility and Union Bank Facility had no borrowings outstanding as of the period ends noted above.
- (7) The total senior securities and Asset Coverage per Unit shown for those securities do not represent the asset coverage ratio requirement under the 1940 Act, because the presentation includes senior securities not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC. As of September 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, our asset coverage ratio under our regulatory requirements as a business development company was 198.3% and 207.5%, respectively, excluding our SBA debentures as a result of our exemptive order from the SEC which allows us to exclude all SBA leverage from our asset coverage ratio.
- (8) Issued by Hercules Capital IV, L.P. or HC IV, a SBIC subsidiary, to the SBA. These categories of senior securities were not subject to the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act as a result of exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.

BUSINESS

The information contained under the caption “Business” of our most recent Annual Report on Form10-K is incorporated by reference herein.

MANAGEMENT

The information contained under the captions “Proposal 1: Election of Directors” and “Corporate Governance” in our most recent Proxy Statement for our Annual Meeting of Stockholders and “Business” of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein.

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The information contained under the captions “Certain United States Income Tax Considerations” of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein.

SALES OF COMMON STOCK BELOW NET ASSET VALUE

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below NAV per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, at a price below the current NAV of the common stock, or sell warrants, options or other rights to acquire such common stock, at a price below the current NAV of the common stock if our Board of Directors determines that such sale is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders and our stockholders have approved the practice of making such sales. In connection with the receipt of such stockholder approval, we will agree to limit the number of shares that we issue at a price below NAV pursuant to this authorization so that the aggregate dilutive effect on our then outstanding shares will not exceed 20%. Our Board of Directors, subject to its fiduciary duties and regulatory requirements, has the discretion to determine the amount of the discount, and as a result, the discount could be up to 100% of NAV per share.

In order to sell shares pursuant to this authorization:

- a majority of our independent directors who have no financial interest in the sale must have approved the sale; and
- a majority of such directors, who are not interested persons of the Company, in consultation with the underwriter or underwriters of the offering if it is to be underwritten, must have determined in good faith, and as of a time immediately prior to the first solicitation by us or on our behalf of firm commitments to purchase such shares or immediately prior to the issuance of such shares, that the price at which such shares are to be sold is not less than a price which closely approximates the market value of those shares, less any underwriting commission or discount; and

Any offering of common stock below NAV per share will be designed to raise capital for investment in accordance with our investment objectives and business strategies.

In making a determination that an offering below NAV per share is in our and our stockholders' best interests, our Board of Directors would consider a variety of factors including:

- The effect that an offering below NAV per share would have on our stockholders, including the potential dilution they would experience as a result of the offering;
- The amount per share by which the offering price per share and the net proceeds per share are less than the most recently determined NAV per share;
- The relationship of recent market prices of our common stock to NAV per share and the potential impact of the offering on the market price per share of our common stock;
- Whether the proposed offering price would closely approximate the market value of our shares;
- The potential market impact of being able to raise capital during the current financial market difficulties;
- The nature of any new investors anticipated to acquire shares in the offering;
- The anticipated rate of return on and quality, type and availability of investments to be funded with the proceeds from the offering, if any; and
- The leverage available to us, both before and after any offering, and the terms thereof.

Sales by us of our common stock at a discount from NAV pose potential risks for our existing stockholders whether or not they participate in the offering, as well as for new investors who participate in the offering.

The following three headings and accompanying tables will explain and provide hypothetical examples on the impact of an offering at a price less than NAV per share on three different sets of investors:

- existing stockholders who do not purchase any shares in the offering;

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- existing stockholders who purchase a relatively small amount of shares in the offering or a relatively large amount of shares in the offering; and
- new investors who become stockholders by purchasing shares in the offering.

Impact on Existing Stockholders not Participating in the Offering

Our existing stockholders who do not participate in an offering below NAV per share or who do not buy additional shares in the secondary market at the same or lower price we obtain in the offering (after expenses and commissions) face the greatest potential risks. All stockholders will experience an immediate decrease (often called dilution) in the NAV of the shares they hold. Stockholders who do not participate in the offering will also experience a disproportionately greater decrease in their participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than stockholders who do participate in the offering. All stockholders may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of the offering and level of discount to NAV increases.

The following table illustrates the level of NAV dilution that would be experienced by a nonparticipating stockholder in different hypothetical offerings of different sizes and levels of discount from NAV per share. Actual sales prices and discounts may differ from the presentation below.

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The examples assume that Company XYZ has 3,000,000 common shares outstanding, \$40,000,000 in total assets and \$10,000,000 in total liabilities. The current NAV and NAV per share are thus \$30,000,000 and \$10.00, respectively. The table illustrates the dilutive effect on nonparticipating Stockholder A of (1) an offering of 300,000 shares (10% of the outstanding shares) with proceeds to the Company XYZ at \$9.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions, and (2) an offering of 600,000 shares (20% of the outstanding shares) with proceeds to the Company at \$0.001 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 100% discount from NAV).

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	Example 1 10% Offering at 10% Discount		Example 2 20% Offering at 100% Discount	
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change
Offering Price					
Price per Share to Public ⁽¹⁾	—	\$ 9.47	—	\$ 0.001	—
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer	—	\$ 9.00	—	\$ 0.001	—
Decrease to NAV					
Total Shares Outstanding	3,000,000	3,300,000	10.00%	3,600,000	20.00%
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.91	(0.90)%	\$ 8.33	(16.67)%
Share Dilution to Stockholder					
Shares Held by Stockholder A	30,000	30,000	—	30,000	—
Percentage of Shares Held by Stockholder A	1.00%	0.91%	(9.09)%	0.83%	(16.67)%
Total Asset Values					
Total NAV Held by Stockholder A	\$ 300,000	\$ 297,273	(0.90)%	\$ 250,005	(16.67)%
Total Investment by Stockholder A (Assumed to Be \$10.00 per Share)	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	—	\$ 300,000	—
Total Dilution to Stockholder A (Change in Total NAV Held By Stockholder)	—	\$ (2,727)	—	\$ (49,995)	—
Per Share Amounts					
NAV per Share Held by Stockholder A	—	\$ 9.91	—	\$ 8.33	—
Investment per Share Held by Stockholder A (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held Prior to Sale)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	—	\$ 10.00	—
Dilution per Share Held by Stockholder A	—	\$ (0.09)	—	\$ (1.67)	—
Percentage Dilution per Share Held by Stockholder A	—	—	(0.91)%	—	(16.67)%

(1) Assumes 5% in selling compensation and expenses paid by Company XYZ.

Impact on Existing Stockholders who do Participate in the Offering

Our existing stockholders who participate in an offering below NAV per share or who buy additional shares in the secondary market at the same or lower price as we obtain in the offering (after expenses and commissions) will experience the same types of NAV dilution as the nonparticipating stockholders, albeit at a lower level, to the extent they purchase less than the same percentage of the discounted offering as their interest in our shares immediately prior to the offering. The level of NAV dilution on an aggregate basis will decrease as the number of shares such stockholders purchase increases. Existing stockholders who buy more than their proportionate percentage will experience NAV dilution but will, in contrast to existing stockholders who purchase less than

their proportionate share of the offering, experience an increase (often called accretion) in NAV per share over their investment per share and will also experience a disproportionately greater increase in their participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than our increase in assets, potential earning power and voting interests due to the offering. The level of accretion will increase as the excess number of shares purchased by such stockholder increases. Even a stockholder who over-participates will, however, be subject to the risk that we

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may make additional discounted offerings in which such stockholder does not participate, in which case such a stockholder will experience NAV dilution as described above in such subsequent offerings. These stockholders may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of the offering and the level of discount to NAV increases.

