

HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE

Form 424B5

April 02, 2012

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-168532

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has become effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED APRIL 2, 2012

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated August 4, 2010.

\$

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

% Fixed-To-Floating Rate

Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2042

The % fixed-to-floating rate junior subordinated debentures due 2042, which are referred to in this prospectus supplement as the Debentures, are unsecured, subordinated debt instruments, and will initially bear interest commencing on April 15, 2012 to but excluding April 15, 2022 at an annual rate of %, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2012, to and including April 15, 2022. Commencing on April 15, 2022 the Debentures will bear interest at an annual rate equal to three-month LIBOR, reset quarterly, plus %, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2022. So long as no event of default with respect to the Debentures has occurred and is continuing, we have the right, on one or more occasions, to defer the payment of interest on the Debentures as described in this prospectus supplement for up to ten consecutive years without giving rise to an event of default. Deferred interest will accumulate additional interest at an annual rate equal to the annual interest rate then applicable to the Debentures.

The Debentures will be issued in denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof. The Debentures will mature on April 15, 2042 (or if such day is not a business day, the following business day).

We may redeem the Debentures, in whole but not in part, at any time prior to April 15, 2022, within 90 days of the occurrence of a tax event or rating agency event at a redemption price equal to their principal amount or, if greater, the make-whole redemption amount calculated as described herein, in each case, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption. On or after April 15, 2022, we may redeem the Debentures, in whole or in part, at their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption.

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

Concurrently with this offering of debentures, we are offering, by means of a separate prospectus supplement, in one or more series, \$ billion in aggregate principal amount of our senior debt securities. Neither this offering nor the concurrent offering of our senior debt securities is conditioned upon the successful completion of the other offering.

We intend to apply to list the Debentures on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, and we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 days of the initial issuance of the Debentures.

*Investing in the Debentures involves substantial risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under the **Risk Factors** section of this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-6 and similar sections in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission incorporated by reference herein before buying any of the Debentures offered hereby.*

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

	Per Debenture	Total
Public offering price ⁽¹⁾	%	\$
Underwriting discounts ⁽²⁾	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from April , 2012, if settlement occurs after that date.

(2) The underwriting discount is % per Debenture with respect to Debentures sold to certain institutions. Therefore, the total underwriting discounts will be less than the amount set forth above and the net proceeds to us will be greater than the amount set forth above. See Underwriting.

The underwriters expect to deliver the Debentures only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, on or about April , 2012.

Joint Structuring Advisors and Joint Book-Running Managers

Citigroup

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Barclays

Deutsche Bank Securities

J.P. Morgan

Prospectus Supplement dated April , 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-ii
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-iii
<u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u>	S-iii
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-iv
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-6
<u>Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions</u>	S-28
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-30
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-31
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	S-32
<u>Description of the Debentures</u>	S-33
<u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-44
<u>Benefit Plan Investor Considerations</u>	S-47
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-49
<u>Validity of the Debentures</u>	S-53
<u>Experts</u>	S-53

Prospectus

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	ii
<u>Forward-Looking Statements and Certain Risk Factors</u>	ii
<u>The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	1
<u>Description of the Debt Securities</u>	1
<u>Description of Junior Subordinated Debt Securities</u>	16
<u>Description of Capital Stock of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.</u>	30
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	36
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	39
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	41
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	42
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	44
<u>Experts</u>	44
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	45
<u>Incorporation by Reference</u>	45

Table of Contents

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. You should assume that the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the SEC is only accurate as of the respective dates of such documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, the debentures only in jurisdictions where such offers and sales are permitted.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of the Debentures and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of the Debentures.

If the description of this offering of the Debentures in the accompanying prospectus is different from the description in this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Information Incorporated by Reference** in this prospectus supplement before deciding whether to invest in the Debentures offered by this prospectus supplement.

Unless we have indicated otherwise, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to **The Hartford**, **we**, **us**, and **our** or similar terms are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries and references in this prospectus supplement to **the Company** are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, collectively.

You should not consider any information in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to be investment, legal or tax advice. You should consult your own counsel, accountants and other advisers for legal, tax, business, financial and related advice regarding the purchase of any of the Debentures offered by this prospectus supplement.

Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the **Order**) or (iii) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as **relevant persons**). The Debentures are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire the Debentures will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

No action has been or will be taken by us that would permit a public offering of the Debentures, or possession or distribution of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any other offering or publicity material relating to the Debentures, in any country or jurisdiction outside the United States where, or in any circumstances in which, action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, the Debentures may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other offering or publicity material relating to the Debentures may not be distributed or published, in or from any country or jurisdiction outside the United States except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus supplement is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules of the SEC allow us to omit from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus some of the information included in the registration statement. This information may be read and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of these public reference facilities. The SEC maintains an Internet site, <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that are subject to the SEC's reporting requirements.

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. We fulfill our obligations with respect to such requirements by filing periodic reports and other information with the SEC. These reports and other information are available as provided above and may also be inspected at the offices of The New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. This prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents listed below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;

our Definitive Proxy Statement filed on April 7, 2011 (other than information in the Definitive Proxy Statement that is not specifically incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 6, 2012, March 21, 2012 (other than information in the March 21, 2012 Current Report on Form 8-K that is deemed not to be filed), March 23, 2012 (with respect to Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers) and April 2, 2012 (other than information in the April 2, 2012 Current Report on Form 8-K that is deemed not to be filed); and

all documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, on or after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of this offering (other than information in the documents that is deemed not to be filed and that is not specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement).

Any statement made in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

You can obtain any of the filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement through us or from the SEC through the SEC's Internet site or at the address listed above. We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. You should direct requests for those documents to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, Attention: Investor Relations (telephone (860) 547-5000).

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain of the statements contained herein or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, intends, plans, seeks, believes, estimates, expects, project, similar references to future periods.

Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions regarding economic, competitive, legislative and other developments. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. They have been made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect upon us. Future developments may not be in line with management's expectations or have unanticipated effects. Actual results could differ materially from expectations, depending on the evolution of various factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth in this prospectus supplement, those set forth in Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and such other risk factors or similar information as included from time to time in our other filings with the SEC. These important risks and uncertainties include:

challenges related to our current operating environment, including continuing uncertainty about the strength and speed of the recovery in the United States and other key economies and the impact of governmental stimulus and austerity initiatives, sovereign credit concerns, including the potential consequences associated with recent and further potential downgrades to the credit ratings of debt issued by the United States government, European sovereigns and other adverse developments on financial, commodity and credit markets and consumer spending and investment, including in respect of Europe, and the effect of these events on our returns in our life and property and casualty investment portfolios and our hedging costs associated with our variable annuities business;

the risks, challenges and uncertainties associated with our March 21, 2012 announcement that we will focus on our Property and Casualty, Group Benefits and Mutual Fund businesses, place our Individual Annuity business into runoff and pursue sales or other strategic alternatives for the Individual Life, Woodbury Financial Services and Retirement Plans businesses and related implementation plans and goals and objectives, as set forth in our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 21, 2012;

the risk that we may not realize the benefits from the proposed repurchase of the 10% fixed-to-floating rate junior subordinated debentures due 2068 and the related proposed financing transactions as announced on April 2, 2012;

the success of our initiatives relating to the realignment of our businesses, including the continuing realignment of our hedge program for our variable annuity business, and plans to improve the profitability and long-term growth prospects of our key divisions, including through opportunistic acquisitions or divestitures or other actions or initiatives, and the impact of regulatory or other constraints on our ability to complete these initiatives and deploy capital among our businesses as and when planned;

market risks associated with our business, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, market volatility and foreign exchange rates, and implied volatility levels, as well as continuing uncertainty in key sectors such as the global real estate market;

the impact on our investment portfolio if our investment portfolio is concentrated in any particular segment of the economy;

volatility in our earnings and potential material changes to our results resulting from our adjustment of our risk management program to emphasize protection of statutory surplus and cash flows;

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

the impact on our statutory capital of various factors, including many that are outside our control, which can in turn affect our credit and financial strength ratings, cost of capital, regulatory compliance and other aspects of our business and results;

S-iv

Table of Contents

risks to our business, financial position, prospects and results associated with negative rating actions or downgrades in our financial strength and credit ratings or negative rating actions or downgrades relating to our investments;

the potential for differing interpretations of the methodologies, estimations and assumptions that underlie the valuation of our financial instruments that could result in changes to investment valuations;

the subjective determinations that underlie our evaluation of other-than-temporary impairments on available-for-sale securities;

losses due to nonperformance or defaults by others;

the potential for further acceleration of deferred policy acquisition cost amortization;

the potential for further impairments of our goodwill or the potential for changes in valuation allowances against deferred tax assets;

the possible occurrence of terrorist attacks and our ability to contain our exposure, including the effect of the absence or insufficiency of applicable terrorism legislation on coverage;

the possibility of unfavorable loss development including with respect to long-tailed exposures;

the difficulty in predicting our potential exposure for asbestos and environmental claims;

the possibility of a pandemic, earthquake, or other natural or man-made disaster that may adversely affect our businesses and cost and availability of reinsurance;

weather and other natural physical events, including the severity and frequency of storms, hail, winter storms, hurricanes and tropical storms, as well as climate change and its potential impact on weather patterns;

the response of reinsurance companies under reinsurance contracts and the availability, pricing and adequacy of reinsurance to protect us against losses;

actions by our competitors, many of which are larger or have greater financial resources than we do;

the Company's ability to distribute its products through distribution channels, both current and future;

the cost and other effects of increased regulation as a result of the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act), which, among other effects, has resulted in the establishment of a newly created Financial Services Oversight Council with the power to designate systemically important institutions, will require central clearing of, and/or impose new margin and capital requirements on, derivatives transactions, and created a new Federal Insurance Office within the U.S.

Department of the Treasury (Treasury);

unfavorable judicial or legislative developments;

the uncertain effects of emerging claim and coverage issues;

the potential effect of other domestic and foreign regulatory developments, including those that could adversely impact the demand for our products, operating costs and required capital levels, including changes to statutory reserves and/or risk-based capital requirements related to secondary guarantees under universal life and variable annuity products or changes in U.S. federal or other tax laws that affect the relative attractiveness of our investment products;

regulatory limitations on our ability and certain of our subsidiaries ability to declare and pay dividends;

our ability to effectively price our property and casualty policies, including our ability to obtain regulatory consents to pricing actions or to non-renewal or withdrawal of certain product lines;

our ability to maintain the availability of our systems and safeguard the security of our data in the event of a disaster, cyber or other information security incident or other unanticipated event;

S-v

Table of Contents

the risk that our framework for managing business risks may not be effective in mitigating material risk and loss;

the potential for difficulties arising from outsourcing relationships;

the impact of potential changes in federal or state tax laws, including changes affecting the availability of the separate account dividend received deduction;

the impact of potential changes in accounting principles and related financial reporting requirements;

our ability to protect our intellectual property and defend against claims of infringement; and

other factors described in such forward-looking statements.

Any forward-looking statement made by us in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any document incorporated by reference herein or therein or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC speaks only as of the date on which it is made. Factors or events that could cause our actual results to differ may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of them. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Because this is a summary, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. Before making an investment decision, you should read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, including the section entitled "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. is an insurance and financial services holding company. Hartford Fire Insurance Company, founded in 1810, is the oldest of our subsidiaries. At December 31, 2011, our total assets were \$304.1 billion and our total stockholders' equity was \$22.9 billion.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, and our telephone number is (860) 547-5000.

Recent Developments

On March 21, 2012, we announced the completion of an evaluation of our businesses and strategy. As a result of this review, which was conducted by our management and Board of Directors over the past several quarters, we announced that we will focus on our Property and Casualty, Group Benefits and Mutual Fund businesses, place our Individual Annuity business into runoff and pursue sales or other strategic alternatives for the Individual Life, Woodbury Financial Services and Retirement Plans businesses.

Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions

We and Allianz SE (together with certain of its affiliates, "Allianz") have entered into a Warrant and Debentures Purchase Agreement, dated as of March 30, 2012 (the "Purchase Agreement"), providing for: (i) our right to repurchase all our outstanding 10% fixed-to-floating rate junior subordinated debentures due 2068 with a \$1.75 billion aggregate principal amount (the "10% Debentures") for \$2.075 billion (plus a payment by us of unpaid interest on the 10% Debentures) and a payment by us of \$50 million in connection with the conferral of certain rights relating to the 10% Debentures repurchase; and (ii) the repurchase of the outstanding Series B warrant and the outstanding Series C warrant (collectively, the "Warrants") held by Allianz to purchase, subject to certain conditions, 69,351,806 shares of our common stock at a current exercise price of \$25.23 per share, subject to certain anti-dilution adjustments, for \$300 million.

We are proposing to finance the planned repurchase of our existing 10% Debentures through this offering and the concurrent offering, in one or more series, of \$ billion aggregate principal amount of % senior notes due 2017, % senior notes due 2022 and % senior notes due 2042 (the "Concurrent Offering"). We are repurchasing the Warrants through our \$500 million equity repurchase program authorized on July 27, 2011 (the "Equity Repurchase Program"). We intend to complete repurchases up to the remaining authorization of approximately \$106 million under the Equity Repurchase Program on a timely basis, taking into consideration market conditions and trading restrictions.

Under the Purchase Agreement, the Warrants are to be repurchased from Allianz on April 17, 2012. The 10% Debentures are also scheduled to be repurchased from Allianz on April 17, 2012, but at our option, such repurchase may be deferred to a later date selected by us. If the repurchase of the 10% Debentures is so deferred, we will also pay: (1) the unpaid interest on the 10% Debentures to the date of closing, and (2) additional interest in an amount that would accrue at the rate of 10% per annum on \$325 million from April 17, 2012 to the date of closing. At any time after April 17, 2012, we may terminate our commitment to purchase the 10% Debentures, but must then pay the amount set forth in item (2) above through the termination date. After June 30, 2012, if the closing of the purchase of the 10% Debentures has not occurred, Allianz will be entitled to terminate its commitment to sell the 10% Debentures and will be paid the additional interest set forth in item (2) above through such termination date, absent a failure by Allianz to take any action required to fulfill any of its obligations under the Purchase Agreement that has materially contributed or resulted in the failure of the closing to occur on or before June 30, 2012.

Table of Contents

Our plan to repurchase the 10% Debentures is contingent upon the termination of the replacement capital covenant, dated as of October 17, 2008 (the 10% Debentures RCC), which limits our ability to repurchase the 10% Debentures and was entered into for the benefit of the holders of our outstanding 6.1% senior notes due 2041 (the 2041 Notes), or such repurchase being otherwise permitted by the 10% Debentures RCC. Concurrent with this offering and by means of a separate consent solicitation statement and related letter of consent, we are soliciting the holders of the 2041 Notes for their consent to terminate the 10% Debentures RCC.

The 10% Debentures and the Warrants were issued to Allianz in private placement transactions pursuant to an investment agreement, dated October 17, 2008.

Except as otherwise indicated, this prospectus supplement assumes a completion of the repurchase of both the Warrants and the 10% Debentures. After giving effect to the repurchases, Allianz will hold approximately 5% of our outstanding common stock and no rights to acquire additional common stock.

Our agreement with Allianz, along with our planned financing of the proposed repurchase of the 10% Debentures through this offering and the Concurrent Offering, are designed to provide us with additional financial flexibility and an improved capital structure. These transactions are expected to reduce our anticipated annual interest expense by replacing high interest coupon debt with lower coupon debt, based upon our currently expected financing plans. In addition, the transactions are intended to result in a better balance between our senior and subordinated debt. As a consequence, however, of (i) the proposed repurchase of the 10% Debentures and (ii) the proposed issuance of Debentures in this offering and senior notes in the Concurrent Offering, our total long term debt as of December 31, 2011 of approximately \$6.2 billion will increase on an as adjusted basis for the foregoing transactions to approximately \$ billion. In addition, as a result of the transactions under the Purchase Agreement, our total stockholders equity will be reduced by approximately \$900 million as more fully described under Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions. See also Capitalization.

Neither this offering nor the Concurrent Offering is conditioned upon the successful completion of the other offering.

Table of Contents

The Debentures

Repayment of Principal

Any unpaid principal amount of the Debentures, together with accrued and unpaid interest, will be due and payable on April 15, 2042, the maturity date (or if such day is not a business day, the following business day).

Interest

Commencing on April 15, 2012 to but excluding April 15, 2022, or any earlier redemption date, the Debentures will bear interest at an annual rate of 8.125%. We will pay that interest quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2012, to and including April 15, 2022, subject to our right to defer the payment of interest and related obligations as described in Description of the Debentures Option to Defer Interest Payments. Commencing on April 15, 2022, to the maturity date unless redeemed or repaid earlier, the Debentures will bear interest at an annual rate equal to three-month LIBOR, reset quarterly, plus 0.5%, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2022, subject to our right to defer the payment of interest and related obligations as described in Description of the Debentures Option to Defer Interest Payments.

So long as no event of default with respect to the Debentures has occurred and is continuing, we have the right on one or more occasions to defer the payment of interest on the Debentures as described in Description of the Debentures Option to Defer Interest Payments, for up to ten consecutive years without giving rise to an event of default. During a deferral period, interest will continue to accrue on the Debentures at the then applicable rate described above, and deferred interest payments will accrue additional interest, at the then applicable interest rate on the Debentures, compounded quarterly as of each interest payment date to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Subordination

The Debentures will be unsecured, subordinated and junior in right of payment and upon our liquidation to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness (as defined under Description of the Debentures Ranking of the Debentures). In addition, the Debentures will be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including obligations to policyholders. The Debentures will rank equally in right of payment, subject to the provisions described under Description of the Debentures Option to Defer Interest Payments Certain limitations during a deferral period, and upon our liquidation with (i) any indebtedness the terms of which provide that such indebtedness ranks equally with the Debentures, including guarantees of such indebtedness, (ii) our existing 8.125% fixed-to-floating rate junior subordinated debentures due 2068 (the 8.125% Debentures), (iii) our existing 10% Debentures, which we intend to repurchase with the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering, (iv) our Income Capital Obligation Notes due 2067, issuable pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of February 12, 2007, between us and Wilmington Trust Company (the ICON securities), (v) our trade accounts payable, and (vi) any of our indebtedness owed to a person who is our subsidiary or employee.