The following chart illustrates the level of dilution and accretion in the hypothetical 20% discount offering from the prior chart (Example 3) for a stockholder that acquires shares equal to (1) 50% of its proportionate share of the offering (i.e., 3,000 shares, which is 0.5% of an offering of 600,000 shares rather than its 1.0% proportionate share) and (2) 150% of such percentage (i.e., 9,000 shares, which is 1.5% of an offering of 600,000 shares rather than its 1.0% proportionate share). The prospectus supplement pursuant to which any discounted offering is made will include a chart for this example based on the actual number of shares in such offering and the actual discount from the most recently determined NAV per share.

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	50% Participation		150% Participation	
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change
Offering Price					
Price per Share to Public ⁽¹⁾	—	\$ 8.42	—	\$ 8.42	—
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer	—	\$ 8.00	—	\$ 8.00	—
Increase in Shares and Decrease to NAV					
Total Shares Outstanding	3,000,000	3,600,000	20.00%	3,600,000	20.00%
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.67	(3.33)%	\$ 9.67	(3.33)%
Dilution/Accretion to Participating Stockholder A					
Share Dilution/Accretion					
Shares Held by Stockholder A	30,000	33,000	10.00%	39,000	30.00%
Percentage Outstanding Held by Stockholder A	1.00%	0.92%	(8.33)%	1.08%	8.33%
NAV Dilution/Accretion					
Total NAV Held by Stockholder A	\$ 300,000	\$ 319,000	6.33%	\$ 377,000	25.67%
Total Investment by Stockholder A (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held Prior to Sale)	—	\$ 325,260	—	\$ 375,780	—
Total Dilution/Accretion to Stockholder A (Total NAV Less Total Investment)	—	\$ (6,260)	—	\$ 1,220	—
NAV Dilution/Accretion per Share					
NAV per Share Held by Stockholder A	—	\$ 9.67	—	\$ 9.67	—
Investment per Share Held by Stockholder A (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held Prior to Sale)	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.86	(1.44)%	\$ 9.64	(3.65)%
NAV Dilution/Accretion per Share Experienced by Stockholder A (NAV per Share Less Investment per Share)	—	\$ (0.19)	—	\$ 0.03	—
Percentage NAV Dilution/Accretion Experienced by Stockholder A (NAV Dilution/Accretion per Share Divided by Investment per Share)	—	—	(1.93)%	—	0.33%

(1) Assumes 5% in selling compensation and expenses paid by Company XYZ.

Impact on New Investors

Investors who are not currently stockholders, but who participate in an offering below NAV and whose investment per share is greater than the resulting NAV per share (due to selling compensation and expenses paid by us) will experience an immediate decrease, albeit small, in the NAV of their shares and their NAV per share

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compared to the price they pay for their shares. Investors who are not currently stockholders and who participate in an offering below NAV per share and whose investment per share is also less than the resulting NAV per share will experience an immediate increase in the NAV of their shares and their NAV per share compared to the price they pay for their shares. All these investors will experience a disproportionately greater participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than our increase in assets, potential earning power and voting interests. These investors will, however, be subject to the risk that we may make additional discounted offerings in which such new stockholder does not participate, in which case such new stockholder will experience dilution as described above in such subsequent offerings. These investors may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of the offering and level of discount to NAV increases.

The following chart illustrates the level of dilution or accretion for new investors that would be experienced by a new investor in the same hypothetical 10% and 100% discounted offerings as described in the first chart above. The illustration is for a new investor who purchases the same percentage (1.00%) of the shares in the offering as Stockholder A in the prior examples held immediately prior to the offering. The prospectus supplement pursuant to which any discounted offering is made will include a chart for these examples based on the actual number of shares in such offering and the actual discount from the most recently determined NAV per share.

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	Example 1 10% Offering at 10% Discount		Example 2 20% Offering at 100% Discount		
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change	
Offering Price						
Price per Share to Public ⁽¹⁾	—	\$ 9.47	—	\$ 0.001	—	
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer	—	\$ 9.00	—	\$ 0.001	—	
Increase in Shares and Decrease to NAV						
Total Shares Outstanding	3,000,000	3,300,000	10.00%	3,600,000	20.00%	
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.91	(0.91)%	\$ 8.33	(16.67)%	
Dilution/Accretion to New Investor A						
Share Dilution						
Shares Held by Investor A	3,000	3,000	—	6,000	100.00%	
Percentage Outstanding Held by Investor A	0.10%	0.09%	(9.09)%	0.17%	66.67%	
NAV Dilution						
Total NAV Held by Investor A	30,000	\$ 29,727	(0.91)%	\$ 50,001	66.67%	
Total Investment by Investor A (At Price to Public)	28,410	\$ 28,410	—	\$ 56,820	—	
Total Dilution/Accretion to Investor A (Total NAV Less Total Investment)		\$ 1,317	—	\$ (6,819)	—	
NAV Dilution per Share						
NAV per Share Held by Investor A		\$ 9.91	—	\$ 8.33	—	
Investment per Share Held by Investor A	9.47	\$ 9.47	—	\$ 9.47	—	
NAV Dilution/Accretion per Share Experienced by Investor A (NAV per Share Less Investment per Share)	—	\$ 9.91	—	\$ 8.33	—	
Percentage NAV Dilution/Accretion Experienced by Investor A (NAV Dilution/Accretion per Share Divided by Investment per Share)	—	0.44	4.64%	(1.14)	(12.00)%	

(1) Assumes 5% in selling compensation and expenses paid by Company XYZ.

CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

The information contained under the caption “Security Ownership of Management and Certain Beneficial Owners” in our most recent Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A is incorporated by reference herein.

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan (the “DRP”), through which all distributions are paid to our stockholders in the form of additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash as provided below. In this way, a stockholder can maintain an undiluted investment in our common stock and still allow us to pay out the required distributable income.

No action is required on the part of a registered stockholder to receive a distribution in shares of our common stock. A registered stockholder may elect to receive an entire distribution in cash by notifying American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the plan administrator and our transfer agent and registrar, so that such notice is received by the plan administrator no later than three days prior to the payment date for distributions to stockholders. The plan administrator will set up an account for shares acquired through the DRP for each stockholder who has not elected to receive distributions in cash (each a “Participant”) and hold such shares in non-certificated form. Upon request by a Participant, received not less than three days prior to the payment date, the plan administrator will, instead of crediting shares to the Participant’s account, issue a certificate registered in the Participant’s name for the number of whole shares of our common stock and a check for any fractional share.

Those stockholders whose shares are held by a broker or other financial intermediary may receive distributions in cash by notifying their broker or other financial intermediary of their election.

We expect to use primarily newly-issued shares to implement the DRP, whether our shares are trading at a premium or at a discount to NAV, although we have the option under the DRP to purchase shares in the market to fulfill DRP requirements. The number of shares to be issued to a stockholder is determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to such stockholder by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of regular trading on the NYSE on the valuation date for such distribution. Market price per share on that date will be the closing price for such shares on the NYSE or, if no sale is reported for such day, at the average of their electronically-reported bid and asked prices. The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding after giving effect to payment of the distribution cannot be established until the value per share at which additional shares will be issued has been determined and elections of our stockholders have been tabulated.

There is no charge to our stockholders for receiving their distributions in the form of additional shares of our common stock. The plan administrator’s fees for handling distributions in stock are paid by us. There are no brokerage charges with respect to shares we have issued directly as a result of distributions payable in stock. If a Participant elects by internet or by written or telephonic notice to the plan administrator to have the plan administrator sell part or all of the shares held by the plan administrator in the Participant’s account and remit the proceeds to the Participant, the plan administrator is authorized to deduct a \$15.00 transaction fee plus brokerage commissions from the proceeds.

Any shares issued in connection with a stock split or stock dividend will be added to a Participant’s account with the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator may curtail or suspend transaction processing until the completion of such stock split or payment of such stock dividend.

Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of stock generally are subject to the same federal, state and local tax consequences as are stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. A stockholder’s basis for determining gain or loss upon the sale of stock received in a distribution from us will be equal to the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to the stockholder.

The DRP may be terminated by us upon notice in writing mailed to each Participant at least 30 days prior to any record date for the payment of any distribution by us. All correspondence concerning the DRP, including requests for additional information, should be directed to the plan administrator by mail at American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, Attn: Dividend Reinvestment Department, P.O. Box 922, Wall Street Station, New York, NY 10269-0560 or by phone at 1-866-669-9888.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description is based on relevant portions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and on our charter and bylaws. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you, and we refer you to the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws for a more detailed description of the provisions summarized below. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to any shares of our capital stock being offered.

Under the terms of our charter, our authorized capital stock consists of 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of which 116,375,323 shares are outstanding as of December 13, 2021. Under our charter, our Board of Directors is authorized to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, and to cause the issuance of such shares, without obtaining stockholder approval. In addition, as permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, but subject to the 1940 Act, our charter provides that the Board of Directors, without any action by our stockholders, may amend the charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not personally liable for our debts or obligations.

Common Stock

All shares of our common stock have equal rights as to earnings, assets, distributions and voting privileges, except as described below and, when they are issued, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Distributions may be paid to the holders of our common stock if, as and when authorized by our Board of Directors and declared by us out of assets legally available therefor. Shares of our common stock have no conversion, exchange, preemptive or redemption rights. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Hercules each share of our common stock would be entitled to share ratably in all of our assets that are legally available for distribution after we pay all debts and other liabilities and subject to any preferential rights of holders of our preferred stock, if any preferred stock is outstanding at such time. Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors. Except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of our common stock will possess exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock will elect all of our directors, and holders of less than a majority of such shares will be unable to elect any director.

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Amount Authorized</u>	<u>Amount Held by Company for its Account</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	200,000,000	—	116,375,323

Preferred Stock

Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, including preferred stock. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, the Board of Directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series. Thus, the Board of Directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions which could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. You should note, however, that any issuance of preferred stock must

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comply with the requirements of the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act requires, among other things, that (1) immediately after issuance and before any dividend or other distribution is made with respect to our common stock and before any purchase of common stock is made, such preferred stock together with all other senior securities must not exceed an amount equal to 50% of our total assets after deducting the amount of such dividend, distribution or purchase price, as the case may be, and (2) the holders of shares of preferred stock, if any are issued, must be entitled as a class to elect two directors at all times and to elect a majority of the directors if distributions on such preferred stock are in arrears by two years or more. Certain matters under the 1940 Act require the separate vote of the holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock. We believe that the availability for issuance of preferred stock will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring future financings and acquisitions.

Limitation on Liability of Directors and Officers; Indemnification and Advance of Expenses

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision which eliminates directors' and officers' liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act.

Our charter authorizes us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity, except with respect to any matter as to which such person shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that their action was in our best interest or to be liable to us or our stockholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such person's office. Our charter also provides that, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, with the approval of our Board of Directors and provided that certain conditions described in our charter are met, we may pay certain expenses incurred by any such indemnified person in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such indemnified person to repay amounts we have so paid if it is ultimately determined that indemnification of such expenses is not authorized under our charter. Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee and who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in any such capacity from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity, except with respect to any matter as to which such person shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that their action was in our best interest or to be liable to us or our stockholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such person's office. Our bylaws also provide that, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, with the approval of our Board of Directors and provided that certain conditions described in our bylaws are met, we may pay certain expenses incurred by any such indemnified person in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such indemnified person to repay amounts we have so paid if it is ultimately determined that indemnification of such expenses is not authorized under our bylaws.

Maryland law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is

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made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. However, under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification, and then only for expenses. In addition, Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

We currently have in effect a directors' and officers' insurance policy covering our directors and officers and us for any acts and omissions committed, attempted or allegedly committed by any director or officer during the policy period. The policy is subject to customary exclusions.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and Our Charter and Bylaws

The Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult for a potential acquirer to acquire us by means of a tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions are expected to discourage certain coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids and to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate first with our Board of Directors. We believe that the benefits of these provisions outweigh the potential disadvantages of discouraging any such acquisition proposals because, among other things, the negotiation of such proposals may improve their terms.

Classified Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. The terms of the first, second and third classes will expire in 2023, 2024 and 2022, respectively. Upon expiration of their current terms, directors of each class are eligible to serve for three-year terms or until their successors are duly elected and qualify. Each year one class of directors will be elected by the stockholders. A classified board may render a change in control or removal of our incumbent management more difficult. We believe, however, that the longer time required to elect a majority of a classified Board of Directors will help to ensure the continuity and stability of our management and policies.

Election of Directors

Our charter provides that, except as otherwise provided in the bylaws, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote in the election of directors will be required to elect each director. Our bylaws currently provide that directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast in the election of directors. Pursuant to our charter and bylaws, our Board of Directors may amend the bylaws to alter the vote required to elect directors.

Number of Directors; Vacancies; Removal

Our charter provides that the number of directors will be set only by the Board of Directors in accordance with our bylaws. Our bylaws provide that a majority of our entire Board of Directors may at any time increase or

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decrease the number of directors. However, unless the bylaws are amended, the number of directors may never be less than one nor more than 12. We have elected to be subject to the provision of Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the Maryland General Corporation Law, as amended (the "Maryland General Corporation Law"), regarding the filling of vacancies on the Board of Directors. Accordingly, at such time, except as may be provided by the Board of Directors in setting the terms of any class or series of preferred stock, any and all vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, and any director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred and until a successor is elected and qualifies, subject to any applicable requirements of the 1940 Act.

Our charter provides that a director may be removed only for cause, as defined in the charter, and then only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors.

Action by Stockholders

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, stockholder action may be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders or by unanimous consent in lieu of a meeting (unless the charter provides for stockholder action by less than unanimous written consent, which our charter does not). These provisions, combined with the requirements of our bylaws regarding the calling of a stockholder-requested special meeting of stockholders discussed below, may have the effect of delaying consideration of a stockholder proposal until the next annual meeting.

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder Proposals

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by the Board of Directors or (3) by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of the bylaws. With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors at a special meeting may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by the Board of Directors or (3) provided that the Board of Directors has determined that directors will be elected at the meeting, by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of the bylaws.

The purpose of requiring stockholders to give us advance notice of nominations and other business is to afford our Board of Directors a meaningful opportunity to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees and the advisability of any other proposed business and, to the extent deemed necessary or desirable by our Board of Directors, to inform stockholders and make recommendations about such qualifications or business, as well as to provide a more orderly procedure for conducting meetings of stockholders. Although our bylaws do not give our Board of Directors any power to disapprove stockholder nominations for the election of directors or proposals recommending certain action, they may have the effect of precluding a contest for the election of directors or the consideration of stockholder proposals if proper procedures are not followed and of discouraging or deterring a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or to approve its own proposal without regard to whether consideration of such nominees or proposals might be harmful or beneficial to us and our stockholders.