The Debentures do not limit our or our subsidiaries ability to incur additional debt, including debt that ranks senior in right of payment and upon our liquidation to the Debentures. At December 31, 2011, our indebtedness, on an unconsolidated basis, totaled approximately \$6 billion, and after giving effect to this offering and the Concurrent Offering, will total approximately \$6.5 billion, all of which would rank senior to the Debentures other than our existing 8.125% Debentures, our existing 10% Debentures and the ICON securities, each of which will rank equally with the Debentures. In addition, the Debentures will be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities. At December 31, 2011, our subsidiaries indebtedness was approximately \$555 million, which includes approximately \$314 million of consumer notes.

Table of Contents

Certain Payment Restrictions Applicable to The Hartford

If we have exercised our right to defer interest payments on the Debentures, we generally may not make payments on or redeem or purchase any shares of our capital stock or any of our debt securities or guarantees that rank upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up equally with or junior to the Debentures, subject to certain limited exceptions. For more information, see [Description of the Debentures](#) [Option to Defer Interest Payments](#) [Certain limitations during a deferral period](#).

Redemption of the Debentures

We may elect to redeem the Debentures:

in whole at any time or in part from time to time on or after April 15, 2022, at a redemption price equal to their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption; provided that if the Debentures are not redeemed in whole, at least \$25 million aggregate principal amount of the Debentures must remain outstanding after giving effect to such redemption; or

in whole, but not in part, at any time prior to April 15, 2022, within 90 days of the occurrence of a [tax event](#) or [rating agency event](#), at a redemption price equal to their principal amount or, if greater, the [make-whole redemption amount](#), in each case, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption.

For more information and the definitions of [tax event](#), [rating agency event](#), and [make-whole redemption amount](#), see [Description of the Debentures](#) [Optional Redemption](#).

Events of Default

The following are events of default with respect to the Debentures:

the failure to pay interest in full, including compounded interest, on any Debenture for a period of 30 days after the conclusion of a ten-year period following the commencement of any deferral period or on the maturity date;

the failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any Debenture on the maturity date or upon redemption; or

certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership.

If an event of default under the indenture (as defined in [Description of the Debentures](#)) arising from a default in the payment of interest, principal or premium has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in outstanding principal amount of the Debentures will have the right to declare the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on the Debentures to be due and payable immediately. If an event of default under the indenture arising from an event of our bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership has occurred, the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on the Debentures will automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of Debentures, become immediately due and payable.

Denominations; Book-Entry

The Debentures will be issued in denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof. The Debentures will be represented by one or more global Debentures that will be deposited with and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company or its nominee for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*. We will not issue certificated Debentures, except in the limited circumstances described under [Description of the Debentures](#) [Book-Entry; Delivery and Form](#).

Table of Contents

Listing

The Debentures constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We intend to apply to list the Debentures on the NYSE, and we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 days of the initial issuance of the Debentures. We cannot assure you that an active after-market for the Debentures will develop or be sustained, that holders of the Debentures will be able to sell their Debentures or that holders of the Debentures will be able to sell their Debentures at favorable prices.

Governing Law

The indenture governing the Debentures and the Debentures will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

The Indenture and the Trustee

The Debentures will be issued pursuant to the junior subordinated indenture, dated as of June 6, 2008, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee, as amended and supplemented by a supplemental indenture to be dated the issuance date of the Debentures.

Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations

There is no statutory, judicial or administrative authority that directly addresses the U.S. federal income tax treatment of securities similar to the Debentures. Based on, among other things, certain assumptions and certain representations made by us, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, our special tax counsel, will render its opinion to the effect that the Debentures will be treated as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such opinion is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or any court and there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will agree with such opinion. We agree, and by acquiring an interest in a Debenture each beneficial owner of a Debenture agrees, to treat the Debentures as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Risk Factors

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and similar sections in our filings with the SEC incorporated by reference herein before buying any of the Debentures offered hereby.

Use of Proceeds

We estimate the net proceeds from this offering of our Debentures will be approximately \$ million, after deducting underwriting discounts and the estimated expenses of the offering that we will pay. Concurrently, we also intend to issue in the Concurrent Offering, in one or more series, an aggregate of \$ billion in principal amount of our senior debt securities. We estimate that the net proceeds from the Concurrent Offering will be approximately \$ billion, after deducting underwriting discounts and the estimated expenses of the Concurrent Offering that we will pay.

We intend to apply the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering towards the repurchase of the 10% Debentures. Our plan to repurchase the 10% Debentures is contingent upon the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC, or such repurchase being otherwise permitted under the 10% Debentures RCC. On April 2, 2012, we commenced a solicitation of the holders of the 2041 Notes to consent to the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC. See Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions.

If for any reason we do not repurchase the 10% Debentures, we will use the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering for general corporate purposes.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the Debentures offered hereby is subject to certain risks. The trading price of the Debentures could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Before you decide to invest in the Debentures you should consider the risk factors below relating to our business and this offering, as well as other trends, risks and uncertainties identified in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The following risk factors are not necessarily listed in order of importance.

Risks Related to Our Business

Our operating environment remains subject to uncertainty about the timing and strength of an economic recovery. The steps we have taken to realign our businesses and strengthen our capital position may not be adequate to mitigate the financial, competitive and other risks associated with our operating environment, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

The decline of certain global economies, including Europe, and the possible contagion effect, cast uncertainty regarding the timing and strength of an economic recovery, which negatively affected our operating environment in 2011. Continued high unemployment, lower family income, lower business investment and lower consumer spending in most geographic markets we serve have adversely affected the demand for financial and insurance products, as well as their profitability in some cases. Our results, financial condition and statutory capital remain sensitive to equity and credit market performance and effects of interest rates and foreign currency, and we expect that market conditions will put pressure on returns in our life and property and casualty investment portfolios and that our hedging costs (in particular with respect to our variable annuities businesses) will remain higher than historical levels. If global economies continue to decline, economic conditions do not broadly improve and real estate valuations do not stabilize and over time increase, we would expect to experience additional realized and unrealized investment losses, particularly in the real estate and financial services sectors. Negative rating agency actions with respect to our investments could also indirectly adversely affect our statutory capital and risk-based capital (RBC) ratios, which could in turn have other negative consequences for our business and results.

The steps we have taken to realign our businesses and strengthen our capital position may not be adequate if economic conditions do not continue to improve in line with our forecasts. These steps include ongoing initiatives, particularly the execution risk relating to the continued repositioning of our investment portfolios and the continuing refinement of our hedge programs for our variable annuity businesses. If our actions are not adequate, our ability to support the scale of our business and to absorb operating losses and liabilities under our customer contracts could be impaired, which would in turn adversely affect our overall competitiveness and the capital position of the Company.

Even if the measures we have taken (or take in the future) are effective to mitigate the risks associated with our current operating environment, they may have unintended consequences. For example, rebalancing our hedging program to protect economic value, while being mindful of statutory surplus, may result in greater earnings volatility under generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. (U.S. GAAP). As indicated on March 21, 2012, the Company expects the first quarter of 2012 to include realized losses of approximately \$550 million to \$600 million, after tax and Deferred Acquisition Costs (DAC), largely related to the impact of improving markets on the Company's hedging program, based upon March 16, 2012 capital market levels and account values. We could be required to consider actions to manage our capital position and liquidity or further reduce our exposure to market and financial risks. We may also be forced to sell assets on unfavorable terms that could cause us to incur charges or lose the potential for market upside on those assets in a market recovery. We could also face other pressures, such as employee recruitment and retention issues and potential loss of distribution for our products. Additionally, if there was concern over the Company's capital position that creates an anticipation of the Company issuing additional common stock or equity linked instruments, trading prices for our common stock could decline.

Table of Contents

The actions announced by the Company on March 21, 2012, and related implementation plans and objectives, involve a number of challenges, uncertainties and risks that may prevent the Company from implementing any such action or initiative as currently contemplated or at all, or, if concluded, from achieving some or all of the anticipated benefits from such announced actions. The Company also may not realize the benefits from the proposed financial transactions announced on April 2, 2012.

On March 21, 2012, the Company announced its decision to focus on its Property and Casualty, Group Benefits and Mutual Fund businesses, place its Individual Annuity business into runoff and pursue sales or other strategic alternatives for the Individual Life, Woodbury Financial Services and Retirement Plans businesses. The actions announced by the Company are subject to challenges, uncertainties and risks, including, among others, that the Company may be unable to sell the Individual Life, Woodbury Financial Services and Retirement Plans businesses at an appropriate price or at all or find strategic alternatives to their sale. No assurance can be given that the carrying value of any such business may not be impaired at some future time. All these announced actions may be subject to significant execution risks, costs and delays, and estimated charges may be subject, depending on subsequent events, to upward adjustments. The Company may not achieve all of the benefits it expects to derive from the actions announced on March 21, 2012, including in respect of enhanced shareholder value.

The Company's announcement and related implementation plans and objectives could also adversely affect not only the businesses with respect to which the Company has announced its intention to sell or execute other strategic alternatives, but also on its ongoing businesses. These adverse effects may include loss of customers, surrenders, withdrawals, contract terminations or other adverse impacts on the Company's relationships with its business partners and other stakeholders. Further, the Company may not be able to retain employees that are necessary to the success of its implementation plans and objectives. As a consequence, the matters described above may adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

The Company may not realize all the benefits it anticipates will be derived from the announced plans to repurchase the 10% Debentures from Allianz through the financing of such repurchase with anticipated lower coupon debt. Should the Company elect or need to incur additional indebtedness not presently contemplated by the Company's current financing plans, the benefits in terms of greater financial flexibility, improved capital structure (including a better balance between senior and subordinated debt), and reduced annual interest expense may not be achieved. As a general matter, the Company's financing documents, including the indentures for this offering and the Concurrent Offering, do not restrict the Company or its subsidiaries from incurring additional indebtedness. In addition, if for any reason the Company is unable to repurchase the 10% Debentures, such benefits would also not be realized and, as a result, its long-term indebtedness would significantly increase following this offering and the Concurrent Offering.

We are exposed to significant financial and capital markets risk, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, market volatility, foreign exchange rates and global real estate market deterioration that may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity.

One important exposure to equity risk relates to the potential for lower earnings associated with certain of our businesses in Wealth Management and Runoff Operations, such as U.S. and international variable annuities, where fee income is earned based upon the fair value of the assets under management. Should equity markets decline from current levels, assets under management and related fee income will be reduced. Such a decline would also place greater stress on the variable annuities businesses, which requires significant allocated capital due to rating agencies and regulatory requirements, including with respect to stress scenarios. Furthermore, certain of our products offer guaranteed benefits that increase our potential obligation and statutory capital exposure should equity markets continue to decline. Sustained declines in equity markets may result in the need to devote significant additional capital to support these products. We are also exposed to interest rate and equity risk based upon the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return assumptions associated with our pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations. Prolonged low interest rates or market returns are likely to have a negative effect on the funded status of these plans.

Table of Contents

Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. A rise in interest rates, in the absence of other countervailing changes, will increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio and, if long-term interest rates were to rise dramatically within a six-to-twelve month time period, certain of our Wealth Management businesses might be exposed to disintermediation risk. Disintermediation risk refers to the risk that our policyholders may surrender their contracts in a rising interest rate environment, requiring us to liquidate assets in an unrealized loss position. Although our products have features such as surrender charges, market-value adjustments and put options on certain retirement plans, we are subject to disintermediation risk. An increase in interest rates can also impact our tax planning strategies and in particular our ability to utilize tax benefits to offset certain previously recognized realized capital losses. In a declining rate environment, due to the long-term nature of the liabilities associated with certain of our life businesses, such as structured settlements and guaranteed benefits on variable annuities, sustained declines in long-term interest rates may subject us to reinvestment risks, increased hedging costs, spread compression and capital volatility. Our exposure to credit spreads primarily relates to market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in credit spreads. If issuer credit spreads widen significantly or retain historically wide levels over an extended period of time, additional other-than-temporary impairments and increases in the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio will likely result. In addition, losses have also occurred due to the volatility in credit spreads. When credit spreads widen, we incur losses associated with the credit derivatives where the Company assumes exposure. When credit spreads tighten, we incur losses associated with derivatives where the Company has purchased credit protection. If credit spreads tighten significantly, the Company's net investment income associated with new purchases of fixed maturities may be reduced. In addition, a reduction in market liquidity can make it difficult to value certain of our securities when trading becomes less frequent. As such, valuations may include assumptions or estimates that may be more susceptible to significant period-to-period changes, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

Our statutory surplus is also affected by widening credit spreads as a result of the accounting for the assets and liabilities on our fixed market value adjusted (MVA) annuities. Statutory separate account assets supporting the fixed MVA annuities are recorded at fair value. In determining the statutory reserve for the fixed MVA annuities we are required to use current crediting rates in the U.S. and Japanese LIBOR in Japan. In many capital market scenarios, current crediting rates in the U.S. are highly correlated with market rates implicit in the fair value of statutory separate account assets. As a result, the change in the statutory reserve from period to period will likely substantially offset the change in the fair value of the statutory separate account assets. However, in periods of volatile credit markets, actual credit spreads on investment assets may increase sharply for certain sub-sectors of the overall credit market, resulting in statutory separate account asset market value losses. As actual credit spreads are not fully reflected in current crediting rates in the U.S. or Japanese LIBOR in Japan, the calculation of statutory reserves will not substantially offset the change in fair value of the statutory separate account assets resulting in reductions in statutory surplus. This has resulted and may continue to result in the need to devote significant additional capital to support the fixed MVA product.

Our primary foreign currency exchange risk is related to certain guaranteed benefits associated with the Japan and U.K. variable annuities. The strengthening of the yen compared with other currencies will substantially increase our exposure to pay yen-denominated obligations. In addition, our foreign currency exchange risk relates to net income from foreign operations, non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries, and our yen-denominated individual fixed annuity product. In general, the weakening of foreign currencies versus the U.S. dollar will unfavorably affect net income from foreign operations, the value of non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries and realized gains or losses on the yen denominated annuity products. A strengthening of the U.S. dollar compared to foreign currencies will increase our exposure to the U.S. variable annuity guarantee benefits where policyholders have elected to invest in international funds, generating losses and statutory surplus strain.

Our real estate market exposure includes investments in commercial mortgage-backed securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial real estate collateralized debt obligations, mortgage and real estate partnerships, and mortgage loans. Significant deterioration in the real estate market in the recent past has

Table of Contents

adversely affected our business and results of operations. Further deterioration in the real estate market, including increases in property vacancy rates, delinquencies and foreclosures, could have a negative impact on property values and sources of refinancing resulting in reduced market liquidity and higher risk premiums. This could result in impairments of real estate backed securities, a reduction in net investment income associated with real estate partnerships, and increases in our valuation allowance for mortgage loans.

Significant declines in equity prices, changes in U.S. interest rates, changes in credit spreads, inflation, the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar, or global real estate market deterioration, individually or in combination, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Concentration of our investment portfolio in any particular segment of the economy may have adverse effects on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

The concentration of our investment portfolios in any particular industry, collateral type, group of related industries or geographic sector could have an adverse effect on our investment portfolios and consequently on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Events or developments that have a negative impact on any particular industry, group of related industries or geographic region may have a greater adverse effect on our investment portfolio to the extent that the portfolio is concentrated rather than diversified.

Our adjustment of our risk management program relating to products we offer with guaranteed benefits to emphasize protection of statutory surplus and cash flows will likely result in greater U.S. GAAP volatility in our earnings and potentially material charges to net income in periods of rising equity market pricing levels.

Some of the products offered by our Wealth Management businesses and previously offered by our Life Other Operations business, especially variable annuities, offer guaranteed benefits which, in the event of a decline in equity markets, would not only result in lower earnings, but will also increase our exposure to liability for benefit claims. We are also subject to equity market volatility related to these benefits, including the guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit (GMWB), guaranteed minimum accumulation benefit (GMAB), guaranteed minimum death benefit (GMDB) and guaranteed minimum income benefit (GMIB) offered with variable annuity products. We use reinsurance structures and have modified benefit features to mitigate the exposure associated with GMDB. We also use reinsurance in combination with a modification of benefit features and derivative instruments to attempt to minimize the claim exposure and to reduce the volatility of net income associated with the GMWB liability. However, due to the severe economic conditions starting in the fourth quarter of 2008, we have adjusted our risk management program to place greater relative emphasis on the protection of statutory surplus and cash flows. This shift in relative emphasis has resulted in greater U.S. GAAP earnings volatility and, based upon the types of hedging instruments used, can result in potentially material charges to net income in periods of rising equity market pricing levels, lower interest rates, rises in volatility and weakening of the yen against other currencies. For example, on March 21, 2012, the Company announced that it expects the first quarter of 2012 to include realized losses of approximately \$550 million to \$600 million, after tax and DAC, largely related to the impact of improving markets on the Company's hedging program, based upon March 16, 2012 capital market levels and account values.

While we believe that these actions have improved the efficiency of our risk management related to these benefits, we remain liable for the guaranteed benefits in the event that reinsurers or derivative counterparties are unable or unwilling to pay. We are also subject to the risk that these management procedures prove ineffective or that unanticipated policyholder behavior, combined with adverse market events, produces economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques employed, which individually or collectively may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Table of Contents

The amount of statutory capital that we have, and the amount of statutory capital that we must hold to maintain our financial strength and credit ratings and meet other requirements, can vary significantly from time to time and is sensitive to a number of factors outside of our control, including equity market, credit market, interest rate and foreign currency conditions, changes in policyholder behavior and changes in rating agency models.