Calling of Special Meeting of Stockholders

Our bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders may be called by our Board of Directors and certain of our officers. Additionally, our bylaws provide that, subject to the satisfaction of certain procedural and informational requirements by the stockholders requesting the meeting, a special meeting of stockholders shall be called by our secretary upon the written request of stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting.

Approval of Extraordinary Corporate Action; Amendment of Charter and Bylaws

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business, unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. However, a Maryland corporation may provide in its charter for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our charter generally provides for approval of charter amendments and extraordinary transactions by the stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our charter also provides that certain charter amendments and any proposal for our conversion, whether by merger or otherwise, from a closed-end company to an open-end company or any proposal for our liquidation or dissolution requires the approval of the stockholders entitled to cast at least 75% of the votes entitled to be cast on such matter. However, if such amendment or proposal is approved by at least 75% of our continuing directors (in addition to approval by our Board of Directors), such amendment or proposal may be approved by the stockholders entitled to cast a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on such a matter. The “continuing directors” are defined in our charter as our current directors, as well as those directors whose nomination for election by the stockholders or whose election by the directors to fill vacancies is approved by a majority of the continuing directors then on the Board of Directors.

Our charter and bylaws provide that the Board of Directors will have the exclusive power to make, alter, amend or repeal any provision of our bylaws.

No Appraisal Rights

Except with respect to appraisal rights arising in connection with the Control Share Act discussed below, as permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter provides that stockholders will not be entitled to exercise appraisal rights.

Control Share Acquisitions

The Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act (the “Control Share Act”) provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror, by officers or by directors who are employees of the corporation are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. Control shares are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- one-tenth or more but less than one-third;
- one-third or more but less than a majority; or
- a majority or more of all voting power.

The requisite stockholder approval must be obtained each time an acquiror crosses one of the thresholds of voting power set forth above. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel the Board of Directors of the corporation to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

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If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the corporation may repurchase for fair value any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved. The right of the corporation to repurchase control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations. Fair value is determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of the shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The Control Share Act does not apply (a) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or (b) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Control Share Act any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of stock.

Business Combinations

Under the Maryland Business Combination Act (the “Business Combination Act”), “business combinations” between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

- any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation’s shares; or
- an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder under this statute if the Board of Directors approved in advance the transaction by which such stockholder otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, the Board of Directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board.

After the 5-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the Board of Directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation’s common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the Board of Directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested

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stockholder. Our Board of Directors has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination between us and any other person from the provisions of the Business Combination Act, provided that the business combination is first approved by the Board of Directors, including a majority of the directors who are not interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act.

Conflict with 1940 Act

Our bylaws provide that, if and to the extent that any provision of the Maryland General Corporation Law, or any provision of our charter or bylaws conflicts with any provision of the 1940 Act, the applicable provision of the 1940 Act will control.

Regulatory Restrictions

Our wholly-owned subsidiary, HC IV, has obtained a SBIC license. The SBA prohibits, without prior SBA approval, a “change of control” or transfers which would result in any person (or group of persons acting in concert) owning 10% or more of any class of capital stock of a SBIC. A “change of control” is any event which would result in a transfer of the power, direct or indirect, to direct the management and policies of a SBIC, whether through ownership, contractual arrangements or otherwise.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK

In addition to shares of common stock, our charter authorizes the issuance of preferred stock. We may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more classes or series, without stockholder approval. If we offer preferred stock under this prospectus we will issue an appropriate prospectus supplement. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, our Board of Directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series. Thus, the Board of Directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. You should note, however, that any such an issuance must adhere to the requirements of the 1940 Act, Maryland law and any other limitations imposed by law.

The following is a general description of the terms of the preferred stock we may issue from time to time. Particular terms of any preferred stock we offer will be described in the prospectus supplement accompanying each preferred share offering.

The 1940 Act requires, among other things, that (i) immediately after issuance and before any dividend or other distribution is made with respect to our common stock and before any purchase of common stock is made, such preferred stock together with all other senior securities must not exceed an amount equal to 50% of our total assets after deducting the amount of such dividend, distribution or purchase price, as the case may be, (ii) the holders of shares of preferred stock, if any are issued, must be entitled as a class to elect two directors at all times and to elect a majority of the directors if dividends or other distribution on the preferred stock are in arrears by two years or more, and (iii) such shares be cumulative as to distributions and have a complete preference over our common stock to payment of their liquidation in event of dissolution. Some matters under the 1940 Act require the separate vote of the holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock. For example, holders of preferred stock would vote separately from the holders of common stock on a proposal to cease operations as a BDC. We believe that the availability for issuance of preferred stock will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring future financings and acquisitions.

For any series of preferred stock that we may issue, our Board of Directors will determine and the articles supplementary and the prospectus supplement relating to such series will describe:

- the designation and number of shares of such series;
- the rate and time at which, and the preferences and conditions under which, any dividends or other distributions will be paid on shares of such series, as well as whether such dividends or other distributions are participating or non-participating;
- any provisions relating to convertibility or exchangeability of the shares of such series, including adjustments to the conversion price of such series;
- the rights and preferences, if any, of holders of shares of such series upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- the voting powers, if any, of the holders of shares of such series;
- any provisions relating to the redemption of the shares of such series;
- any limitations on our ability to pay dividends or make distributions on, or acquire or redeem, other securities while shares of such series are outstanding;
- any conditions or restrictions on our ability to issue additional shares of such series or other securities;
- if applicable, a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

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- any other relative powers, preferences and participating, optional or special rights of shares of such series, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof.

All shares of preferred stock that we may issue will be identical and of equal rank except as to the particular terms thereof that may be fixed by our Board of Directors, and all shares of each series of preferred stock will be identical and of equal rank except as to the dates from which dividends or other distributions, if any, thereon will be cumulative. To the extent we issue preferred stock, the payment of distributions to holders of our preferred stock will take priority over payment of distributions to our common stockholders. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to any preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete articles supplementary that contain the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

The following is a general description of the terms of the subscription rights we may issue from time to time. Particular terms of any subscription rights we offer will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such subscription rights.

We may issue subscription rights to our stockholders to purchase common stock. Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other offered security and may or may not be transferable by the person purchasing or receiving the subscription rights. In connection with a subscription rights offering to our stockholders, we would distribute certificates evidencing the subscription rights and a prospectus supplement to our stockholders on the record date that we set for receiving subscription rights in such subscription rights offering.

Our stockholders will indirectly bear all of the expenses of the subscription rights offering, regardless of whether our stockholders exercise any subscription rights.

A prospectus supplement will describe the particular terms of any subscription rights we may issue, including the following:

- the period of time the offering would remain open (which shall be open a minimum number of days such that all record holders would be eligible to participate in the offering and shall not be open longer than 120 days);
- the title and aggregate number of such subscription rights;
- the exercise price for such subscription rights (or method of calculation thereof);
- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of such subscription rights may be payable;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the subscription rights are issued and the number of subscription rights issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;
- the ratio of the offering (which, in the case of transferable rights, will require a minimum of three shares to be held of record before a person is entitled to purchase an additional share);
- the number of such subscription rights issued to each stockholder;
- the extent to which such subscription rights are transferable and the market on which they may be traded if they are transferable;
- the date on which the right to exercise such subscription rights shall commence, and the date on which such right shall expire (subject to any extension);
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum number of subscription rights that may be exercised at one time;
- the extent to which such subscription rights include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities and the terms of such over-subscription privilege;
- any termination right we may have in connection with such subscription rights offering;
- the terms of any rights to redeem, or call such subscription rights;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the subscription rights;
- the material terms of any standby underwriting, backstop or other purchase arrangement that we may enter into in connection with the subscription rights offering;

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- if applicable, a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the issuance or exercise of such subscription rights; and
- any other terms of such subscription rights, including exercise, settlement and other procedures and limitations relating to the transfer and exercise of such subscription rights.