We conduct the vast majority of our business through licensed insurance company subsidiaries. Accounting standards and statutory capital and reserve requirements for these entities are prescribed by the applicable insurance regulators and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Insurance regulators have established regulations that provide minimum capitalization requirements based on RBC formulas for both life and property and casualty companies. The RBC formula for life companies establishes capital requirements relating to insurance, business, asset and interest rate risks, including equity, interest rate and expense recovery risks associated with variable annuities and group annuities that contain death benefits or certain living benefits. The RBC formula for property and casualty companies adjusts statutory surplus levels for certain underwriting, asset, credit and off-balance sheet risks. Our international operations are subject to regulation in the relevant jurisdiction in which they operate, which in many ways is similar to the state regulation outlined above, with similar related restrictions and obligations.

In any particular year, statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios may increase or decrease depending on a variety of factors, including the amount of statutory income or losses generated by our insurance subsidiaries (which itself is sensitive to equity market and credit market conditions), the amount of additional capital our insurance subsidiaries must hold to support business growth, changes in equity market levels, the value of certain fixed-income and equity securities in our investment portfolio, the value of certain derivative instruments, changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates, the impact of internal reinsurance arrangements, and changes to the NAIC RBC formulas. Most of these factors are outside of the Company's control. The Company's financial strength and credit ratings are significantly influenced by the statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios of our insurance company subsidiaries. In addition, rating agencies may implement changes to their internal models that have the effect of increasing the amount of statutory capital we must hold in order to maintain our current ratings. Also, in extreme scenarios of equity market declines and other capital market volatility, the amount of additional statutory reserves that we are required to hold for our variable annuity guarantees increases at a greater than linear rate. This reduces the statutory surplus used in calculating our RBC ratios. When equity markets increase, surplus levels and RBC ratios will generally increase. This may be offset, however, as a result of a number of factors and market conditions, including the level of hedging costs and other risk transfer activities, reserve requirements for death and living benefit guarantees and RBC requirements could also increase, lowering RBC ratios. For example, while our property and casualty companies are expected to generate statutory surplus in 2012, our life companies' statutory surplus is expected to be flat to negative in 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to high variable annuity hedge losses compared to fees earned and a depression on statutory earnings in other life businesses due largely to continued low interest rates and high loss cost trends in Group Benefits. Due to these factors, projecting statutory capital and the related RBC ratios is complex. If our statutory capital resources are insufficient to maintain a particular rating by one or more rating agencies, we may seek to raise capital through public or private equity or debt financing. If we were not to raise additional capital, either at our discretion or because we were unable to do so, our financial strength and credit ratings might be downgraded by one or more rating agencies.

Downgrades in our financial strength or credit ratings, which may make our products less attractive, could increase our cost of capital and inhibit our ability to refinance our debt, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Financial strength and credit ratings, including commercial paper ratings, are important in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. Rating agencies assign ratings based upon several factors. While most of the factors relate to the rated company, some of the factors relate to the views of the rating agency, general economic conditions, and circumstances outside the rated company's control. In addition, rating agencies may employ different models and formulas to assess the financial strength of a rated company, and from time to time rating agencies have, at their discretion, altered these models. Changes to the models, general economic

Table of Contents

conditions, or circumstances outside our control could impact a rating agency's judgment of its rating and the rating it assigns us. We cannot predict what actions rating agencies may take, or what actions we may take in response to the actions of rating agencies, which may adversely affect us.

Our financial strength ratings, which are intended to measure our ability to meet policyholder obligations, are an important factor affecting public confidence in most of our products and, as a result, our competitiveness. A downgrade or a potential downgrade in the rating of our financial strength or of one of our principal insurance subsidiaries could affect our competitive position and reduce future sales of our products.

Our credit ratings also affect our cost of capital. A downgrade or a potential downgrade of our credit ratings could make it more difficult or costly to refinance maturing debt obligations, to support business growth at our insurance subsidiaries and to maintain or improve the financial strength ratings of our principal insurance subsidiaries. Downgrades could begin to trigger potentially material collateral calls on certain of our derivative instruments and counterparty rights to terminate derivative relationships, both of which could limit our ability to purchase additional derivative instruments. These events could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

On March 21, 2012, Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC downgraded Hartford Life Insurance Company and Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company one notch to A- (stable outlook) and Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company two notches to BBB+ (negative outlook). In addition, Moody's Investors Services, Inc. changed the outlook on Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company to negative and A.M. Best placed the Company's life subsidiaries under review with negative implications. These ratings actions triggered counterparty termination and collateral call rights in a limited number of the Company's derivative agreements. To date, no counterparties have terminated derivative relationships and we do not anticipate any material collateral calls as a result of these ratings actions.

Our valuations of many of our financial instruments include methodologies, estimations and assumptions that are subject to differing interpretations and could result in changes to investment valuations that may materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The following financial instruments are carried at fair value in the Company's consolidated financial statements: fixed maturities, equity securities, freestanding and embedded derivatives, and separate account assets. The determination of fair values is made at a specific point in time, based on available market information and judgments about financial instruments, including estimates of the timing and amounts of expected future cash flows and the credit standing of the issuer or counterparty. The use of different methodologies and assumptions may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

During periods of market disruption, including periods of rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain of our securities if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the financial environment. In such cases, securities may require more subjectivity and management judgment in determining their fair values and those fair values may differ materially from the value at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further, rapidly changing or unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities and the period-to-period changes in value could vary significantly. Decreases in value could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Evaluation of available-for-sale securities for other-than-temporary impairment involves subjective determinations and could materially impact our results of operations.

The evaluation of impairments is a quantitative and qualitative process, which is subject to risks and uncertainties and is intended to determine whether a credit and/or non-credit impairment exists and whether an impairment should be recognized in current period earnings or in other comprehensive income. The risks and uncertainties include changes in general economic conditions, the issuer's financial condition or future recovery

Table of Contents

prospects, the effects of changes in interest rates or credit spreads and the expected recovery period. For securitized financial assets with contractual cash flows, the Company currently uses its best estimate of cash flows over the life of the security. In addition, estimating future cash flows involves incorporating information received from third-party sources and making internal assumptions and judgments regarding the future performance of the underlying collateral and assessing the probability that an adverse change in future cash flows has occurred. The determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairments is based upon our quarterly evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available.

Additionally, our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses their best judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to:

the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost or amortized cost;

changes in the financial condition, credit rating and near-term prospects of the issuer;

whether the issuer is current on contractually obligated interest and principal payments;

changes in the financial condition of the security's underlying collateral;

the payment structure of the security;

the potential for impairments in an entire industry sector or sub-sector;

the potential for impairments in certain economically depressed geographic locations;

the potential for impairments of securities where the issuer, series of issuers or industry has suffered a catastrophic type of loss or has exhausted natural resources;

unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities;

for mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, commercial and residential property value declines that vary by property type and location and average cumulative collateral loss rates that vary by vintage year;

other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies;

our intent to sell a debt or an equity security with debt-like characteristics (collectively, "debt security") or whether it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the debt security before its anticipated recovery; and

our intent and ability to retain an equity security without debt-like characteristics for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its value.

Impairment losses in earnings could materially adversely affect our results of operation and financial condition.

Losses due to nonperformance or defaults by others, including issuers of investment securities (which include structured securities such as commercial mortgage backed securities and residential mortgage backed securities, European private and sovereign issuers, or other high yielding bonds) mortgage loans or reinsurance and derivative instrument counterparties, could have a material adverse effect on the value of our investments, business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Issuers or borrowers whose securities or loans we hold, customers, trading counterparties, counterparties under swaps and other derivative contracts, reinsurers, clearing agents, exchanges, clearing houses and other financial intermediaries and guarantors may default on their obligations to us due to bankruptcy, insolvency, lack of liquidity, adverse economic conditions, operational failure, fraud, government intervention or other reasons.

S-12

Table of Contents

Such defaults could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Additionally, the underlying assets supporting our structured securities or loans may deteriorate causing these securities or loans to incur losses.

Our investment portfolio includes securities backed by real estate assets the value of which have been adversely impacted by the recent recessionary period, high unemployment rates and the associated property value declines, ultimately resulting in a reduction in expected future cash flows for certain securities. The Company also has exposure to European based issuers of securities and providers of reinsurance, as well as indirect European exposure resulting from the variable annuity products that it has sold in Japan and the United Kingdom. Further details of the European private and sovereign issuers held within the investment portfolio and indirect variable annuity exposures can be found in Part II, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Enterprise Risk Management Investment Portfolio Risks and Risk Management of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The Company's European based reinsurance arrangements are further described in Part II, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Enterprise Risk Management Investment Portfolio Risks and Risk Management European Exposure of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Further property value declines and loss rates that exceed our current estimates, as outlined in Part II, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Enterprise Risk Management Other-Than-Temporary Impairments of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, a worsening of general economic conditions, including the European financial crisis, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

To the extent the investment portfolio is not adequately diversified, concentrations of credit risk may exist which could negatively impact the Company if significant adverse events or developments occur in any particular industry, group of related industries or geographic regions. The Company is not exposed to any credit concentration risk of a single issuer greater than 10% of the Company's stockholders' equity other than U.S. government and U.S. government agencies backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. However, if issuers of securities or loans we hold are acquired, merge or otherwise consolidate with other issuers of securities or loans held by the Company, the Company's credit concentration risk could increase above the 10% threshold, for a period of time, until the Company is able to sell securities to get back in compliance with the established investment credit policies.

If assumptions used in estimating future gross profits differ from actual experience, we may be required to accelerate the amortization of DAC and increase reserves for guaranteed minimum death and income benefits, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The Company defers acquisition costs associated with the sales of its universal and variable life and variable annuity products. These costs are amortized over the expected life of the contracts. The remaining deferred but not yet amortized cost is referred to as the DAC asset. We amortize these costs in proportion to the present value of estimated gross profits (EGPs). The Company evaluates the EGPs compared to the DAC asset to determine if an impairment exists. The Company also establishes reserves for GMDB and GMIB using components of EGPs. The projection of estimated gross profits or components of estimated gross profits requires the use of certain assumptions, principally related to separate account fund returns in excess of amounts credited to policyholders, surrender and lapse rates, interest margin (including impairments), mortality, benefit utilization, annuitization and hedging costs. Of these factors, we anticipate that changes in investment returns are most likely to impact the rate of amortization of such costs. However, other factors such as those the Company might employ to reduce risk, such as the cost of hedging or other risk mitigating techniques, could also significantly reduce estimates of future gross profits. Estimating future gross profits is a complex process requiring considerable judgment and the forecasting of events well into the future. If our assumptions regarding policyholder behavior, including lapse rates, benefit utilization, surrenders, and annuitization, hedging costs or costs to employ other risk mitigating techniques prove to be inaccurate or if significant or sustained equity market declines occur, we

Table of Contents

could be required to accelerate the amortization of DAC related to variable annuity and variable universal life contracts, and increase reserves for GMDB and GMIB which would result in a charge to net income. Such adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

If our businesses do not perform well, we may be required to recognize an impairment of our goodwill or to establish a valuation allowance against the deferred income tax asset, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Goodwill represents the excess of the amounts we paid to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. We test goodwill at least annually for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the fair value of the reporting unit to which the goodwill relates. The reporting unit is the operating segment or a business one level below that operating segment if discrete financial information is prepared and regularly reviewed by management at that level. The fair value of the reporting unit is impacted by the performance of the business and could be adversely impacted by any efforts made by the Company to limit risk. If it is determined that the goodwill has been impaired, the Company must write down the goodwill by the amount of the impairment, with a corresponding charge to net income. These write downs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Deferred income tax represents the tax effect of the differences between the book and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are assessed periodically by management to determine if they are realizable. Factors in management's determination include the performance of the business including the ability to generate capital gains, to offset previously recognized capital losses, from a variety of sources and tax planning strategies. If based on available information, it is more likely than not that we are unable to recognize a full tax benefit on realized capital losses, then a valuation allowance will be established with a corresponding charge to net income. Charges to increase our valuation allowance could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Certain strategic transactions may adversely affect our ability to realize our deferred tax assets.

The occurrence of one or more terrorist attacks in the geographic areas we serve or the threat of terrorism in general may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

The occurrence of one or more terrorist attacks in the geographic areas we serve could result in substantially higher claims under our insurance policies than we have anticipated. Private sector catastrophe reinsurance is extremely limited and generally unavailable for terrorism losses caused by attacks with nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological weapons. Reinsurance coverage from the federal government under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 is also limited. Accordingly, the effects of a terrorist attack in the geographic areas we serve may result in claims and related losses for which we do not have adequate reinsurance. This would likely cause us to increase our reserves, adversely affect our results during the period or periods affected and, could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Further, the continued threat of terrorism and the occurrence of terrorist attacks, as well as heightened security measures and military action in response to these threats and attacks or other geopolitical or military crises, may cause significant volatility in global financial markets, disruptions to commerce and reduced economic activity. These consequences could have an adverse effect on the value of the assets in our investment portfolio as well as those in our separate accounts. The continued threat of terrorism also could result in increased reinsurance prices and potentially cause us to retain more risk than we otherwise would retain if we were able to obtain reinsurance at lower prices. Terrorist attacks also could disrupt our operations centers in the U.S. or abroad. As a result, it is possible that any, or a combination of all, of these factors may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Table of Contents

Our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity may be materially adversely affected by unfavorable loss development.

Our success, in part, depends upon our ability to accurately assess the risks associated with the businesses that we insure. We establish loss reserves to cover our estimated liability for the payment of all unpaid losses and loss expenses incurred with respect to premiums earned on the policies that we write. Loss reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, loss reserves are estimates of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost, less what has been paid to date. These estimates are based upon actuarial and statistical projections and on our assessment of currently available data, as well as estimates of claims severity and frequency, legal theories of liability and other factors. Loss reserve estimates are refined periodically as experience develops and claims are reported and settled. Establishing an appropriate level of loss reserves is an inherently uncertain process. Because of this uncertainty, it is possible that our reserves at any given time will prove inadequate. Furthermore, since estimates of aggregate loss costs for prior accident years are used in pricing our insurance products, we could later determine that our products were not priced adequately to cover actual losses and related loss expenses in order to generate a profit. To the extent we determine that losses and related loss expenses are emerging unfavorably to our initial expectations, we will be required to increase reserves. Increases in reserves would be recognized as an expense during the period or periods in which these determinations are made, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations for the related period or periods. Depending on the severity and timing of any changes in these estimated losses, such determinations could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

It is difficult for us to predict our potential exposure for asbestos and environmental claims, and our ultimate liability may exceed our currently recorded reserves, which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

We continue to receive asbestos and environmental claims. Significant uncertainty limits the ability of insurers and reinsurers to estimate the ultimate reserves necessary for unpaid losses and related expenses for both environmental and particularly asbestos claims. For some asbestos and environmental claims, we believe that the actuarial tools and other techniques we employ to estimate the ultimate cost of claims for more traditional kinds of insurance exposure are less precise in estimating reserves for our asbestos and environmental exposures. Accordingly, the degree of variability of reserve estimates for these longer-tailed exposures is significantly greater than for other more traditional exposures. It is also not possible to predict changes in the legal and legislative environment and their effect on the future development of asbestos and environmental claims. Because of the significant uncertainties that limit the ability of insurers and reinsurers to estimate the ultimate reserves necessary for unpaid losses and related expenses for both environmental and particularly asbestos claims, the ultimate liabilities may exceed the currently recorded reserves. Increases in reserves would be recognized as an expense during the periods in which these determinations are made, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations for the related periods. Any such additional liability cannot be reasonably estimated now, but could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

We are particularly vulnerable to losses from catastrophes, both natural and man-made, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Our insurance operations expose us to claims arising out of catastrophes. Catastrophes can be caused by various unpredictable events, including earthquakes, hurricanes, hailstorms, severe winter weather, fires, tornadoes, explosions, pandemics and other natural or man-made disasters. The geographic distribution of our business subjects us to catastrophe exposure for natural events occurring in a number of areas, including, but not limited to, hurricanes in Florida, the Gulf Coast, the Northeast and the Atlantic coast regions of the United States, tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast, and earthquakes in California and the New Madrid region of the United States. We expect that increases in the values and concentrations of insured property in these areas will continue to increase the severity of catastrophic events in the future. Starting in 2004 and 2005, third-party catastrophe loss models for hurricane loss events have incorporated medium-term forecasts of increased hurricane frequency and severity reflecting the potential influence of multi-decadal climate patterns within the Atlantic. In addition, changing climate conditions across longer time scales, including the potential risk of broader climate

Table of Contents

change, may be increasing, or may in the future increase, the severity of certain natural catastrophe losses across various geographic regions. In addition, changing climate conditions, primarily rising global temperatures, may be increasing, or may in the future increase, the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes such as hurricanes. Potential examples of the impact of climate change on catastrophe exposure include, but are not limited to the following: an increase in the frequency or severity of wind and thunderstorm and tornado/hailstorm events due to increased convection in the atmosphere, more frequent brush fires in certain geographies due to prolonged periods of drought, higher incidence of deluge flooding, and the potential for an increase in severity of the largest hurricane events due to higher sea surface temperatures. Our operations are also exposed to risk of loss from catastrophes associated with pandemics and other events that could significantly increase our mortality and morbidity exposures. Policyholders may be unable to meet their obligations to pay premiums on our insurance policies or make deposits on our investment products.

Our liquidity could be constrained by a catastrophe, or multiple catastrophes, which could result in extraordinary losses. In addition, in part because accounting rules do not permit insurers to reserve for such catastrophic events until they occur, claims from catastrophic events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. To the extent that loss experience unfolds or models improve, we will seek to reflect any increased risk in the design and pricing of our products. However, the Company may be exposed to regulatory or legislative actions that prevent a full accounting of loss expectations in the design or pricing of our products or result in additional risk-shifting to the insurance industry.

We may incur losses due to our reinsurers' unwillingness or inability to meet their obligations under reinsurance contracts and the availability, pricing and adequacy of reinsurance may not be sufficient to protect us against losses.

As an insurer, we frequently seek to reduce the losses that may arise from catastrophes, or other events that can cause unfavorable results of operations, through reinsurance. Under these reinsurance arrangements, other insurers assume a portion of our losses and related expenses; however, we remain liable as the direct insurer on all risks reinsured. Consequently, ceded reinsurance arrangements do not eliminate our obligation to pay claims, and we are subject to our reinsurers' credit risk with respect to our ability to recover amounts due from them.