Each subscription right will entitle the holder of the subscription right to purchase for cash or other consideration such amount of shares of common stock at such subscription price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the prospectus supplement relating to the subscription rights offered thereby. Subscription rights may be exercised as set forth in the prospectus supplement beginning on the date specified therein and continuing until the close of business on the expiration date for such subscription rights set forth in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised subscription rights will become void.

Upon receipt of payment and the subscription rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the subscription rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement we will forward, as soon as practicable, the shares of common stock purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the rights represented by such subscription rights certificate are exercised, a new subscription certificate will be issued for the remaining rights. Prior to exercising their subscription rights, holders of subscription rights will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise. To the extent permissible under applicable law, we may determine to offer any unsubscribed offered securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under the 1940 Act, we may generally only offer subscription rights (other than rights to subscribe expiring not later than 120 days after their issuance and issued exclusively and ratably to a class or classes of our security holders) on the condition that (1) the subscription rights expire by their terms within ten years; (2) the exercise price is not less than the current market value at the date of issuance; (3) our stockholders authorize the proposal to issue such subscription rights, and a “required” majority of our Board of Directors approves of such issuance on the basis that the issuance is in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders; and (4) if the subscription rights are accompanied by other securities, the subscription rights are not separately transferable unless no class of such subscription rights and the securities accompanying them has been publicly distributed. A “required” majority of our Board of Directors is a vote of both a majority of our directors who have no financial interest in the transaction and a majority of the directors who are not interested persons of the company. The 1940 Act also provides that the amount of our voting securities that would result from the exercise of all outstanding warrants, options and subscription rights at the time of issuance may not exceed 25% of our outstanding voting securities.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following is a general description of the terms of the warrants we may issue from time to time. Particular terms of any warrants we offer will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants and will be subject to compliance with the 1940 Act.

We may issue warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities. Such warrants may be issued independently or together with shares of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities and may be attached or separate from such securities. We will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency for or with holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

A prospectus supplement will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants we may issue, including the following:

- the title and aggregate number of such warrants;
- the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;
- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of such warrants may be payable;
- 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 or each principal amount of such security;
- in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at which and the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;
- in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at which and the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;
- the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right will expire (subject to any extension);
- whether such warrants will be issued in registered form or bearer form;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- if applicable, the date on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- the terms of any rights to redeem, or call such warrants;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

We and the warrant agent may amend or supplement the warrant agreement for a series of warrants without the consent of the holders of the warrants issued thereunder to effect changes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the warrants and that do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants.

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Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such common stock or preferred stock at the exercise price or such principal amount of debt securities as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. Warrants may be exercised as set forth in the prospectus supplement beginning on the date specified therein and continuing until the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Upon receipt of payment and a warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the warrants represented by such warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Prior to exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including, in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive principal, premium, if any, or interest payments, on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture or, in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends or other distributions, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise any voting rights.

Under the 1940 Act, we may generally only offer warrants provided that (i) the warrants expire by their terms within ten years, (ii) the exercise or conversion price is not less than the current market value at the date of issuance, (iii) our stockholders authorize the proposal to issue such warrants, and our Board of Directors approves such issuance on the basis that the issuance is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and (iv) if the warrants are accompanied by other securities, the warrants are not separately transferable unless no class of such warrants and the securities accompanying them has been publicly distributed. The 1940 Act also provides that the amount of our voting securities that would result from the exercise of all outstanding warrants, as well as options and rights, at the time of issuance may not exceed 25% of our outstanding voting securities.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities in one or more series. The specific terms of each series of debt securities will be described in this prospectus and in the particular prospectus supplement relating to that series. The prospectus supplement may or may not modify the general terms found in this prospectus and will be filed with the SEC. For a complete description of the terms of a particular series of debt securities, including any supplemental indenture, you should read both this prospectus and the prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus relating to that particular series.

As required by federal law for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities are governed by a document called an “indenture.” An indenture is a contract between us and U.S. Bank National Association, a financial institution acting as trustee on your behalf, and is subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. The trustee has two main roles. First, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on your behalf, described in the second paragraph under “Events of Default—Remedies if an Event of Default Occurs.” Second, the trustee performs certain administrative duties for us.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities and the indenture. The following description summarizes the material provisions of the indenture. We urge you to read the indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as a holder of debt securities. For example, in this section, we use capitalized words to signify terms that are specifically defined in the indenture. We have filed the form of the indenture with the SEC. See “Available Information” for information on how to obtain a copy of the indenture.

A prospectus supplement, which will accompany this prospectus, will describe the particular terms of any series of debt securities being offered, including the following:

- the designation or title of the series of debt securities;
- the total principal amount of the series of debt securities;
- the percentage of the principal amount at which the series of debt securities will be offered;
- the date or dates on which principal will be payable;
- the rate or rates (which may be either fixed or variable) and/or the method of determining such rate or rates of interest, if any;
- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, or the method of determining such date or dates, and the date or dates on which any interest will be payable;
- the terms for redemption, extension or early repayment, if any;
- the currencies in which the series of debt securities are issued and payable;
- whether the amount of payments of principal, premium or interest, if any, on a series of debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which could be based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices) and how these amounts will be determined;
- the place or places, if any, other than or in addition to the City of New York, of payment, transfer, conversion and/or exchange of the debt securities;
- the denominations in which the offered debt securities will be issued;
- the provision for any sinking fund;
- any restrictive covenants;

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- any Events of Default;
- whether the series of debt securities are issuable in certificated form;
- any provisions for defeasance or covenant defeasance;
- if applicable, U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to OID;
- whether and under what circumstances we will pay additional amounts in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem the debt securities rather than pay the additional amounts (and the terms of this option);
- any provisions for convertibility or exchangeability of the debt securities into or for any other securities;
- whether the debt securities are subject to subordination and the terms of such subordination;
- the listing, if any, on a securities exchange; and
- any other terms.

The debt securities may be secured or unsecured obligations. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, principal (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, will be paid by us in immediately available funds.

We are permitted, under specified conditions, to issue multiple classes of indebtedness if our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least equal to 150%, subject to certain disclosure requirements, immediately after each such issuance. In addition, while any indebtedness and other senior securities remain outstanding, we must make provisions to prohibit any distribution to our stockholders or the repurchase of such securities or shares unless we meet the applicable asset coverage ratios at the time of the distribution or repurchase. We may also borrow amounts up to 5% of the value of our total assets for temporary or emergency purposes without regard to asset coverage.

General

The indenture provides that any debt securities proposed to be sold under this prospectus and the attached prospectus supplement (“offered debt securities”) and any debt securities issuable upon the exercise of warrants or upon conversion or exchange of other offered securities (“underlying debt securities”), may be issued under the indenture in one or more series.

For purposes of this prospectus, any reference to the payment of principal of or premium or interest, if any, on debt securities will include additional amounts if required by the terms of the debt securities.