Although we regularly evaluate the financial condition of our reinsurers to minimize our exposure to significant losses from reinsurer insolvencies, our reinsurers may become financially unsound or choose to dispute their contractual obligations by the time their financial obligations become due. The inability or unwillingness of any reinsurer to meet its financial obligations to us could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. In addition, market conditions beyond our control determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance we are able to purchase. Historically, reinsurance pricing has changed significantly from time to time. No assurances can be made that reinsurance will remain continuously available to us to the same extent and on the same terms as are currently available. If we were unable to maintain our current level of reinsurance or purchase new reinsurance protection in amounts that we consider sufficient and at prices that we consider acceptable, we would have to either accept an increase in our net liability exposure, reduce the amount of business we write, or develop other alternatives to reinsurance.

Competitive activity may adversely affect our market share and financial results, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The insurance industry is highly competitive. Our competitors include other insurers and, because many of our products include an investment component, securities firms, investment advisers, mutual funds, banks and other financial institutions. These competitors compete with us for producers such as brokers and independent agents and for our employees. Larger competitors may have lower operating costs and an ability to absorb greater risk while maintaining their financial strength ratings, thereby allowing them to price their products more competitively. These highly competitive pressures could result in increased pricing pressures on a number of our products and services and may harm our ability to maintain or increase our profitability. Because of the highly competitive nature of the insurance industry, there can be no assurance that we will continue to effectively compete with our industry rivals, or that competitive pressure will not have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

We may experience difficulty in marketing, distributing and providing investment advisory services in relation to our products through current and future distribution channels and advisory firms.

We distribute our annuity, life, property and casualty insurance products and mutual funds through a variety of distribution channels, including brokers, independent agents, broker-dealers, banks, wholesalers, affinity partners, our own internal sales force and other third-party organizations. In some areas of our business, we generate a significant portion of our business through or in connection with individual third-party arrangements. For example, we market our Consumer Markets products in part through an exclusive licensing arrangement with AARP that continues through January 2020. Our ability to distribute products through affinity partners may be adversely impacted by membership levels and the pace of membership growth. In addition, we work with a number of key investment advisers in managing our products and mutual funds. In December 2011, for example, we entered into a 5-year agreement with Wellington Management Company as the preferred sub-advisor for The Hartford Mutual Funds. We periodically negotiate provisions and renewals of these relationships, and there can be no assurance that such terms will remain acceptable to us or such third parties. An interruption in our continuing relationship with certain of these third parties, including potentially as a result of a strategic transaction, could materially affect our ability to market our products and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

The impact of regulatory initiatives, including the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Regulatory developments relating to the recent financial crisis may significantly affect our operations and prospects in ways that we cannot predict. U.S. and overseas governmental and regulatory authorities, including the SEC, The Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the NYSE and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) are considering enhanced or new regulatory requirements intended to prevent future crises or otherwise stabilize the institutions under their supervision. Such measures are likely to lead to stricter regulation of financial institutions generally, and heightened prudential requirements for systemically important companies in particular. Such measures could include taxation of financial transactions and restrictions on employee compensation.

The Dodd-Frank Act was enacted on July 21, 2010, mandating changes to the regulation of the financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Act may affect our operations and governance in ways that could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act will require central clearing of, and/or impose new margin and capital requirements on, derivatives transactions, which we expect will increase the costs of our hedging program. Other provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act that may impact us include: a new Federal Insurance Office within Treasury; discretionary authority for the SEC to impose a harmonized standard of care for investment advisers and broker-dealers who provide personalized advice about securities to retail customers; possible adverse impact on the pricing and liquidity of the securities in which we invest resulting from the proprietary trading and market making limitation of the Volcker Rule; possible prohibition of certain asset-backed securities transactions that could adversely impact our ability to offer insurance-linked securities; and enhancements to corporate governance, especially regarding risk management.

In particular, the Dodd-Frank Act vests a newly created Financial Services Oversight Council (FSOC) with the power to designate systemically important institutions, which will be subject to special regulatory supervision and other provisions intended to prevent, or mitigate the impact of, future disruptions in the U.S. financial system. Systemically important institutions are limited to large bank holding companies and nonbank financial companies that are so important that their potential failure could pose a threat to the financial stability of the United States. The FSOC released a second notice of proposed rulemaking setting forth the process they propose to follow when designating systemically important nonbank financial companies in October 2011, but has not yet released a final rule or indicated when the FSOC will begin designating systemically important nonbank financial companies.

Table of Contents

If we are designated as a systemically important institution, we could be subject to higher capital requirements and additional regulatory oversight imposed by The Federal Reserve, as well as to post-event assessments imposed by the FDIC to recoup the costs associated with the orderly liquidation of other systemically important institutions in the event one or more such institutions fails. Further, the FDIC is authorized to petition a state court to commence an insolvency proceeding to liquidate an insurance company that fails in the event the insurer's state regulator fails to act. We may also be restricted from sponsoring and investing in private equity and hedge funds, which would limit our discretion in managing our general account. The Federal Reserve issued a proposed rule in December 2011 that would apply capital and liquidity requirements, single-counterparty credit limits, and stress testing and risk management requirements to systemically important institutions, and subject such institutions to an early remediation regime based on these requirements. The Federal Reserve has noted that they may tailor the application of the proposed rule to the particular attributes of systemically important nonbank financial companies. If The Hartford were to be designated as systemically important by the FSOC, these requirements could apply to The Hartford. However, it is not yet clear how or to what extent these requirements would be applied to systemically important nonbank financial companies.

We may experience unfavorable judicial or legislative developments involving claim litigation that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

The Company is involved in claims litigation arising in the ordinary course of business, both as a liability insurer defending or providing indemnity for third-party claims brought against insureds and as an insurer defending coverage claims brought against it. The Company accounts for such activity through the establishment of unpaid loss and loss adjustment expense reserves. The Company is also involved in legal actions that do not arise in the ordinary course of business, some of which assert claims for substantial amounts. Pervasive or significant changes in the judicial environment relating to matters such as trends in the size of jury awards, developments in the law relating to the liability of insurers or tort defendants, and rulings concerning the availability or amount of certain types of damages could cause our ultimate liabilities to change from our current expectations. Changes in federal or state tort litigation laws or other applicable law could have a similar effect. It is not possible to predict changes in the judicial and legislative environment and their impact on the future development of the adequacy of our loss reserves, particularly reserves for longer-tailed lines of business, including asbestos and environmental reserves, and how those changes might adversely affect our ability to price our products appropriately. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity could also be adversely affected if judicial or legislative developments cause our ultimate liabilities to increase from current expectations.

Our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity may be adversely affected by the emergence of unexpected and unintended claim and coverage issues.

As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may either extend coverage beyond our underwriting intent or increase the frequency or severity of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until some time after we have issued insurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued, and this liability may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity at the time it becomes known.

Potential changes in domestic and foreign regulation may increase our business costs and required capital levels, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

We are subject to extensive U.S. and non-U.S. laws and regulations that are complex, subject to change and often conflicting in their approach or intended outcomes. Compliance with these laws and regulations is costly and can affect our strategy, as well as the demand for and profitability of the products we offer.

Table of Contents

State insurance laws regulate most aspects of our U.S. insurance businesses, and our insurance subsidiaries are regulated by the insurance departments of the states in which they are domiciled, licensed or authorized to conduct business. U.S. state laws grant insurance regulatory authorities broad administrative powers with respect to, among other things:

licensing companies and agents to transact business;

calculating the value of assets to determine compliance with statutory requirements;

mandating certain insurance benefits;

regulating certain premium rates;

reviewing and approving policy forms;

regulating unfair trade and claims practices, including through the imposition of restrictions on marketing and sales practices, distribution arrangements and payment of inducements;

protecting privacy;

establishing statutory capital and reserve requirements and solvency standards;

fixing maximum interest rates on insurance policy loans and minimum rates for guaranteed crediting rates on life insurance policies and annuity contracts;

approving changes in control of insurance companies;

approving acquisitions, divestitures and similar transactions;

restricting the payment of dividends to the parent company and other transactions between affiliates;

establishing assessments and surcharges for guaranty funds, second-injury funds and other mandatory pooling arrangements;

requiring insurers to dividend any excess profits to policy holders; and

regulating the types, amounts and valuation of investments.

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

Because these laws and regulations are complex and sometimes inexact, there is also a risk that any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal, accounting, or reserving issue may change over time to our detriment, or expose us to different or additional regulatory risks. For example, certain of our domestic life insurance subsidiaries use the NAIC's Model Regulation entitled "Valuation of Life Insurance Policies," commonly known as Regulation XXX, in setting statutory reserves for term life insurance policies with long-term premium guarantees and universal life policies with secondary guarantees. In addition, Actuarial Guideline 38 (AG38 or AXXX) clarifies the application of Regulation XXX with respect to universal life insurance policies with secondary guarantees, i.e., a guaranteed death benefit for a specified period of time, often for life. Virtually all of our in force universal life insurance products are now affected by Regulation XXX and AXXX. The application of these regulations and guidelines by insurers involves interpretations and judgments that may not be consistent with the opinion of state insurance departments. We cannot provide assurance that such differences of opinion will not result in regulatory, tax or other challenges to the actions we have taken to date. The result of those potential challenges could require us to increase statutory reserves or incur higher operating and/or tax costs. Moreover, it is possible that the reinsurance and capital management actions we have taken to mitigate the impact of Regulation XXX and AXXX on our universal life insurance business may face regulatory, rating agency or other challenges. Furthermore, we may be unable to continue to implement actions to mitigate the impact of these regulations on future sales of term life insurance and universal life policies, resulting in lower returns on such products than we currently anticipate or reduce our sales of these products.

Furthermore, our international operations are subject to regulation in the relevant jurisdictions in which they operate (primarily the Japan Financial Services Agency and the United Kingdom Financial Services Authority), which in many ways is similar to the state regulation outlined above, with similar related restrictions and obligations. Our asset management businesses are also subject to extensive regulation in the various jurisdictions where they operate.

S-19

Table of Contents

In addition, future regulatory initiatives could be adopted at the federal or state level that could impact the profitability of our businesses.

These laws and regulations are primarily intended to protect investors in the securities markets or investment advisory clients and generally grant supervisory authorities broad administrative powers. Compliance with these laws and regulations is costly, time consuming and personnel intensive, and may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. See the risk factor, The impact of regulatory initiatives, including the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Our ability to declare and pay dividends is subject to limitations.

The payment of future dividends on our capital stock is subject to the discretion of our board of directors, which considers, among other factors, our operating results, overall financial condition, credit-risk considerations and capital requirements, as well as general business and market conditions.

Moreover, as a holding company that is separate and distinct from our insurance subsidiaries, we have no significant business operations of our own. Therefore, we rely on dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries and other subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet our obligations. These obligations include payments on our debt securities and the payment of dividends on our capital stock. The Connecticut insurance holding company laws limit the payment of dividends by Connecticut-domiciled insurers. In addition, these laws require notice to and approval by the state insurance commissioner for the declaration or payment by those subsidiaries of any dividend which, together with other dividends or distributions made within the preceding 12 months, exceeds the greater of:

10% of the insurer's policyholder surplus as of December 31 of the preceding year, or

net income, or net gain from operations if the subsidiary is a life insurance company, for the previous calendar year, in each case determined under statutory insurance accounting principles.

In addition, if any dividend of a Connecticut-domiciled insurer exceeds the insurer's earned surplus, it requires the prior approval of the Connecticut Insurance Commissioner.

The insurance holding company laws of the other jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are incorporated, or deemed commercially domiciled, generally contain similar, and in some instances more restrictive, limitations on the payment of dividends. Dividends paid to us by our insurance subsidiaries are further dependent on their cash requirements. For further discussion on dividends from insurance subsidiaries, see Part II, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Capital Resources & Liquidity of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Our rights to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of our subsidiaries, for example, upon their liquidation or reorganization, and the ability of holders of our common stock to benefit indirectly from a distribution, are subject to the prior claims of creditors of the applicable subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor of that subsidiary. Claims on these subsidiaries by persons other than us include, as of December 31, 2011, claims by policyholders for benefits payable amounting to \$117.1 billion, claims by separate account holders of \$143.9 billion, and other liabilities including claims of trade creditors, claims from guaranty associations and claims from holders of debt obligations, amounting to \$13.0 billion.

Holders of our capital stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. Moreover, our common stockholders are subject to the prior dividend rights of any holders of our preferred stock or depository shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding. As of December 31, 2011, there were 575,000 shares of our Series F Preferred Stock issued and outstanding. Under the terms of the Series F Preferred Stock, our ability to declare and pay dividends on or repurchase our common stock will be subject to restrictions in the event we fail to declare and pay (or set aside for payment) full dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

The terms of our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities also prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our capital stock or purchasing, acquiring, or making a liquidation payment on such stock, if we have given notice of our election to defer interest payments but the related deferral period has not yet commenced or a deferral period is continuing.

As a property and casualty insurer, the premium rates we are able to charge and the profits we are able to obtain are affected by the actions of state insurance departments that regulate our business, the cyclical nature of the business in which we compete and our ability to adequately price the risks we underwrite, which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Pricing adequacy depends on a number of factors, including the ability to obtain regulatory approval for rate changes, proper evaluation of underwriting risks, the ability to project future loss cost frequency and severity based on historical loss experience adjusted for known trends, our response to rate actions taken by competitors, and expectations about regulatory and legal developments and expense levels. We seek to price our property and casualty insurance policies such that insurance premiums and future net investment income earned on premiums received will provide for an acceptable profit in excess of underwriting expenses and the cost of paying claims.

State insurance departments that regulate us often propose premium rate changes for the benefit of the consumer at the expense of the insurer and may not allow us to reach targeted levels of profitability. In addition to regulating rates, certain states have enacted laws that require a property and casualty insurer conducting business in that state to participate in assigned risk plans, reinsurance facilities, joint underwriting associations and other residual market plans, or to offer coverage to all consumers and often restrict an insurer's ability to charge the price it might otherwise charge. In these markets, we may be compelled to underwrite significant amounts of business at lower than desired rates, participate in the operating losses of residual market plans or pay assessments to fund operating deficits of state-sponsored funds, possibly leading to unacceptable returns on equity. The laws and regulations of many states also limit an insurer's ability to withdraw from one or more lines of insurance in the state, except pursuant to a plan that is approved by the state's insurance department. Additionally, certain states require insurers to participate in guaranty funds for impaired or insolvent insurance companies. These funds periodically assess losses against all insurance companies doing business in the state. Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Additionally, the property and casualty insurance market is historically cyclical, experiencing periods characterized by relatively high levels of price competition, less restrictive underwriting standards and relatively low premium rates, followed by periods of relatively low levels of competition, more selective underwriting standards and relatively high premium rates. Prices tend to increase for a particular line of business when insurance carriers have incurred significant losses in that line of business in the recent past or when the industry as a whole commits less of its capital to writing exposures in that line of business. Prices tend to decrease when recent loss experience has been favorable or when competition among insurance carriers increases. In all of our property and casualty insurance product lines and states, there is a risk that the premium we charge may ultimately prove to be inadequate as reported losses emerge. In addition, there is a risk that regulatory constraints, price competition or incorrect pricing assumptions could prevent us from achieving targeted returns. Inadequate pricing could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

If we are unable to maintain the availability of our systems and safeguard the security of our data due to the occurrence of disasters or a cyber or other information security incident, our ability to conduct business may be compromised, we may incur substantial costs and suffer other negative consequences, all of which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

We use computer systems to process, store, retrieve, evaluate and utilize customer and company data and information. Our computer, information technology and telecommunications systems, in turn, interface with and rely upon third-party systems. Our business is highly dependent on our ability, and the ability of certain third parties, to access these systems to perform necessary business functions, including, without limitation, conducting our financial reporting and analysis, providing insurance quotes, processing premium payments,

Table of Contents

making changes to existing policies, filing and paying claims, administering variable annuity products and mutual funds, providing customer support and managing our investment portfolios and hedging programs. Systems failures or outages could compromise our ability to perform these functions in a timely manner, which could harm our ability to conduct business and hurt our relationships with our business partners and customers. In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, a pandemic, an industrial accident, a blackout, a terrorist attack or war, systems upon which we rely may be inaccessible to our employees, customers or business partners for an extended period of time. Even if our employees and business partners are able to report to work, they may be unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time if our data or systems used to conduct our business are disabled or destroyed.

Moreover, our systems may be subject to a computer virus or other malicious code, unauthorized access, a cyber-attack or other computer related violation. Such an event could compromise our confidential information as well as that of our clients and third parties with whom we interact, impede or interrupt our business operations and may result in other negative consequences, including remediation costs, loss of revenue, additional regulatory scrutiny and litigation and reputational damage.

In addition, we routinely transmit, receive and store personal, confidential and proprietary information by email and other electronic means. Although we attempt to keep such information confidential, we may be unable to utilize such capabilities in all events, especially with clients, vendors, service providers, counterparties and other third parties who may not have or use appropriate controls to protect confidential information. Furthermore, certain of our businesses are subject to compliance with regulations enacted by U.S. federal and state governments, the European Union, Japan or other jurisdictions or enacted by various regulatory organizations or exchanges relating to the privacy of the information of clients, employees or others. A misuse or mishandling of confidential or proprietary information being sent to or received from an employee or third party could result in legal liability, regulatory action and reputational harm.

Third parties to whom we outsource certain of our functions are also subject to the risks outlined above, any one of which may result in our incurring substantial costs and other negative consequences, including a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Our framework for managing business risks may not be effective in mitigating risk and loss to us that could adversely affect our businesses.