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued thereunder from time to time. Debt securities issued under the indenture, when a single trustee is acting for all debt securities issued under the indenture, are called the “indenture securities.” The indenture also provides that there may be more than one trustee thereunder, each with respect to one or more different series of indenture securities. See “Resignation of Trustee” section below. At a time when two or more trustees are acting under the indenture, each with respect to only certain series, the term “indenture securities” means the one or more series of debt securities with respect to which each respective trustee is acting. In the event that there is more than one trustee under the indenture, the powers and trust obligations of each trustee described in this prospectus will extend only to the one or more series of indenture securities for which it is trustee. If two or more trustees are acting under the indenture, then the indenture securities for which each trustee is acting would be treated as if issued under separate indentures.

We refer you to the prospectus supplement for information with respect to any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or our covenants that are described below, including any addition of a covenant or other provision providing event risk or similar protection.

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We have the ability to issue indenture securities with terms different from those of indenture securities previously issued and, without the consent of the holders thereof, to reopen a previous issue of a series of indenture securities and issue additional indenture securities of that series unless the reopening was restricted when that series was created.

Conversion and Exchange

If any debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities, the prospectus supplement will explain the terms and conditions of the conversion or exchange, including the conversion price or exchange ratio (or the calculation method), the conversion or exchange period (or how the period will be determined), if conversion or exchange will be mandatory or at the option of the holder or us, provisions for adjusting the conversion price or the exchange ratio and provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of the redemption of the underlying debt securities. These terms may also include provisions under which the number or amount of other securities to be received by the holders of the debt securities upon conversion or exchange would be calculated according to the market price of the other securities as of a time stated in the prospectus supplement.

Issuance of Securities in Registered Form

We may issue the debt securities in registered form, in which case we may issue them either in book-entry form only or in “certificated” form. Debt securities issued in book-entry form will be represented by global securities. We expect that we will usually issue debt securities in book-entry only form represented by global securities.

Book-Entry Holders

We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means debt securities will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a depository that will hold them on behalf of financial institutions that participate in the depository’s book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the debt securities held by the depository or its nominee. These institutions may hold these interests on behalf of themselves or customers.

Under the indenture, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that debt security. Consequently, for debt securities issued in book-entry form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the debt securities and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depository. The depository will then pass along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn will pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities.

As a result, investors will not own debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository’s book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the debt securities are represented by one or more global securities, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Street Name Holders

In the future, we may issue debt securities in certificated form or terminate a global security. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their debt securities in their own names or in “street name.” Debt securities held in street name are registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution chosen by the investor, and the investor would hold a beneficial interest in those debt securities through the account he or she maintains at that institution.

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For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions will pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the applicable trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the applicable trustee, run only to the legal holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a debt security or has no choice because we are issuing the debt securities only in book-entry form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend an indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture), we would seek the approval only from the holders, and not the indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the holders.

When we refer to you, we mean those who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect holders of those debt securities. When we refer to your debt securities, we mean the debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, we urge you to check with that institution to find out:

- how it handles securities payments and notices,
- whether it imposes fees or charges,
- how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required,
- Whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future for a particular series of debt securities,
- how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests, and
- if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

As noted above, we usually will issue debt securities as registered securities in book-entry form only. A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we

select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under “Special Situations when a Global Security Will Be Terminated.” As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that has an account with the depository. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the debt security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

As an indirect holder, an investor’s rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor’s financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. The depository that holds the global security will be considered the holder of the debt securities represented by the global security.

If debt securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- An investor cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below.
- An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under “Issuance of Securities in Registered Form” above.
- An investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form.
- An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective.
- The depository’s policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor’s interest in a global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository’s actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way.
- If we redeem less than all the debt securities of a particular series being redeemed, DTC’s practice is to determine by lot the amount to be redeemed from each of its participants holding that series.
- An investor is required to give notice of exercise of any option to elect repayment of its debt securities, through its participant, to the applicable trustee and to deliver the related debt securities by causing its participant to transfer its interest in those debt securities, on DTC’s records, to the applicable trustee.
- DTC requires that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security deposited in its book-entry system use immediately available funds. Your broker or bank may also require you to use immediately available funds when purchasing or selling interests in a global security.
- Financial institutions that participate in the depository’s book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments,

notices and other matters relating to the debt securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations when a Global Security will be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in it will be exchanged for certificates in non-book-entry form (certificated securities). After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold the certificated debt securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in a global security transferred on termination to their own names, so that they will be holders. We have described the rights of legal holders and street name investors under “Issuance of Securities in Registered Form” above.

The prospectus supplement may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by the prospectus supplement. If a global security is terminated, only the depository, and not we or the applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the debt securities represented by the global security will be registered and, therefore, who will be the holders of those debt securities.

Payment and Paying Agents

We will pay interest to the person listed in the applicable trustee’s records as the owner of the debt security at the close of business on a particular day in advance of each due date for interest, even if that person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. That day, often approximately two weeks in advance of the interest due date, is called the “record date.” Because we will pay all the interest for an interest period to the holders on the record date, holders buying and selling debt securities must work out between themselves the appropriate purchase price. The most common manner is to adjust the sales price of the debt securities to prorate interest fairly between buyer and seller based on their respective ownership periods within the particular interest period. This prorated interest amount is called “accrued interest.”

Payments on Global Securities

We will make payments on a global security in accordance with the applicable policies of the depository as in effect from time to time. Under those policies, we will make payments directly to the depository, or its nominee, and not to any indirect holders who own beneficial interests in the global security. An indirect holder’s right to those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants.

Payments on Certificated Securities

We will make payments on a certificated debt security as follows. We will pay interest that is due on an interest payment date by check mailed on the interest payment date to the holder at his or her address shown on the trustee’s records as of the close of business on the regular record date. We will make all payments of principal and premium, if any, by check at the office of the applicable trustee in New York, New York and/or at other offices that may be specified in the prospectus supplement or in a notice to holders against surrender of the debt security.

Alternatively, if the holder asks us to do so, we will pay any amount that becomes due on the debt security by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account at a bank in New York City, on the due date. To request payment by wire, the holder must give the applicable trustee or other paying agent appropriate transfer instructions at least 15 business days before the requested wire payment is due. In the case of any interest payment due on an interest payment date, the instructions must be given by the person who is the holder on the relevant regular record date. Any wire instructions, once properly given, will remain in effect unless and until new instructions are given in the manner described above.

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Payment when Offices are Closed

If any payment is due on a debt security on a day that is not a business day, we will make the payment on the next day that is a business day. Payments made on the next business day in this situation will be treated under the indenture as if they were made on the original due date, except as otherwise indicated in the attached prospectus supplement. Such payment will not result in a default under any debt security or the indenture, and no interest will accrue on the payment amount from the original due date to the next day that is a business day.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Events of Default

You will have rights if an Event of Default occurs in respect of the debt securities of your series and is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

The term “Event of Default” in respect of the debt securities of your series means any of the following (unless the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities states otherwise):

- we do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, a debt security of the series on its due date, and do not cure this default within five days;
- we do not pay interest on a debt security of the series when due, and such default is not cured within 30 days;
- we do not deposit any sinking fund payment in respect of debt securities of the series on its due date, and do not cure this default within five days;
- we remain in breach of a covenant in respect of debt securities of the series for 60 days after we receive a written notice of default stating we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of debt securities of the series;
- we file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur and remain undischarged or unstayed for a period of 60 days;
- on the last business day of each of 24 consecutive calendar months, we have an asset coverage of less than 100%; and
- any other Event of Default in respect of debt securities of the series described in the applicable prospectus supplement occurs.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the same or any other indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except in the payment of principal, premium or interest, if it considers the withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders.