Our business performance is highly dependent on our ability to manage risks that arise from a large number of day-to-day business activities, including insurance underwriting, claims processing, servicing, investment, financial and tax reporting, compliance with regulatory requirements and other activities, many of which are very complex and for some of which we rely on third parties. We seek to monitor and control our exposure to risks arising out of these activities through a risk control framework encompassing a variety of reporting systems, internal controls, management review processes and other mechanisms. We cannot be completely confident that these processes and procedures will effectively control all known risks or effectively identify unforeseen risks, or that our employees and third-party agents will effectively implement them. Management of business risks can fail for a number of reasons, including design failure, systems failure, failures to perform, cyber security attacks or unlawful activities on the part of employees or third parties. In the event that our controls are not effective or not properly implemented, we could suffer financial or other loss, disruption of our businesses, regulatory sanctions or damage to our reputation. Losses resulting from these failures can vary significantly in size, scope and scale and may have material adverse effects on our financial condition or results of operations.

If we experience difficulties arising from outsourcing relationships, our ability to conduct business may be compromised.

We outsource certain technology and business functions to third parties and expect to do so selectively in the future. If we do not effectively develop and implement our outsourcing strategy, third-party providers do not perform as anticipated, or we experience problems with a transition, we may experience operational difficulties, inability to meet obligations, including, but not limited to, policyholder obligations, increased costs and a loss of

Table of Contents

business that may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. For other risks associated with our outsourcing of certain functions, see the risk factor, *If we are unable to maintain the availability of our systems and safeguard the security of our data due to the occurrence of disasters or a cyber or other information security incident, our ability to conduct business may be compromised, we may incur substantial costs and suffer other negative consequences, all of which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operation and liquidity.*

Potential changes in federal or state tax laws, including changes impacting the availability of the separate account dividend received deduction, could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Many of the products that the Company sells benefit from one or more forms of tax-favored status under current federal and state income tax regimes. For example, the Company sells life insurance policies that benefit from the deferral or elimination of taxation on earnings accrued under the policy, as well as permanent exclusion of certain death benefits that may be paid to policyholders' beneficiaries. We also sell annuity contracts that allow the policyholders to defer the recognition of taxable income earned within the contract. Other products that the Company sells also enjoy similar, as well as other, types of tax advantages. The Company also benefits from certain tax items, including but not limited to, tax-exempt bond interest, dividends-received deductions, tax credits (such as foreign tax credits), and insurance reserve deductions.

Due in large part to the recent financial crisis that has affected many governments, there is an increasing risk that federal and/or state tax legislation could be enacted that would result in higher taxes on insurance companies and/or their policyholders. For example, on February 13, 2012, the Obama Administration released its FY 2013, Budget of the United States Government that includes proposals which, if enacted, would adversely affect the Company's sale of variable annuities and variable life products and its profits on corporate owned life insurance policies. Although the specific form of any such potential legislation is uncertain, it could include lessening or eliminating some or all of the tax advantages currently benefiting the Company or its policyholders including, but not limited to, those mentioned above. This could occur in the context of deficit reduction or other tax reforms. The effects of any such changes could have a material adverse effect on our profitability and financial condition, and could result in materially lower product sales, lapses of policies currently held, and/or our incurrence of materially higher corporate taxes.

Changes in accounting principles and financial reporting requirements could result in material changes to our reported results and financial condition.

U.S. GAAP and related financial reporting requirements are complex, continually evolving and may be subject to varied interpretation by the relevant authoritative bodies. Such varied interpretations could result from differing views related to specific facts and circumstances. Changes in U.S. GAAP and financial reporting requirements, or in the interpretation of U.S. GAAP or those requirements, could result in material changes to our reported results and financial condition. Moreover, the SEC is currently evaluating International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) to determine whether IFRS should be incorporated into the financial reporting system for U.S. issuers. Certain of these standards could result in material changes to our reported results of operation.

We may not be able to protect our intellectual property and may be subject to infringement claims.

We rely on a combination of contractual rights and copyright, trademark, patent and trade secret laws to establish and protect our intellectual property. Although we use a broad range of measures to protect our intellectual property rights, third parties may infringe or misappropriate our intellectual property. We may have to litigate to enforce and protect our copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and know-how or to determine their scope, validity or enforceability, which represents a diversion of resources that may be significant in amount and may not prove successful. The loss of intellectual property protection or the inability to secure or enforce the protection of our intellectual property assets could have a material adverse effect on our business and our ability to compete.

Table of Contents

We also may be subject to costly litigation in the event that another party alleges our operations or activities infringe upon another party's intellectual property rights. Third parties may have, or may eventually be issued, patents that could be infringed by our products, methods, processes or services. Any party that holds such a patent could make a claim of infringement against us. We may also be subject to claims by third parties for breach of copyright, trademark, trade secret or license usage rights. Any such claims and any resulting litigation could result in significant liability for damages. If we were found to have infringed a third-party patent or other intellectual property rights, we could incur substantial liability, and in some circumstances could be enjoined from providing certain products or services to our customers or utilizing and benefiting from certain methods, processes, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets or licenses, or alternatively could be required to enter into costly licensing arrangements with third parties, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Risks Related to the Offering

We have the right to defer interest for up to ten consecutive years without causing an event of default.

We have the right to defer interest on the Debentures for a period of up to ten consecutive years so long as no event of default with respect to the Debentures has occurred and is continuing. During any such deferral period, holders of Debentures may receive limited or no current payments on the Debentures and, so long as we are otherwise in compliance with our obligations, such holders will have no remedies against us for nonpayment of deferred interest (including compounded interest thereon) unless we fail to pay all deferred interest (including compounded interest) at the end of the ten-year deferral period, at the maturity date or at the earlier accelerated maturity date of the Debentures.

Holders of Debentures will have limited rights to accelerate payments of amounts due.

Holders of Debentures may accelerate payment of amounts due on the Debentures only upon the occurrence and continuation of the following events:

the failure to pay interest in full, including compounded interest, on any Debenture for a period of 30 days after the conclusion of a ten-year period following the commencement of any deferral period or on the maturity date; or

the failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any Debenture on the maturity date or upon redemption.

The Debentures will accelerate automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of Debentures upon certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership. A failure to comply with, or a breach of, our other covenants in the indenture will not permit holders of Debentures to accelerate payment of the Debentures.

The aftermarket price of the Debentures may be discounted significantly if we defer interest payments or are unable to pay interest.

If we defer interest payments on the Debentures, you may be unable to sell your Debentures at a price that reflects the value of deferred and unpaid interest to the date of such sale. To the extent a trading market develops for the Debentures, that market may not continue during such a deferral period or during periods in which investors perceive that there is a likelihood of a deferral, and you may be unable to sell your Debentures at those times, either at a price that reflects the value of required payments under the Debentures at those times or at all.

The Debentures will be subordinated to almost all of our other indebtedness.

Our obligations under the Debentures will be unsecured and will rank junior and be subordinated to all of our current and future senior indebtedness (as defined under Description of the Debentures Ranking of the Debentures), but will rank equally with any indebtedness the terms of which provide that such indebtedness ranks equally with the Debentures, guarantees of such indebtedness, our existing 8.125% Debentures, our existing 10% Debentures, which we intend to repurchase with the net proceeds from this offering and the

Table of Contents

Concurrent Offering, the ICON securities, our trade accounts payable and any of our indebtedness owed to a person who is our subsidiary or employee. This means that we cannot make any payments on the Debentures if we are in default on any of our indebtedness that is senior to the Debentures. Therefore, in the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation or dissolution, our assets must be used to pay off our senior indebtedness in full before any payments may be made on the Debentures.

At December 31, 2011, our indebtedness, on an unconsolidated basis, totaled approximately \$6 billion, and after giving effect to the Concurrent Offering, will total approximately \$ billion, all of which would rank senior to the Debentures other than our existing 8.125% Debentures, our existing 10% Debentures and the ICON securities, each of which will rank equally with the Debentures. In addition, the Debentures will be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries' existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including obligations to policyholders. See The Debentures will be effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other obligations of our subsidiaries, which could impair our ability to make payments. At December 31, 2011, our subsidiaries' indebtedness was approximately \$555 million, which includes approximately \$314 million of consumer notes.

Due to the subordination provisions described in Description of the Debentures Ranking of the Debentures, in the event of our insolvency, funds which we would otherwise use to pay to the holders of the Debentures will be used to pay the holders of senior indebtedness to the extent necessary to pay the senior indebtedness in full. As a result of those payments, our general creditors may recover less, ratably, than the holders of our senior indebtedness and these general creditors may recover more, ratably, than the holders of the Debentures. In addition, the holders of our senior indebtedness may, under certain circumstances, restrict or prohibit us from making payments on the Debentures.

The indenture will not limit our ability or that of our subsidiaries to issue or incur additional indebtedness, including debt that ranks senior to the Debentures.

We may make certain payments on parity securities during a deferral period.

Parity securities are debt securities that rank equal in right of payment with the Debentures, such as our existing 8.125% Debentures, our existing 10% Debentures and the ICON securities upon our liquidation. We may issue parity securities as to which we are required to make payments of interest during a deferral period on the Debentures that, if not made, would cause us to breach the terms of the instrument governing such parity securities. The terms of the Debentures permit us to make any payment of deferred interest on parity securities that, if not made, would cause us to breach the terms of the instrument governing such parity securities. They also permit us to make any payment of current or deferred interest on parity securities and on the Debentures during a deferral period that is made pro rata to the amounts due on such parity securities and the Debentures.

The Debentures will be effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other obligations of our subsidiaries, which could impair our ability to make payments.

We are a holding company and rely primarily on dividends and interest payments from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations for payment of interest and principal on outstanding debt obligations, dividends to stockholders and corporate expenses. As a result, our cash flows and ability to service our obligations, including the Debentures, are dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries, distributions of those earnings to us and other payments or distributions of funds by our subsidiaries to us.

The ability of our insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends to us in the future will depend on their statutory surplus, on their earnings and on regulatory restrictions. See Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business Our ability to declare and pay dividends is subject to limitations. In addition, our subsidiaries have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the Debentures. Furthermore, except to the extent we have a prior or equal claim against our subsidiaries as a creditor, the Debentures will be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries' existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including obligations to policyholders, and preferred stock because, as the common stockholder of our subsidiaries, we will be subject to the prior claims of our subsidiaries' creditors and preferred stockholders, including claims of policyholders with respect to our insurance subsidiaries. Claims on these subsidiaries by persons other than us include, as of December 31, 2011, claims by

Table of Contents

policyholders for benefits payable amounting to approximately \$117 billion, claims by separate account holders of approximately \$144 billion, and other liabilities, including claims of trade creditors, claims from guaranty associations and claims from holders of debt obligations, amounting to approximately \$6.5 billion. Consequently, the Debentures are effectively subordinated to all liabilities of any of our subsidiaries and the claims of their preferred stockholders. Substantially all of our business is currently conducted through our subsidiaries, and we expect this to continue.

If interest payments on the Debentures are deferred, holders of the Debentures will be required to recognize income for U.S. federal income tax purposes in advance of the receipt of cash attributable to such income.

If we defer interest payments on the Debentures, the Debentures would be treated as issued with original issue discount, or OID, at the time of such deferral, and all stated interest due after such deferral would be treated as OID. In such case, a United States holder (as defined in [Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations](#)) would be required to include such stated interest in income as it accrued, regardless of its regular method of accounting, using a constant yield method, before such holder receives any payment attributable to such income, and would not separately report the actual cash payments of interest on the Debentures as taxable income. See [Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations](#) [United States Holders](#) [Interest Income and Original Issue Discount](#).

We may redeem the Debentures on or after April 15, 2022, and at any time in the event of a tax event or rating agency event.

We may redeem the Debentures in whole at any time or in part from time to time on or after April 15, 2022, at a redemption price equal to their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption. Prior to April 15, 2022, we may also redeem the Debentures in whole, but not in part, at any time within 90 days of the occurrence of a [tax event](#) or [rating agency event](#) at a redemption price equal to the greater of their principal amount or the make-whole redemption amount, in each case, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption. If the Debentures are redeemed, the redemption will be a taxable event to you. See [Description of the Debentures](#) [Optional Redemption](#).

In the event we choose to redeem the Debentures, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the interest rate on the Debentures.

The secondary market for the Debentures may be illiquid.

The Debentures constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We intend to apply to list the Debentures on the NYSE. If approved for listing, trading on the NYSE is expected to commence within 30 days after the Debentures are first issued. However, listing the Debentures on the NYSE does not guarantee that a trading market will develop or, if a trading market does develop, the depth or liquidity of that market or the ability of holders to sell their Debentures easily. In addition, the liquidity of the trading market in the Debentures, and the market prices quoted therefor, may be adversely affected by changes in the overall market for this type of security and by changes in our financial performance or prospects or in the prospects for companies in our industry generally. As a result, we cannot assure you that an active after-market for the Debentures will develop or be sustained, that holders of the Debentures will be able to sell their Debentures or that holders of the Debentures will be able to sell their Debentures at favorable prices.

If a trading market does develop, general market conditions and unpredictable factors could adversely affect market prices for the Debentures.

If a trading market does develop, there can be no assurance about the market prices for the Debentures. Several factors, many of which are beyond our control, will influence the market value of the Debentures. Factors that might influence the market value of the Debentures include, but are not limited to:

whether interest payments have been made and are likely to be made on the Debentures from time to time;

our creditworthiness, financial condition, performance and prospects;

whether the ratings on the Debentures provided by any ratings agency have changed;

the market for similar securities; and

S-26

Table of Contents

economic, financial, geopolitical, regulatory or judicial events that affect us or the financial markets generally, including continuing uncertainty about the strength and speed of the recovery in the United States and other key economies and the impact of governmental stimulus and austerity initiatives, sovereign credit concerns, including the potential consequences associated with recent and further potential downgrades to the credit ratings of debt issued by the United States government, European sovereigns and other adverse developments on financial, commodity and credit markets and consumer spending and investment, including in respect of Europe. See Risks Related to Our Business.

If you purchase Debentures, whether in this offering or in the secondary market, the Debentures may subsequently trade at a discount to the price that you paid for them.

S-27

Table of Contents

WARRANT AND DEBENTURE REPURCHASE AND CONCURRENT TRANSACTIONS

We and Allianz have entered into a Warrant and Debentures Purchase Agreement, dated as of March 30, 2012, providing for: (i) our right to repurchase all of our existing 10% Debentures for \$2.075 billion (plus a payment by us of unpaid interest on the 10% Debentures) and a payment by us of \$50 million in connection with the conferral of certain rights relating to the 10% Debentures repurchase; and (ii) the repurchase of the outstanding Warrants held by Allianz to purchase, subject to certain conditions, 69,351,806 shares of our common stock at a current exercise price of \$25.23 per share, subject to certain anti-dilution adjustments, for \$300 million.

We are proposing to finance the planned repurchase of our existing 10% Debentures through this offering and the Concurrent Offering. We are repurchasing the Warrants through our \$500 million Equity Repurchase Program. We intend to complete repurchases up to the remaining authorization of approximately \$106 million under the Equity Repurchase Program on a timely basis, taking into consideration market conditions and trading restrictions.

Under the Purchase Agreement, the Warrants are to be repurchased from Allianz on April 17, 2012. The 10% Debentures are also scheduled to be repurchased from Allianz on April 17, 2012, but at our option, such repurchase may be deferred to a later date selected by us. If the repurchase of the 10% Debentures is so deferred, we will also pay: (1) the unpaid interest on the 10% Debentures to the date of closing, and (2) additional interest in an amount that would accrue at the rate of 10% per annum on \$325 million from April 17, 2012 to the date of closing. At any time after April 17, 2012, we may terminate our commitment to purchase the 10% Debentures, but must then pay the amount set forth in item (2) above through the termination date. After June 30, 2012, if the closing of the purchase of the 10% Debentures has not occurred, Allianz will be entitled to terminate its commitment to sell the 10% Debentures and will be paid the additional interest set forth in item (2) above through such termination date, absent a failure by Allianz to take any action required to fulfill any of its obligations under the Purchase Agreement that has materially contributed or resulted in the failure of the closing to occur on or before June 30, 2012.

Our plan to repurchase the 10% Debentures is contingent upon the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC, which limits our ability to repurchase the 10% Debentures and was entered into for the benefit of the holders of the 2041 Notes, or such repurchase being otherwise permitted by the 10% Debentures RCC. Concurrent with this offering and by means of a separate consent solicitation statement and related letter of consent, we are soliciting the holders of the 2041 Notes for their consent to terminate the 10% Debentures RCC.

The 10% Debentures and the Warrants were issued to Allianz in private placement transactions pursuant to an investment agreement, dated October 17, 2008.

Our agreement with Allianz, along with our planned financing of the proposed repurchase of the 10% Debentures through this offering and the Concurrent Offering, are designed to provide us with additional financial flexibility and an improved capital structure. These transactions are expected to reduce our anticipated annual interest expense by replacing high interest coupon debt with lower coupon debt, based upon our currently expected financing plans. In addition, the transactions are intended to result in a better balance between our senior and subordinated debt. As a consequence, however, of (i) the proposed repurchase of the 10% Debentures and (ii) the proposed issuance of Debentures in this offering and senior notes in the Concurrent Offering, our total long term debt as of December 31, 2011 of approximately \$6.2 billion will increase on an as adjusted basis for the foregoing transactions to approximately \$ billion.

As a result of the transactions under the Purchase Agreement, stockholders' equity will be reduced, approximately, as follows: (i) additional paid-in capital will be reduced to reflect the repurchase of the Warrants for \$300 million, to be recorded on March 30, 2012, the date of the Purchase Agreement; and (ii) retained earnings will be reduced to reflect (a) the after-tax premium associated with repurchasing the 10% Debentures at

Table of Contents

an amount greater than the face amount (\$244 million), (b) the after-tax write-off of the unamortized discount of the 10% Debentures (\$332 million) and (c) the after-tax write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs related to the 10% Debentures (\$12 million), with each of these amounts to be recorded upon the closing of the proposed repurchase of the 10% Debentures.

This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Purchase Agreement which has been filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

S-29

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate the net proceeds from this offering of our Debentures will be approximately \$ million, after deducting underwriting discounts and the estimated expenses of the offering that we will pay. Concurrently, we also intend to issue in the Concurrent Offering, in one or more series, an aggregate of \$ billion in principal amount of our senior debt securities. We estimate that the net proceeds from the Concurrent Offering will be approximately \$ billion, after deducting underwriting discounts and the estimated expenses of the Concurrent Offering that we will pay.