Remedies if an Event of Default Occurs

If an Event of Default has occurred and has not been cured, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. In certain circumstances, a declaration of acceleration of maturity may be canceled by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.

The trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability (called an “indemnity”). If reasonable

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indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. The trustee may refuse to follow those directions in certain circumstances. No delay or omission in exercising any right or remedy will be treated as a waiver of that right, remedy or Event of Default.

Before you are allowed to bypass your trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the debt securities, the following must occur:

- the holder must give your trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured;
- the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action;
- the trustee must not have taken action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity; and
- the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities must not have given the trustee a direction inconsistent with the above notice during that 60 day period.

However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt securities on or after the due date.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may waive any past defaults other than:

- the payment of principal, any premium or interest; or
- in respect of a covenant that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee and how to declare or cancel an acceleration of maturity.

Each year, we will furnish to each trustee a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that to their knowledge we are in compliance with the indenture and the debt securities, or else specifying any default.

Merger or Consolidation

Under the terms of the indenture, we are generally permitted to consolidate or merge with another entity. We may also be permitted to sell all or substantially all of our assets to another entity. However, unless the prospectus supplement relating to certain debt securities states otherwise, we may not take any of these actions unless all the following conditions are met:

- where we merge out of existence or sell our assets, the resulting entity must agree to be legally responsible for our obligations under the debt securities;
- immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default or Event of Default shall have happened and be continuing;
- under the indenture, no merger or sale of assets may be made if as a result any of our property or assets or any property or assets of one of our subsidiaries, if any, would become subject to any mortgage, lien or other encumbrance unless either (a) the mortgage, lien or other encumbrance could be created;

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- pursuant to the limitation on liens covenant in the indenture without equally and ratably securing the indenture securities or (b) the indenture securities are secured equally and ratably with or prior to the debt secured by the mortgage, lien or other encumbrance;
- we must deliver certain certificates and documents to the trustee; and
- we must satisfy any other requirements specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities.

Modification or Waiver

There are three types of changes we can make to the indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder.

Changes Requiring Approval

First, there are changes that we cannot make to debt securities without specific approval of all of the holders. The following is a list of those types of changes:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of or interest on a debt security;
- reduce any amounts due on a debt security;
- reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of a security following a default;
- adversely affect any right of repayment at the holder's option;
- change the place (except as otherwise described in the prospectus or prospectus supplement) or currency of payment on a debt security;
- impair your right to sue for payment;
- adversely affect any right to convert or exchange a debt security in accordance with its terms;
- modify the subordination provisions in the indenture in a manner that is adverse to holders of the debt securities;
- reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;
- reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to waive certain defaults;
- modify any other aspect of the provisions of the indenture dealing with supplemental indentures, modification and waiver of past defaults, changes to the quorum or voting requirements or the waiver of certain covenants; and
- change any obligation we have to pay additional amounts.

Changes Not Requiring Approval

The second type of change does not require any vote by the holders of the debt securities. This type is limited to clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect holders of the outstanding debt securities in any material respect. We also do not need any approval to make any change that affects only debt securities to be issued under the indenture after the change takes effect.

Changes Requiring Majority Approval

Any other change to the indenture and the debt securities would require the following approval:

- if the change affects only one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of that series; and

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- if the change affects more than one series of debt securities issued under the same indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all of the series affected by the change, with all affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of all of the series of debt securities issued under an indenture, voting together as one class for this purpose, may waive our compliance with some of our covenants in that indenture. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or of any of the matters covered by the bullet points included above under “—Changes Requiring Approval.”

Further Details Concerning Voting

When taking a vote, we will use the following rules to decide how much principal to attribute to a debt security:

- for OID securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of these debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default;
- for debt securities whose principal amount is not known (for example, because it is based on an index), we will use a special rule for that debt security described in the prospectus supplement; and
- for debt securities denominated in one or more foreign currencies, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust money for their payment or redemption. Debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if they have been fully defeased as described later under “Defeasance—Full Defeasance.”

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding indenture securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture. If we set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of one or more series, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding indenture securities of those series on the record date and must be taken within eleven months following the record date.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indenture or the debt securities or request a waiver.

Defeasance

The following provisions will be applicable to each series of debt securities unless we state in the applicable prospectus supplement that the provisions of covenant defeasance and full defeasance will not be applicable to that series.

Covenant Defeasance

Under current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the deposit described below and be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture under which the particular series was issued. This is called “covenant defeasance.” In that event, you would lose the protection of those restrictive covenants but would gain the protection of having money and government securities set aside in trust to repay your debt securities. If applicable, you also would be released from the subordination provisions as described under the “Indenture Provisions—Subordination” section below. In order to achieve covenant defeasance, we must do the following:

- if the debt securities of the particular series are denominated in U.S. dollars, we must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of such debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the debt securities on their various due dates;

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- we must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that, under current U.S. federal income tax law, we may make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and just repaid the debt securities ourselves at maturity; and
- we must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel stating that the above deposit does not require registration by us under the 1940 Act, as amended, and a legal opinion and officers' certificate stating that all conditions precedent to covenant defeasance have been complied with.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, you can still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit or the trustee is prevented from making payment. For example, if one of the remaining Events of Default occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and the debt securities became immediately due and payable, there might be a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Full Defeasance

If there is a change in U.S. federal tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the debt securities of a particular series (called "full defeasance") if we put in place the following other arrangements for you to be repaid:

- if the debt securities of the particular series are denominated in U.S. dollars, we must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of such debt securities a combination of money and United States government or United States government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the debt securities on their various due dates.
- we must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion confirming that there has been a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an IRS ruling that allows us to make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and just repaid the debt securities ourselves at maturity. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the debt securities would be treated as though we paid you your share of the cash and notes or bonds at the time the cash and notes or bonds were deposited in trust in exchange for your debt securities and you would recognize gain or loss on the debt securities at the time of the deposit;
- we must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel stating that the above deposit does not require registration by us under the 1940 Act, as amended, and a legal opinion and officers' certificate stating that all conditions precedent to defeasance have been complied with;
- Defeasance must not result in a breach of the indenture or any other material agreements; and
- Satisfy the conditions for covenant defeasance contained in any supplemental indentures.

If we ever did accomplish full defeasance, as described above, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for repayment of the debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the unlikely event of any shortfall. Conversely, the trust deposit would most likely be protected from claims of our lenders and other creditors if we ever became bankrupt or insolvent. If applicable, you would also be released from the subordination provisions described later under "Indenture Provisions—Subordination."

Form, Exchange and Transfer of Certificated Registered Securities

Holders may exchange their certificated securities, if any, for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their certificated securities, if any, at the office of their trustee. We have appointed the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders transferring debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

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Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their certificated securities, if any, but they may be required to pay any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in your prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If any certificated securities of a particular series are redeemable and we redeem less than all the debt securities of that series, we may block the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of any certificated securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security that will be partially redeemed.

Resignation of Trustee

Each trustee may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of indenture securities provided that a successor trustee is appointed to act with respect to these series. In the event that two or more persons are acting as trustee with respect to different series of indenture securities under the indenture, each of the trustees will be a trustee of a trust separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee.