We intend to apply the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering towards the repurchase of the 10% Debentures. Our plan to repurchase the 10% Debentures is contingent upon the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC, or such repurchase being otherwise permitted under the 10% Debentures RCC. On April 2, 2012, we commenced a solicitation of the holders of the 2041 Notes to consent to the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC. See Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions. The 10% Debentures have a fixed interest rate of 10% to but excluding October 15, 2018. From and including October 15, 2018, the 10% Debentures provide that they bear interest at an annual rate, reset quarterly, equal to three-month LIBOR plus 6.824%. The 10% Debentures have a maturity date of October 15, 2068.

If for any reason we do not repurchase our existing 10% Debentures, we will use the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering for general corporate purposes.

S-30

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of December 31, 2011:

on an actual basis;

as adjusted to give effect to the receipt of the estimated net proceeds of \$ billion from this offering and the Concurrent Offering; and

as further adjusted to give effect to the assumed completion of the repurchase of the Warrants and the 10% Debentures. Our plan to repurchase the 10% Debentures is contingent upon the termination of the 10% Debentures RCC or such repurchase being otherwise permitted by the 10% Debentures RCC. See Warrant and Debenture Repurchase and Concurrent Transactions. The presentation in the as further adjusted column assumes the repurchase of the Warrants and the 10% Debentures. If for any reason we do not repurchase the 10% Debentures, the 10% Debentures will remain outstanding, the Company will use the net proceeds from this offering and the Concurrent Offering for general corporate purposes and total long-term debt would increase by the amount of the outstanding aggregate principal amount of our existing 10% Debentures.

Neither this offering nor the Concurrent Offering is conditioned upon the successful completion of the other offering.

You should read the data set forth in the table below in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, incorporated by reference herein.

	As of December 31, 2011		
	Actual	As Adjusted for this offering and the Concurrent Offering (Unaudited, in millions)	As Further Adjusted for the assumed completion of the repurchase of the Warrants and 10% Debentures
Total Short-Term Debt	\$	\$	\$
Total Long-Term Debt	6,216		
Total Debt	\$ 6,216	\$	\$
Stockholders' Equity			
Common stock (par value \$0.01 per share; 1,500,000,000 shares authorized; 469,750,171 shares issued, as adjusted and as further adjusted)	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5
Preferred stock (50,000,000 shares authorized): Series F Preferred Stock (575,000 shares issued, as adjusted and as further adjusted)	556	556	556
Additional paid-in capital	10,391	10,391	10,091 ⁽²⁾
Retained earnings	12,519	12,519	11,931 ⁽³⁾
Treasury stock, at cost (27,211,115 shares)	(1,718)	(1,718)	(1,718)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax	1,157	1,157	1,157
Total Stockholders' Equity⁽⁴⁾	\$ 22,910	\$ 22,910	\$ 22,022
Total Capitalization	\$ 29,126	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

- (1) Total stockholders' equity has not been adjusted to reflect the retrospective adoption, effective January 1, 2012, of Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-026 Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts (ASU 2010-26). As a result of the ASU 2010-26 accounting change, total stockholders' equity decreased \$1,424 million as of January 1, 2012, and total stockholders' equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income, decreased \$1,518 million as of January 1, 2012.
- (2) Additional paid-in capital has been adjusted to reflect the repurchase of the Warrants for \$300 million. The Company is repurchasing the Warrants through its \$500 million Equity Repurchase Program, pursuant to which it has previously repurchased \$93.7 million of its common stock. The repurchase of the Warrants will be recorded on March 30, 2012, the date of the Purchase Agreement.
- (3) Retained earnings has been adjusted to reflect (a) the after-tax premium associated with repurchasing the 10% Debentures at an amount greater than the face amount (\$244 million), (b) the after-tax write-off of the unamortized discount of the 10% Debentures (\$332 million) and (c) the after-tax write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs related to the 10% Debentures (\$12 million). Each of these amounts will be recorded upon the closing of the repurchase of the 10% Debentures.

S-31

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth, for each of the periods indicated, our ratio of earnings to fixed charges, and our ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest credited to contractholders.

For purposes of computing the ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income before federal income taxes less undistributed earnings from limited partnerships and other alternative investments plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense (including interest credited to contractholders), capitalized interest, amortization expense related to debt and an imputed interest component for rental expense. The following table has not been adjusted to reflect the retrospective adoption, effective January 1, 2012, of Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-026 Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts (ASU 2010-26).

	2011	Years Ended December 31,			2007
		2010	2009	2008	
		(In millions, except for ratios)			
EARNINGS:					
Income (loss) from continuing operations, before income taxes	\$ 230	\$ 2,356	\$ (1,721)	\$ (4,607)	\$ 3,957
Less: Undistributed earnings from limited partnerships and other alternative investments	65	60	(380)	(539)	93
Add: Total fixed charges, before interest credited to contractholders	562	566	537	413	332
Total earnings, before interest credited to contractholders	727	2,862	(804)	(3,655)	4,196
Interest credited to contractholders ⁽¹⁾	189	763	4,947	(8,533)	2,022
Total earnings	\$ 916	\$ 3,625	\$ 4,143	\$ (12,188)	\$ 6,218
FIXED CHARGES:					
Interest expense	\$ 508	\$ 508	\$ 476	\$ 343	\$ 263
Interest factor attributable to rentals and other ⁽²⁾	54	58	61	70	69
Total fixed charges, before interest credited to contractholders	562	566	537	413	332
Interest credited to contractholders ⁽¹⁾	189	763	4,947	(8,533)	2,022
Total fixed charges	\$ 751	\$ 1,329	\$ 5,484	\$ (8,120)	\$ 2,354
RATIOS:					
Total earnings to total fixed charges ⁽³⁾	1.2	2.7	NM	NM	2.6
Deficiency of total earnings to total fixed charges ⁽⁴⁾	\$	\$	\$ 1,341	\$ 4,068	\$
Ratios before interest credited to contractholders ⁽⁵⁾					
Total earnings to total fixed charges ⁽³⁾	1.3	5.1	NM	NM	12.6

(1) Interest credited to contractholders includes interest credited on general account assets and interest credited on consumer notes. For the year ended December 31, 2008, the \$(8.5) billion in interest credited to contractholders was primarily due to \$(10.3) billion in investment income losses and mark-to-market effects of equity securities, trading, supporting the international variable annuity business.

(2) Interest factor attributable to rental and others includes 1/3 of total rent expense as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, capitalized interest and amortization of debt issuance costs.

(3) Ratios of less than one-to-one are presented as NM or not meaningful.

- (4) Represents additional earnings that would be necessary to result in a one-to-one ratio. These amounts are primarily due to before-tax realized losses of \$(2.0) billion and \$(5.9) billion, which includes before-tax impairments of \$(1.5) billion and \$(4.0) billion, for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

- (5) These secondary ratios are disclosed for the convenience of fixed income investors and the rating agencies that serve them and are more comparable to the ratios disclosed by all issuers of fixed income securities.

S-32

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBENTURES

*The following description is a summary of the terms of the Debentures. The descriptions in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain descriptions of certain terms of the Debentures and the junior subordinated indenture but do not purport to be complete, and reference is hereby made to the supplemental indenture, the junior subordinated indenture which has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part, and to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We will file the supplemental indenture as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K, which will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. You may also request copies of the junior subordinated indenture and the supplemental indenture from us at our address set forth under *Where You Can Find More Information*. This summary supplements the description of the debt securities in the accompanying prospectus and, to the extent it is inconsistent, replaces the description in the accompanying prospectus. References to *we*, *us* and *our* in the following description refers only to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries.*

General

We will issue the % fixed-to-floating rate junior subordinated debentures due 2042, which we refer to as the Debentures, under the junior subordinated indenture, dated as of June 6, 2008, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee, as amended and supplemented by a supplemental indenture to be dated the issuance date of the Debentures. We refer to the junior subordinated indenture, as amended and supplemented by the supplemental indenture, as the indenture.

We will initially issue \$ million aggregate principal amount of the Debentures. The Debentures will be issued in minimum denominations of \$25 and integral multiples of \$25 thereafter. We may from time to time, without the consent of the existing holders, create and issue additional Debentures having the same terms and conditions as the Debentures being offered hereby in all respects, except for issue date, issue price and, if applicable, the initial interest accrual date and the first payment of interest thereon. Additional Debentures issued in this manner will be consolidated with, and will form a single series with, the previously outstanding Debentures, unless such additional subordinated debt will not be treated as fungible with the Debentures being offered hereby for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Debentures offered hereby and any additional Debentures would rank equally and ratably.

The Debentures will have a maturity date of April 15, 2042 (or if such day is not a business day, the following business day).

The indenture does not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity. The indenture will not contain provisions that would afford holders of Debentures protection in the event of a sudden and dramatic decline in our credit quality resulting from any highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, restructuring, merger or similar transaction involving us that may adversely affect such holders.

The Debentures will not have a sinking fund.

Interest Rates

The Debentures will bear interest from the date issued until their maturity date or earlier acceleration or redemption, payable on each interest payment date. Interest due with respect to any interest period (as defined below) will accrue as follows:

for any interest period ending on or prior to April 15, 2022, at an annual rate equal to %, computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30 day months, or a 30/360 Basis, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2012, or if any such interest payment date is not a business day, the next business day, without adjustment, to the record holders at the close of business on the preceding January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1, as applicable (whether or not a business day); or

for any interest period commencing on or after April 15, 2022, at an annual rate equal to three-month LIBOR for the applicable interest period, plus %, computed on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and

Table of Contents

October 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2022, or if any such interest payment date is not a business day, the next business day, to the record holders at the close of business on the preceding January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1, as applicable (whether or not a business day).

Interest payments not paid when due as the result of the deferral of interest payments or otherwise will themselves accrue additional interest at the rate per annum then applicable to the Debentures. References in this prospectus to interest include interest accruing on the principal balance of the Debentures, interest on deferred interest payments and other unpaid amounts and compounded interest, as applicable.

Interest period means a period beginning on an interest payment date or, in the case of the first interest period, April 1, 2012, and ending on the day immediately preceding the next interest payment date.

Three-month LIBOR means the rate (expressed as a percentage per annum) for deposits in U.S. dollars for a three-month period commencing on the first day of the relevant interest period that appears on Reuters Page LIBOR01 as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the LIBOR determination date (as defined below) for that interest period. If such rate does not appear on Reuters Page LIBOR01, three-month LIBOR will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in U.S. dollars for a three-month period commencing on the first day of that interest period and in a principal amount of not less than \$1,000,000 are offered to prime banks in the London interbank market by four major banks in the London interbank market selected by the calculation agent (as defined below) after consultation with us, at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the LIBOR determination date for that interest period. The calculation agent will request the principal London office of each of these banks to provide a quotation of such bank's rate. If at least two such quotations are provided, three-month LIBOR with respect to that interest period will be the arithmetic mean (rounded upward if necessary to the nearest whole multiple of 0.00001%) of such quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided, three-month LIBOR with respect to that interest period will be the arithmetic mean (rounded upward if necessary to the nearest whole multiple of 0.00001%) of the rates quoted by three major banks in New York City selected by the calculation agent after consultation with us, at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the first day of that interest period for loans in U.S. dollars to leading European banks for a three-month period commencing on the first day of that interest period and in a principal amount of not less than \$1,000,000. However, if fewer than three banks selected by the calculation agent to provide quotations are quoting as described above, three-month LIBOR for that interest period will be the same as three-month LIBOR as determined for the previous interest period or, in the case of the interest period beginning on April 15, 2022, 0%. The establishment of three-month LIBOR for each interest period by the calculation agent will (in the absence of manifest error) be final and binding.

Calculation agent means The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. or any other successor, acting as calculation agent.

Reuters Page LIBOR01 means the display so designated on the Reuters 3000 Xtra (or such other page as may replace that page on that service, or such other service as may be nominated by us as the information vendor, for the purpose of displaying rates or prices comparable to the London Interbank Offered rate for U.S. dollar deposits).

LIBOR determination date means the second London banking day (as defined below) immediately preceding the first day of the relevant interest period.

London banking day means any day on which commercial banks are open for general business (including dealings in deposits in U.S. dollars) in London.

Ranking

The payment of the principal of and interest on the Debentures will be expressly subordinated, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the indenture, to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness.

Subject to the qualifications described below, the term senior indebtedness will be defined in the indenture to include principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether incurred prior to, on or after the date of this prospectus supplement:

all of our obligations (other than obligations pursuant to the indenture and the Debentures) for money borrowed;

Table of Contents

all of our obligations evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses and including all other debt securities issued by us to any trust or a trustee of such trust, or to a partnership or other affiliate that acts as a financing vehicle for us, in connection with the issuance of securities by such vehicles;

all of our obligations under leases required or permitted to be capitalized under generally accepted accounting principles;

all of our reimbursement obligations with respect to letters of credit, bankers' acceptances or similar facilities issued for our account;

all of our obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services, including all obligations under master lease transactions pursuant to which we or any of our subsidiaries have agreed to be treated as owner of the subject property for federal income tax purposes (but excluding trade accounts payable or accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business);

all of our payment obligations under interest rate swap or similar agreements or foreign currency hedge, exchange or similar agreements at the time of determination, including any such obligations we incurred solely to act as a hedge against increases in interest rates that may occur under the terms of other outstanding variable or floating rate indebtedness of ours;

all obligations of the types referred to in the preceding bullet points of another person and all dividends of another person the payment of which, in either case, we have assumed or guaranteed or for which we are responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, jointly or severally, as obligor, guarantor or otherwise;

all compensation, reimbursement and indemnification obligations of ours to the trustee pursuant to the indenture; and

all amendments, modifications, renewals, extensions, refinancings, replacements and refundings of any of the above types of indebtedness.

The Debentures will rank senior to all of our equity securities.

The senior indebtedness will continue to be senior indebtedness and entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions of the indenture irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of the senior indebtedness or extension or renewal of the senior indebtedness. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, senior indebtedness will not include (1) indebtedness incurred for the purchase of goods, materials or property, or for services obtained in the ordinary course of business or for other liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business (i.e., trade accounts payable), (2) any indebtedness which by its terms expressly provides that it is not senior to the Debentures, (3) any of our indebtedness owed to a person who is our subsidiary or employee, (4) the ICON securities, (5) our existing 8.125% Debentures or (6) our existing 10% Debentures, which, in each case, will (unless it is by its terms subordinated to the Debentures) rank equally, subject to the provisions described below under "Option to Defer Interest Payments - Certain limitations during a deferral period" with the Debentures.

All liabilities of our subsidiaries, including their trade accounts payable and other liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business (including obligations to policyholders), will be effectively senior to the Debentures to the extent of the assets of such subsidiaries, as we are a holding company. Because we are a holding company, we rely primarily on dividends and other payments from our direct and indirect subsidiaries, which are generally regulated insurance companies, to pay interest and principal on our outstanding debt obligations. Regulatory rules may restrict our ability to withdraw capital from our subsidiaries by dividends, loans or other means. See "Risk Factors - Risks Related to the Offering" The Debentures will be effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other obligations of our subsidiaries, which could impair our ability to make payments.

If certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur, we will first pay all senior indebtedness, including any interest accrued after the events occur, in full before we make any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, on account of the principal of or interest on the Debentures. In such an event, we will pay or deliver directly to the holders of senior indebtedness, any payment or distribution

otherwise payable or deliverable to holders of the Debentures. We will make the payments to the holders of senior

S-35

Table of Contents

indebtedness according to priorities existing among those holders until we have paid all senior indebtedness, including accrued interest, in full.

If such events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur, after we have paid in full all amounts owed on senior indebtedness, the holders of Debentures together with the holders of any of our other obligations that rank equally with the Debentures will be entitled to receive from our remaining assets any principal, premium or interest due at that time on the Debentures and such other obligations before we make any payment or other distribution on account of any of our capital stock or obligations ranking junior to the Debentures.

If we violate the indenture by making a payment or distribution to holders of the Debentures before we have paid all the senior indebtedness in full, then such holders of the Debentures will have to pay or transfer the payments or distributions to the trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, liquidating trustee or other person distributing our assets for payment of the senior indebtedness.

Because of the subordination provisions of the indenture, if we become insolvent, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of the Debentures having a claim pursuant to those securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. This type of subordination will not prevent an event of default from occurring under the indenture in connection with the Debentures.

The Debentures do not limit our or our subsidiaries' ability to incur additional debt, including debt that ranks senior to the Debentures. At December 31, 2011, our indebtedness, on an unconsolidated basis, totaled approximately \$6 billion, and after giving effect to the Concurrent Offering, will total approximately \$ billion, all of which would rank senior to the Debentures, other than our existing 8.125% Debentures, our existing 10% Debentures and the ICON securities, each of which will rank equally with the Debentures. In addition, the Debentures will be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries' existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including obligations to policyholders. At December 31, 2011, our subsidiaries' indebtedness was approximately \$555 million, which includes approximately \$314 million of consumer notes.

Option to Defer Interest Payments

So long as no event of default with respect to the Debentures has occurred and is continuing, we may, on one or more occasions, defer interest payments on the Debentures for one or more interest periods (each, a deferral period) of up to ten consecutive years without giving rise to an event of default under the terms of the Debentures. A deferral of interest payments cannot extend, however, beyond the maturity date or the earlier acceleration or redemption of the Debentures. During a deferral period, interest will continue to accrue on the Debentures, and deferred interest payments will accrue additional interest at the then applicable interest rate on the Debentures, compounded quarterly as of each interest payment date to the extent permitted by applicable law. No interest otherwise due during a deferral period will be due and payable on the Debentures until the end of such deferral period except upon an acceleration or redemption of the Debentures during such deferral period.

At the end of ten years following the commencement of a deferral period, we must pay all accrued and unpaid deferred interest, including compounded interest, and our failure to pay all accrued and unpaid deferred interest, including compounded interest, for a period of 30 days after the conclusion of such ten-year period will result in an event of default giving rise to a right of acceleration. If, at the end of any deferral period, we have paid all deferred interest due on the Debentures, including compounded interest, we can again defer interest payments on the Debentures as described above.

We will provide to the trustee and the holders of Debentures written notice of any deferral of interest at least one and not more than 60 business days prior to the applicable interest payment date. In addition, our failure to pay interest on the Debentures on any interest payment date will itself constitute the commencement of a deferral period unless we pay such interest within five business days after any such interest payment date, whether or not we provide a notice of deferral. We have no present intention of exercising our right to defer payments of interest.

Table of Contents

Certain limitations during a deferral period

After the commencement of a deferral period until we have paid all accrued and unpaid interest on the Debentures, we will agree not to, and not to permit any of our subsidiaries to:

declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of our capital stock other than:

purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of our common stock in connection with any employment contract, benefit plan or other similar arrangement with or for the benefit of employees, officers, directors or consultants;

purchases of our common stock pursuant to a contractually binding requirement to buy common stock entered into prior to the beginning of the related deferral period, including under a contractually binding stock repurchase plan;

as a result of any exchange, redemption or conversion of any class or series of our capital stock (or any capital stock of one of our subsidiaries) for any class or series of our capital stock or of any class or series of our indebtedness for any class or series of our capital stock;

the purchase of or payment of cash in lieu of fractional interests in our capital stock in accordance with the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged; or

the redemption or repurchase of rights in accordance with any stockholders' rights plan;

make any payment of principal of or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any of our debt securities or guarantees that rank equally with the Debentures (parity securities) or junior to the Debentures other than any payment of principal on parity securities necessary to avoid a breach of the instrument governing such parity securities.

Optional Redemption

We may redeem the Debentures in \$25 increments:

in whole at any time or in part from time to time on or after April 15, 2022, at a redemption price equal to their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption; provided that if the Debentures are not redeemed in whole, at least \$25 million aggregate principal amount of the Debentures must remain outstanding after giving effect to such redemption; or

in whole, but not in part, at any time prior to April 15, 2022, within 90 days of the occurrence of a tax event or rating agency event at a redemption price equal to their principal amount or, if greater, the make-whole redemption amount described below, in each case, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption.

The indenture will include the following definitions applicable to the calculation of the redemption price for the Debentures:

Make-whole redemption amount means, with respect to any principal amount of any Debentures to be redeemed, the sum, as determined by the premium calculation agent, of the present value of the outstanding principal (discounted from April 15, 2022 to but excluding the redemption date) and remaining scheduled payments of interest that would have been payable from the redemption date to and including April 15, 2022

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

(discounted from their respective interest payment dates to but excluding the redemption date) on the Debentures to be redeemed (not including any portion of such payments of interest accrued and unpaid to but excluding the date of redemption) on a 30/360 Basis at a discount rate equal to the treasury rate plus a spread of %.

Premium calculation agent means Goldman, Sachs & Co., or, if that firm is unwilling or unable to calculate the make-whole redemption amount, an investment banking institution of national standing appointed by us.

S-37

Table of Contents

Treasury rate means the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the treasury security that corresponds to the treasury price thereof (calculated in accordance with standard market practice and computed as of the second trading day preceding the redemption date).

Treasury security means the United States treasury security that the treasury dealer determines would be appropriate to use, at the time of determination and in accordance with standard market practice, in pricing the Debentures being redeemed in a tender offer based on a spread to United States Treasury yields.

Treasury price means the bid-side price for the treasury security as of the third trading day preceding the redemption date, as set forth in the daily statistical release (or any successor release) published by The Wall Street Journal on that trading day and designated Treasury Bonds, Notes and Bills, except that: (i) if that release (or any successor release) is not published or does not contain that price information on that trading day; or (ii) if the treasury dealer determines that the price information is not reasonably reflective of the actual bid-side price of the treasury security prevailing at 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on that trading day, then treasury price will instead mean the bid-side price for the treasury security at or around 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on that trading day (expressed on a next trading day settlement basis) as determined by the treasury dealer through such alternative means as the treasury dealer considers to be appropriate under the circumstances.

Treasury dealer means Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Goldman, Sachs & Co., Barclays Capital Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (or their respective successors) or, if Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Goldman, Sachs & Co., Barclays Capital Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (or their respective successors) refuses to act as treasury dealer for this purpose or ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer, another nationally recognized investment banking firm that is a primary U.S. Government securities dealer specified by us for these purposes.

Tax event means that we will have received an opinion of counsel, rendered by a law firm of nationally recognized standing that is experienced in such matters, stating that, as a result of any:

amendment to, or change in (including any promulgation, enactment, execution or modification of) the laws (or any regulations under those laws) of the United States or any political subdivision thereof or therein affecting taxation;

official administrative pronouncement (including a private letter ruling, technical advice memorandum or similar pronouncement) or judicial decision or administrative action or other official pronouncement interpreting or applying the laws or regulations enumerated in the preceding bullet point, by any court, governmental agency or regulatory authority; or

threatened challenge asserted in connection with an audit of us or any of our subsidiaries, or a threatened challenge asserted in writing against any taxpayer that has raised capital through the issuance of securities that are substantially similar to the Debentures, which amendment or change is enacted or effective or which pronouncement or decision is announced or which challenge is asserted against us or becomes publicly known on or after the date of initial issuance of the Debentures, there is more than an insubstantial increase in the risk that interest accruable or payable by us on the Debentures is not, or will not be, deductible by us in whole or in part, for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Rating agency event means a change by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act (each an NRSRO) in its criteria for awarding equity credit to securities such as the Debentures, which change results in (i) the shortening of the length of time the Debentures are assigned a particular level of equity credit by that NRSRO as compared to the length of time they would have been assigned that level of equity credit by such NRSRO or its predecessor on the issue date or (ii) the lowering of the equity credit (including up to a lesser amount) assigned to the Debentures by that NRSRO as compared to the equity credit that such NRSRO or its predecessor assigned the Debentures on the issuance date of the Debentures.

Redemption Procedures

If we give a notice of redemption in respect of any Debentures, then prior to the redemption date, we will:

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

irrevocably deposit with the trustee or a paying agent for the Debentures funds sufficient to pay the applicable redemption price of, and (except if the redemption date is an interest payment date) accrued interest on, the Debentures to be redeemed; and

S-38

Table of Contents

give the trustee or such paying agent, as applicable, irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders upon surrender of the global certificate or such other certificates as we may have issued evidencing the Debentures.

Notwithstanding the above, interest payable on or prior to the redemption date for any Debentures called for redemption will be payable to the holders of the Debentures on the relevant record dates for the related interest payment dates.

Once notice of redemption has been given and funds deposited as required, then upon the date of the deposit, all rights of the holders of the Debentures so called for redemption will cease, except the right of the holders of the Debentures to receive the redemption price and any interest payable in respect of the Debentures on or prior to the redemption date and the Debentures will cease to be outstanding. In the event that any date fixed for redemption of Debentures is not a business day, then payment of the redemption price will be made on the next business day (without any interest or other payment in connection with this delay) except that, if the next business day falls in the next calendar year, the redemption payment will be made on the immediately preceding business day, in either case with the same force and effect as if made on the original date. In the event that payment of the redemption price in respect of Debentures called for redemption is improperly withheld or refused and not paid by us, interest on the Debentures will continue to accrue at the then applicable rate from the redemption date originally established by us for the Debentures to the date the redemption price is actually paid, in which case the actual payment date will be the date fixed for redemption for purposes of calculating the redemption price.

Subject to applicable law (including, without limitation, U.S. federal securities law), we or our subsidiaries may at any time and from time to time purchase outstanding Debentures by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

If less than all of the Debentures are to be redeemed, the particular Debentures to be redeemed will be selected not more than 45 days prior to the redemption date by the trustee, from the outstanding Debentures not previously called for redemption, by such method as the trustee in its sole discretion deems fair and appropriate and which may provide for the selection for redemption of a portion of the principal amount of any Debentures, provided that the unredeemed portion of the principal amount of any Debenture shall be in an authorized denomination (which shall not be less than the minimum authorized denomination) for such Debenture. The trustee will promptly notify us in writing of the Debentures selected for redemption and, in the case of any Debentures selected for partial redemption, the principal amount thereof to be redeemed.

We may not redeem the Debentures in part if the principal amount has been accelerated and such acceleration has not been rescinded or unless all accrued and unpaid interest, including deferred interest (and compounded interest thereon), has been paid in full on all outstanding Debentures for all interest periods terminating on or before the redemption date.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of Debentures to be redeemed at its registered address. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price on the Debentures, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the Debentures or portions called for redemption.

Denominations

The Debentures will be issued only in registered form in denominations of \$25 each and integral multiples of \$25 in excess thereof. We expect that the Debentures will be held in book-entry form only, as described under Book-Entry; Delivery and Form, and will be held in the name of The Depository Trust Company (DTC) or its nominee.

Table of Contents

Events of Default

The indenture will provide that any one or more of the following events with respect to the Debentures that has occurred and is continuing constitutes an event of default:

the failure to pay interest in full, including compounded interest, on any Debenture for a period of 30 days after the conclusion of a ten-year period following the commencement of any deferral period or on the maturity date;

the failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any Debenture on the maturity date or upon redemption; or

certain events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership.

If an event of default under the indenture arising from a default in the payment of interest, principal or premium has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in outstanding principal amount of the Debentures will have the right to declare the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on the Debentures to be due and payable immediately. If an event of default under the indenture arising from an event of our bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership has occurred, the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on the Debentures will automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of Debentures, become immediately due and payable. In case of any default that is not an event of default, there is no right to declare the principal amount of and accrued but unpaid interest on the Debentures immediately payable.

In cases specified in the indenture, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Debentures may waive any default on behalf of all holders of the Debentures, except a default in the payment of principal or interest or a default in the performance of a covenant or provision of the indenture which cannot be modified without the consent of each holder. We are required to file annually with the trustee a certificate as to whether or not we are in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to us under the indenture.

Within 90 days after actual knowledge by a responsible officer of the trustee of the occurrence of any default (the term "default" to include the events specified above without grace or notice) with respect to the Debentures, the trustee shall transmit by mail to all holders of Debentures, notice of such default 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 interest on any Debentures, 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 and/or responsible officers of the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the Debentures.

The holders of a majority of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Debentures have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee with respect to the Debentures.

Defeasance

The provisions of the indenture relating to defeasance, which are described under the caption "Description of Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance" in the accompanying prospectus, will apply to the Debentures.

Voting Rights

The Debentures will not be entitled to voting rights, subject to any required consents described under "Modification of the Indenture" in the accompanying prospectus.

Listing

We intend to apply to list the Debentures on the NYSE, and we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 days of the initial issuance of the Debentures.

Table of Contents

Book-Entry; Delivery and Form

The Debentures will be represented by one or more global debentures (the "global debentures") that will be deposited with and registered in the name of DTC or its nominee for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., or Euroclear, as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, or Clearstream. We will not issue certificated Debentures, except in the limited circumstances described below. Transfers of ownership interests in the global debentures will be effected only through entries made on the books of DTC participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. You, as the beneficial owner of Debentures, will not receive certificates representing ownership interests in the global debentures, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Debentures is discontinued. You will not receive written confirmation from DTC of your purchase. The direct or indirect participants through whom you purchased the Debentures should send you written confirmations providing details of your transactions, as well as periodic statements of your holdings. The direct and indirect participants are responsible for keeping accurate account of the holdings of their customers like you. The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such limits and such laws may impair the ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in the global debentures.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner and holder of the global debentures, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Debentures represented by the global debentures for all purposes under the indenture relating to the Debentures. Except as provided below, you, as the beneficial owner of interests in the global debentures, will not be entitled to have Debentures registered in your name, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of Debentures in definitive form and will not be considered the owner or holder thereof under the indenture. Accordingly, you, as the beneficial owner, must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if you are not a DTC participant, on the procedures of the DTC participants through which you own your interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture.

Neither we, the trustee, nor any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in global debentures or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interests. DTC's practice is to credit the accounts of DTC's direct participants with payment in amounts proportionate to their respective holdings in principal amount of beneficial interest in a security as shown on the records of DTC, unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on the payment date. The underwriters will initially designate the accounts to be credited. Beneficial owners may experience delays in receiving distributions on their Debentures because distributions will initially be made to DTC and they must be transferred through the chain of intermediaries to the beneficial owner's account. Payments by DTC participants to you will be the responsibility of the DTC participant and not of DTC, the trustee or us. Accordingly, we and any paying agent will have no responsibility or liability for: any aspect of DTC's records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in Debentures represented by a global securities certificate; any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and its participants or the relationship between those participants and the owners of beneficial interests in a global securities certificate held through those participants; or the maintenance, supervision or review of any of DTC's records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

We have been informed that, under DTC's existing practices, if we request any action of holders of the Debentures, or an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security such as you desires to take any action which a holder of Debentures is entitled to take under the indenture, DTC would authorize the direct participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to take such action, and those direct participants and any indirect participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those direct and indirect participants to take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Table of Contents

Clearstream and Euroclear have provided us with the following information and neither we nor the underwriters take any responsibility for its accuracy:

Clearstream

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

Distributions with respect to Debentures held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Clearstream.

Euroclear

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

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

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

Distributions with respect to Debentures held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Euroclear.

Euroclear has further advised us that investors who acquire, hold and transfer interests in the Debentures by book-entry through accounts with the Euroclear operator or any other securities intermediary are subject to the

Table of Contents

laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities certificates.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

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

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

Because of time zone differences, credits of Debentures received through Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in such Debentures settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Euroclear participants or Clearstream participants on such following business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of Debentures by or through a Clearstream participant or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

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

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a general discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Debentures. This discussion is based upon the provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, all as in effect on the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, or to different interpretations. This discussion applies only to Debentures that are held as capital assets, within the meaning of the Code, by a holder (as defined below) who purchases Debentures in the initial offering at their issue price (i.e., the first price at which a substantial amount of the Debentures is sold to the public).

This discussion is for general information only and does not address all of the material tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder in light of its particular circumstances or to holders subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws (such as banks, insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, retirement plans, dealers in securities, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons holding the Debentures as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion or other integrated transaction, United States holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, former citizens or residents of the United States and holders who mark securities to market for U.S. federal income tax purposes). This discussion does not address any state, local or foreign tax consequences or any U.S. federal estate, gift or alternative minimum tax consequences.

For purposes of this discussion, a United States holder is a beneficial owner of a Debenture that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

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, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

any other person that is subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis.

For purposes of this discussion, a non-United States holder is a beneficial owner of a Debenture that is not a United States holder, and holders refers to United States holders and non-United States holders.

Persons considering the purchase of the Debentures should consult their own tax advisers with respect to the U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Debentures in light of their own particular circumstances, as well as the effect of any state, local, foreign and other tax laws.

Classification of the Debentures

The determination of whether a security should be classified as indebtedness or equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes requires a judgment based on all relevant facts and circumstances. There is no statutory, judicial or administrative authority that directly addresses the U.S. federal income tax treatment of securities similar to the Debentures. Based upon an analysis of the relevant facts and circumstances, including certain assumptions and certain representations made by us, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, our special tax counsel, will render its opinion to the effect that under applicable law as of the issue date of the Debentures, the Debentures will be treated as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such opinion is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or any court and there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will agree with such opinion. No ruling is being sought from the IRS on any of the issues discussed herein.

We agree, and by acquiring an interest in a Debenture each beneficial owner of a Debenture agrees, to treat the Debentures as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the remainder of this discussion assumes such treatment, except where specified.

United States Holders

Interest Income and Original Issue Discount

It is expected, and assumed for purposes of this discussion that, subject to the discussion below, the Debentures will not be issued with original issue discount (OID) for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

Treasury regulations provide that the possibility that interest on the Debentures might be deferred could result in the Debentures being treated as issued with OID, unless the likelihood of such deferral is remote. We believe that the likelihood of interest deferral is remote and therefore that the possibility of such deferral will not result in the Debentures being treated as issued with OID. Accordingly, interest paid on the Debentures should be taxable to a United States holder as ordinary interest income at the time it accrues or is received in accordance with such United States holder's method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, no rulings or other interpretations have been issued by the IRS that address the meaning of the term "remote," as used in the applicable Treasury regulations, and there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will agree with our position.

If the possibility of interest deferral were determined not to be remote, or if interest were in fact deferred, the Debentures would be treated as issued with OID at the time of issuance, or at the time of such deferral, as the case may be, and all stated interest, or if interest is in fact deferred all stated interest due after such deferral, would be treated as OID. In such case, a United States holder would be required to include interest in income as it accrued, regardless of the holder's regular method of accounting, using the constant-yield-to-maturity method of accrual, before such United States holder received any payment attributable to such income, and would not separately report the actual cash payments of interest on the Debentures as taxable income.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Disposition of Debentures

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a Debenture, a United States holder will generally recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized (less any accrued interest not previously included in the United States holder's income, which will be taxable as ordinary income) on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition and such United States holder's adjusted tax basis in the Debenture. Assuming that interest payments on the Debentures are not deferred and that the Debentures are not treated as issued with OID, a United States holder's adjusted tax basis in a Debenture generally will be its initial purchase price. If the Debentures are treated as issued with OID, a United States holder's adjusted tax basis in a Debenture generally will be its initial purchase price, increased by OID previously includible in such United States holder's gross income to the date of disposition and decreased by payments received on the Debenture since and including the date that the Debenture was treated as issued with OID. That gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss and generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Debenture had been held for more than one year. A United States holder that is an individual is generally entitled to preferential treatment for net long-term capital gains. The ability of a United States holder to deduct capital losses is limited.