Indenture Provisions—Subordination

Upon any distribution of our assets upon our dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on any indenture securities denominated as subordinated debt securities is to be subordinated to the extent provided in the indenture in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness (as defined below), but our obligation to you to make payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such subordinated debt securities will not otherwise be affected. In addition, no payment on account of principal (or premium, if any), sinking fund or interest, if any, may be made on such subordinated debt securities at any time unless full payment of all amounts due in respect of the principal (and premium, if any), sinking fund and interest on senior indebtedness has been made or duly provided for in money or money's worth.

In the event that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any payment by us is received by the trustee in respect of subordinated debt securities or by the holders of any of such subordinated debt securities before all senior indebtedness is paid in full, the payment or distribution must be paid over to the holders of the senior indebtedness or on their behalf for application to the payment of all the senior indebtedness remaining unpaid until all the senior indebtedness has been paid in full, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to the holders of the senior indebtedness. Subject to the payment in full of all senior indebtedness upon this distribution by us, the holders of such subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of the senior indebtedness to the extent of payments made to the holders of the senior indebtedness out of the distributive share of such subordinated debt securities.

By reason of this subordination, in the event of a distribution of our assets upon our insolvency, certain of our senior creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of any subordinated debt securities. The indenture provides that these subordination provisions will not apply to money and securities held in trust under the defeasance provisions of the indenture.

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Senior indebtedness is defined in the indenture as the principal of (and premium, if any) and unpaid interest on:

- our indebtedness (including indebtedness of others guaranteed by us), whenever created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed, for money borrowed (other than indenture securities issued under the indenture and denominated as subordinated debt securities), unless in the instrument creating or evidencing the same or under which the same is outstanding it is provided that this indebtedness is not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities; and
- renewals, extensions, modifications and refinancings of any of this indebtedness.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with the offering of a series of indenture securities denominated as subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement to this prospectus will set forth the approximate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date.

Secured Indebtedness

Certain of our indebtedness, including certain series of indenture securities, may be secured. The prospectus supplement for each series of indenture securities will describe the terms of any security interest for such series and will indicate the approximate amount of our secured indebtedness as of a recent date. In the event of a distribution of our assets upon our insolvency, the holders of unsecured indenture securities may recover less, ratably, than holders of any of our secured indebtedness.

The Trustee under the Indenture

U.S. Bank National Association will serve as the trustee under the indenture.

Certain Considerations Relating to Foreign Currencies

Debt securities denominated or payable in foreign currencies may entail significant risks. These risks include the possibility of significant fluctuations in the foreign currency markets, the imposition or modification of foreign exchange controls and potential illiquidity in the secondary market. These risks will vary depending upon the currency or currencies involved and will be more fully described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

REGULATION

The information contained under “Business” under the caption “Regulation” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference herein.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities in one or more underwritten public offerings, at-the-market offerings, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market for the securities, on an exchange, or otherwise, negotiated transactions, block trades, best efforts, auctions or a combination of these methods. The holders of our common stock will indirectly bear any fees and expenses in connection with any such offerings. We may sell the securities through underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, through agents or through a combination of any such methods of sale. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. A prospectus supplement or supplements will also describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including: the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale; any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us; any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation; any expenses we incur in connection with the sale of such securities; the public offering price; any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers; and any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed. Only underwriters named in the applicable prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by the applicable prospectus supplement.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices, at negotiated prices, or at prices determined by an auction process, provided, however, that the offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, must equal or exceed the NAV per share of our common stock at the time of the offering except (1) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (2) with the consent of the majority of our voting securities or (3) under such circumstances as the SEC may permit. The price at which securities may be distributed may represent a discount from prevailing market prices. Although we are not currently authorized to issue shares of our common stock at a price below our NAV per share, we may seek stockholder approval of this proposal again at a special meeting of stockholders or our next annual meeting of stockholders. Our Board of Directors, subject to its fiduciary duties and regulatory requirements, has the discretion to determine the amount of the discount, and as a result, the discount could be up to 100% of NAV per share.

In connection with the sale of our securities, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of our securities, for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell our securities to or through dealers and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of our securities may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act, and any discounts and commissions they receive from us and any profit realized by them on the resale of our securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Any such underwriter or agent will be identified and any such compensation received from us will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of

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the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the NYSE may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NYSE in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of our common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each class or series of securities will be a new issue with no trading market, other than our common stock, which is traded on the NYSE. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchanges, but we are not obligated to do so. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Under agreements that we may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of our securities may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase our securities from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date. Institutions with which such contracts may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others, but in all cases such institutions must be approved by us. The obligations of any purchaser under any such contract will be subject to the condition that the purchase of our securities shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which such purchaser is subject. The underwriters and such other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of such contracts. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such contracts.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in such sale transactions will be underwriters and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the maximum compensation to the underwriters or dealers in connection with the sale of our securities pursuant to this

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prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement may not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the securities as set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, our securities offered hereby will be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Securities we hold in connection with our investments are held under a custody agreement with Computershare. The address of the custodian is 9062 Old Annapolis Road, Columbia, MD 21045. We have also entered into custody agreements with State Street Bank and Trust Company located at 100 Summer Street, 5th Floor, Boston Massachusetts 02110 and City National Bank located at 555 S. Flower St, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, will act as our transfer agent, dividend paying and reinvestment agent and registrar. The principal business address of the transfer agent is 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters regarding the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Dechert LLP, New York, NY. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for underwriters, if any, by the counsel named in the prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, located at 405 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC. Pursuant to the SBCEA, we are allowed to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings (including those made after the date of the filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part) we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until the termination of the offering of the securities covered by this prospectus; provided, however, that information "furnished" under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K or other information "furnished" to the SEC which is not deemed filed is not incorporated by reference:

- our Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, filed with the SEC on February 23, 2021;

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- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2021, June 30, 2021 and September 30, 2021, filed with the SEC on [April 29, 2021](#), [July 29, 2021](#) and [October 28, 2021](#), respectively;
- our Definitive Proxy Statement on [Schedule 14A](#), filed with the SEC on April 27, 2021;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on [February 23, 2021](#), [March 4, 2021](#), [March 8, 2021](#), [April 29, 2021](#), [May 28, 2021](#), [June 25, 2021](#), [July 13, 2021](#), [July 29, 2021](#), [September 15, 2021](#), [September 16, 2021](#), [September 24, 2021](#), [October 20, 2021](#), [October 28, 2021](#), [November 10, 2021](#) and [November 29, 2021](#); and
- The description of our Common Stock referenced in our Registration Statement on [Form 8-A](#) (No. 001-35515), as filed with the SEC on April 17, 2012, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description prior to the termination of the offering of the common stock registered hereby;

These documents may also be accessed on our website at www.htgc.com. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website is not a part of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into these documents) at no cost by writing or calling Investor Relations at the following address and telephone number:

Hercules Capital, Inc.
400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310
Palo Alto, California 94301
(650) 433-5578

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed electronically by us with the SEC which are available on the SEC's Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of these reports, proxy and information statements and other information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

We maintain a website on the Internet at www.htgc.com. Except for the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, the information on our website is not part of this prospectus. We make available, free of charge, on our website our proxy statement, annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

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% Notes due

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Joint Book-Running Managers

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

RBC Capital Markets

SMBC Nikko

Co-Managers

HSBC

Zions Capital Markets

The date of this prospectus supplement is January , 2022.