Non-United States Holders

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, the following is a discussion of U.S. federal income tax and withholding tax considerations generally applicable to non-United States holders:

(a) payments of principal and interest (including OID, if applicable) with respect to a Debenture held by or for a non-United States holder will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax, provided that, in the case of amounts treated as interest, (i) such non-United States holder does not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote, (ii) such non-United States holder is not a controlled foreign corporation, within the meaning of section 957(a) of the Code, that is related, directly or indirectly, to us through stock ownership, and (iii) such non-United States holder complies with applicable certification requirements related to its non-U.S. status including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN or other applicable Form W-8; and

(b) a non-United States holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on amounts treated as gain realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a Debenture.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Backup withholding and information reporting requirements generally apply to interest and principal payments made to, and to the proceeds of sales by, certain non-corporate United States holders. A United States holder not otherwise exempt from backup withholding generally can avoid backup withholding by providing IRS Form W-9. In the case of a non-United States holder, backup withholding and information reporting will not

Table of Contents

apply to payments on, or proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of, a Debenture if the statement referred to in clause (a)(iii) of the first paragraph under the heading "Non-United States Holder" has been received. Withholding agents must nevertheless report to the IRS and to each non-United States holder the amount of interest (including OID, if applicable) paid with respect to the Debentures held by such non-United States holder and the rate of withholding (if any) applicable to such non-United States holder. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against the holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

S-46

Table of Contents

BENEFIT PLAN INVESTOR CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the purchase of the Debentures by (a) employee benefit plans that are subject to Title I of the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), (b) plans, individual retirement accounts and other arrangements that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code, (c) entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of any employee benefit plan, plan, account or arrangement described in preceding clause (a) or (b), or (d) any governmental plan, church plan, non-U.S. plan or other investor whose purchase or holding of the Debentures would be subject to provisions under any federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to such provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (being referred to collectively as Similar Laws) (each entity described in preceding clause (a), (b), (c) or (d), a Plan).

General Fiduciary Matters

ERISA and the Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (an ERISA Plan), and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan and its fiduciaries or other interested parties.

In considering an investment in the Debentures of a portion of the assets of any Plan, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the Plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Law relating to a fiduciary's duties to the Plan including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA or the Code or similar provisions under Similar Laws.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit ERISA Plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of ERISA, or disqualified persons, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code, unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, the fiduciary of the ERISA Plan that engages in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. Parties in interest or disqualified persons could include, without limitation, us, the underwriters, the trustee, the holders of our existing 10% Debentures or any of their respective affiliates. For example, the acquisition and/or holding of Debentures by an ERISA Plan with respect to which we are considered a party in interest or a disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code, unless the investment is acquired and is held in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor (the DOL) has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions (PTCEs) that may apply to the acquisition and holding of the Debentures. These class exemptions include, without limitation, PTCE 84-14 relating to transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 relating to investments by insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 relating to investments by bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 relating to investments by life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 relating to transactions determined by in-house asset managers, although there can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied. In addition, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(a)(20) of the Code may provide a limited exemption for the purchase and holding of the Debentures, provided that neither a party in interest or disqualified person nor any of their affiliates has or exercises any discretionary authority or control or renders any investment advice with respect to the assets of any ERISA Plan involved in the transaction and provided further that the ERISA Plan pays no more, and receives no less, than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction (the so-called service provider exemption).

Governmental plans, non-U.S. plans and certain church plans, while not subject to the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code, may nevertheless be subject to Similar Laws which may affect their investment in the Debentures. Any fiduciary of such a governmental, non-U.S. or church plan considering an investment in the Debentures should consult with its counsel before purchasing Debentures to

Table of Contents

consider the applicable fiduciary standards and to determine the need for, and, if necessary, the availability of, any exemptive relief under such Similar Laws.

Because of the foregoing, the Debentures should not be purchased or held by any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such purchase and holding will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or a violation of any applicable Similar Laws.

Representation

Accordingly, by acceptance of a Debenture, each purchaser and subsequent transferee of a Debenture will be deemed to have represented and warranted that on each day such person holds the Debenture either (i) it is not a Plan and no portion of the assets used by such purchaser or transferee to acquire and hold the Debentures constitutes assets of any Plan or (ii) the purchase and holding of the Debentures by such purchaser or transferee will not constitute or result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or a violation under any applicable Similar Laws.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries, or other persons considering purchasing the Debentures on behalf of, or with the assets of, any Plan, consult with their counsel regarding the potential applicability of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code and any Similar Laws to such investment and whether an exemption would be applicable to the purchase and holding of the Debentures. Purchasers of the Debentures have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase and holding of the Debentures do not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Laws. The sale of any Debentures to a Plan is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by any such Plan generally or any particular Plan, or that such investment is appropriate for such Plans generally or any particular Plan.

We believe that the Debentures would not be treated as equity securities for ERISA purposes.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters named below, for whom Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co. are acting as representatives (the representatives), have severally and not jointly agreed to purchase from us, and we have agreed to sell, the aggregate principal amount of Debentures listed opposite their names below, at the public offering price less the underwriting discount set forth below:

Underwriters	Principal Amount of Debentures
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	\$
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	
Barclays Capital Inc.	
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Total	\$

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to purchase the Debentures offered hereby are subject to certain conditions and that the underwriters will purchase all of the Debentures offered by this prospectus supplement if any of these Debentures are purchased. The offering of the Debentures by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

We have been advised by the representatives that the underwriters propose to offer the Debentures directly to the public at the applicable public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and the underwriters may sell the Debentures to certain dealers at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of % of the aggregate principal amount of the Debentures sold to retail accounts and % of the aggregate principal amount of the Debentures sold to institutional accounts. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow, a concession not in excess of % of the aggregate principal amount of the Debentures to certain other dealers. After the initial public offering of the Debentures to the public, the representatives may change the public offering price and other selling terms.

We have agreed, during the period beginning from the date of this prospectus supplement and continuing to and including the settlement date for the offering of the Debentures, not to offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise dispose of, except with the prior consent of the representatives, any securities of the Company which are substantially similar to the Debentures (other than, for the avoidance of doubt, the senior notes in the Concurrent Offering).

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of this offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$3 million. We will pay the underwriting discounts and commissions of % of the public offering price per Debenture, for a total of \$ million.

The representatives have advised us that the underwriting discounts and commissions will be % of the public offering price per Debenture with respect to \$ aggregate principal amount of Debentures sold to certain institutions. Therefore, to the extent any sales are made to any of those institutions, the actual total underwriting discounts and commissions will be less than the amounts shown in the preceding paragraph and the actual total net proceeds to us will be greater than the amounts described in this prospectus supplement.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any of such liabilities.

The Debentures are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. Although we intend to apply to list the Debentures on the NYSE, and we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 days of the initial issuance of the Debentures, there is no guarantee that we will be able to list the Debentures. The representatives have advised us

Table of Contents

that the underwriters may make a market in the Debentures after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Debentures or that an active public market for the Debentures will develop. If an active public trading market for the Debentures does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Debentures may be adversely affected.

In connection with the offering of the Debentures, certain of the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the Debentures. Specifically, the underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position. In addition, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the Debentures in the open market to cover syndicate short positions or to stabilize the price of the Debentures. 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 Debentures sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the Debentures above independent market levels, but no representation is made hereby of the magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the market price of the Debentures. The underwriters will not be required to engage in these activities, and may engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities, at any time without notice.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, including securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment and commercial banking services for us, for which they received or may receive customary fees and expenses. The underwriters named above are also acting as underwriters in connection with the Concurrent Offering.

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 (which may include bank loans and/or credit default swaps) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. In addition, affiliates of some of the underwriters are lenders, and in some cases agents for the lenders under our credit facility. Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge, and certain other of those underwriters or their affiliates may hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. A typical such hedging strategy would include these underwriters or their affiliates hedging 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 Debentures offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the Debentures. 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.

Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co. are acting as solicitation agents with respect to the solicitation of consents of the holders of the 2041 Notes to terminate the 10% Debentures RCC.

To the extent that any underwriter that is not a U.S. registered broker-dealer intends to effect any sales of the Debentures in the United States, it will do so through one or more U.S. registered broker-dealers as permitted by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority regulations.

Table of Contents

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA) which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) an offer to the public of Debentures which is the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may not be made in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by us for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of Debentures shall result in a requirement for the issuer or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or a supplement to a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of Debentures to the public , or any similar expression, in relation to any Debentures in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Debentures to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Debentures, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/ EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (i) 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 (FSMA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the Debentures in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the issuer; and
- (ii) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the Debentures in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Hong Kong

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in Hong Kong, by means of any document, any Debentures other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer or invitation to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance; and
- (b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Debentures, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Debentures which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Table of Contents

Japan

None of the Debentures has been or will be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act) and each underwriter has represented and agreed that it will not offer or sell any Debentures, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Debentures may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Debentures 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 under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), 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 compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the Debentures are subscribed for or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is: (a) 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; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments, and each beneficiary of the trust is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable within 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Debentures pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; (3) where the transfer is by operation of law; or (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE DEBENTURES

The validity of the Debentures offered by this prospectus supplement and certain tax matters relating to the Debentures will be passed upon for us by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York, and certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Alan J. Kreczko, Esq., our Executive Vice President and General Counsel or his designee. As of April 2, 2012, Mr. Kreczko beneficially owned 8,909 shares of our common stock, 59,582 shares of our common stock obtainable through the exercise of vested options, 14,996 restricted stock units, 23,446 restricted units, unvested options to acquire an additional 98,115 shares of our common stock and 1,964 deferred units. The validity of the Debentures will be passed upon for the underwriters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which report on the financial statements expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's change in its method of accounting and reporting for variable interest entities and embedded credit derivatives in 2010 and for other-than-temporary impairments in 2009), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

**The Hartford Financial
Services Group, Inc.**

Debt Securities

Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Common Stock

Depositary Shares

Warrants

Stock Purchase Contracts

Stock Purchase Units

By this prospectus, we may offer from time to time, or selling securityholders may sell from time to time, the securities described in this prospectus separately or together in any combination.

Specific terms of any securities to be offered will be provided in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest. A supplement may also add to, update, supplement or clarify information contained in this prospectus.

Unless stated otherwise in a prospectus supplement, none of these securities will be listed on any securities exchange.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **HIG**.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more agents, underwriters, dealers or other third parties or directly to one or more purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. In addition, selling securityholders may sell their securities from time to time on terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investing in the offered securities involves risks. You should consider the risk factors described in any applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents we incorporate by reference.

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.

The date of this prospectus is August 4, 2010.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	ii
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND CERTAIN RISK FACTORS</u>	ii
<u>THE HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.</u>	1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	1
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	1
<u>DESCRIPTION OF JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF THE HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.</u>	30
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	36
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	39
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS</u>	41
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	42
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	44
<u>EXPERTS</u>	44
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	45
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	45

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we are registering an unspecified amount of each class of the securities described in this prospectus, and we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. In addition, we may use this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement in a remarketing or other resale transaction involving the securities after their initial sale. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. Selling securityholders may also sell securities on terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update, supplement or clarify information contained in this prospectus. The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. Any information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and any relevant prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. See **Incorporation by Reference**. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, and any free writing prospectus with respect to an offering filed by us with the SEC.

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We and any selling securityholders have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We and any selling securityholders are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

Unless otherwise indicated, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to the Company, we, us and our or similar terms are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries and references to The Hartford are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND CERTAIN RISK FACTORS

Certain of the statements contained herein or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, intends, plans, seeks, believes, estimates, expects, projects, and similar references to future periods.

Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions regarding economic, competitive and legislative developments. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. They have been made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect upon us. Future developments may not be in line with management's expectations or have unanticipated effects. Actual results could differ materially from expectations, depending on the evolution of various factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth in this prospectus and those set forth in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (as updated from time to time) and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010. These important risks and uncertainties include:

risks and uncertainties related to The Hartford's current operating environment, which reflects continued volatility in financial markets, constrained capital and credit markets and uncertainty about the strength of

Table of Contents

an economic recovery and the impact of U.S. and other governmental stimulus, budgetary and legislative initiatives, and whether management's efforts to identify and address these risks will be timely and effective;

risks associated with The Hartford's continued execution of steps to realign its business and reposition its investment portfolio, including the potential need to take other actions, such as divestitures;

market risks associated with The Hartford's business, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, foreign exchange rates, as well as challenging or deteriorating conditions in key sectors such as the commercial real estate market, that have pressured its results and have continued to do so in 2010;

volatility in The Hartford's earnings resulting from its adjustment of its risk management program to emphasize protection of statutory surplus;

the impact on The Hartford's statutory capital of various factors, including many that are outside The Hartford's control, which can in turn affect its credit and financial strength ratings, cost of capital, regulatory compliance and other aspects of its business and results;

risks to The Hartford's business, financial position, prospects and results associated with negative ratings actions or downgrades in The Hartford's financial strength and credit ratings or negative rating actions or downgrades relating to its investments;

the potential for differing interpretations of the methodologies, estimations and assumptions that underlie the valuation of The Hartford's financial instruments that could result in changes to investment valuations;

the subjective determinations that underlie The Hartford's evaluation of other-than-temporary impairments on available-for-sale securities;

losses due to nonperformance or defaults by others;

the potential for further acceleration of deferred policy acquisition cost amortization;

the potential for further impairments of The Hartford's goodwill or the potential for establishing valuation allowances against deferred tax assets;

the possible occurrence of terrorist attacks and The Hartford's ability to contain its exposure, including the effect of the absence or insufficiency of applicable terrorism legislation on coverage;

the difficulty in predicting The Hartford's potential exposure for asbestos and environmental claims;

the possibility of a pandemic or other man-made disaster that may adversely affect The Hartford's businesses and cost and availability of reinsurance;

weather and other natural physical events, including the severity and frequency of storms, hail, snowfall and other winter conditions, natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as climate change, including effects on weather patterns, greenhouse gases, sea, land and air temperatures, sea levels, rain and snow;

the response of reinsurance companies under reinsurance contracts and the availability, pricing and adequacy of reinsurance to protect The Hartford against losses;

Table of Contents

the possibility of unfavorable loss development;

actions by The Hartford's competitors, many of which are larger or have greater financial resources than it does;

the restrictions, oversight, costs and other consequences of being a savings and loan holding company, including from the supervision, regulation and examination by the Office of Thrift Supervision, or the OTS, and in the future, as a result of the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act), The Federal Reserve and the Office of the Controller of the Currency as regulator of Federal Trust Bank, and arising from our participation in the Capital Purchase Program, or the CPP, under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, or the EESA, certain elements of which will continue to apply to us for so long as the United States Department of the Treasury, or the Treasury, holds the warrant or shares of our common stock received on exercise of the warrant that we issued as part of our participation in the CPP;

the potential effect of domestic and foreign regulatory developments, including those that could adversely impact the demand for The Hartford's products, operating costs and required capital levels, including changes to statutory reserves and/or risk-based capital requirements related to secondary guarantees under universal life and variable annuity products;

the cost and other effects of increased regulation as a result of the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act, which will, among other effects, vest a newly created Financial Services Oversight Council with the power to designate systemically important institutions, require central clearing of, and/or impose new margin and capital requirements on, derivatives transactions, and as a savings and loan holding company, may affect our ability to manage our general account by limiting or eliminating investments in certain private equity and hedge funds;

The Hartford's ability to distribute its products through distribution channels, both current and future;

the uncertain effects of emerging claim and coverage issues;

the ability of The Hartford to declare and pay dividends is subject to limitations;

The Hartford's ability to effectively price its property and casualty policies, including its ability to obtain regulatory consents to pricing actions or to non-renewal or withdrawal of certain product lines;

The Hartford's ability to maintain the availability of its systems and safeguard the security of its data in the event of a disaster or other unanticipated events;

the risk that The Hartford's framework for managing business risks may not be effective in mitigating risk and loss to The Hartford that could adversely affect its business;

the potential for difficulties arising from outsourcing relationships;

the impact of potential changes in federal or state tax laws, including changes affecting the availability of the separate account dividend received deduction;

the impact of potential changes in accounting principles and related financial reporting requirements;

The Hartford's ability to protect its intellectual property and defend against claims of infringement;

unfavorable judicial or legislative developments; and

other factors described in such forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

Any forward-looking statement made by us in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any document incorporated by reference herein or therein or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC speaks only as of the date on which it is made. Factors or events that could cause our actual results to differ may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of them. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Table of Contents

THE HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.

We are an insurance and financial services holding company. The Hartford is among the largest providers of investment products, individual life, group life and disability insurance products, and property and casualty insurance products in the United States. Hartford Fire Insurance Company, or Hartford Fire, founded in 1810, is the oldest of our subsidiaries.

As a holding company that is separate and distinct from our insurance subsidiaries, we have no significant business operations of our own. Therefore, we rely on dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries and other subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet our obligations. These obligations include payments on our debt securities and the payment of dividends on our capital stock. The Connecticut insurance holding company laws limit the payment of dividends by Connecticut-domiciled insurers. In addition, these laws require notice to and approval by the state insurance commissioner for the declaration or payment by those subsidiaries of any dividend, if the dividend and other dividends or distributions made within the preceding twelve months exceeds the greater of:

10% of the insurer's policyholder surplus as of December 31 of the preceding year, and

net income, or net gain from operations if the subsidiary is a life insurance company, for the previous calendar year, in each case determined under statutory insurance accounting principles.

In addition, if any dividend of a Connecticut-domiciled insurer exceeds the insurer's earned surplus, it requires the prior approval of the Connecticut Insurance Commissioner. The insurance holding company laws of the other jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are incorporated, or deemed commercially domiciled, generally contain similar, and in some instances more restrictive, limitations on the payment of dividends. Likewise, our rights to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of our subsidiaries, for example, upon their liquidation or reorganization, and the ability of holders of the securities to benefit indirectly from a distribution, are subject to the prior claims of creditors of the applicable subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor of that subsidiary.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, and our telephone number is (860) 547-5000.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including working capital, capital expenditures, investments in loans to subsidiaries, acquisitions and refinancing of debt, including outstanding commercial paper and other short-term indebtedness. We may include a more detailed description of the use of proceeds of any specific offering of securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering.

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds in the event that the securities are sold by a selling securityholder.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer unsecured senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. We refer to the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities together in this prospectus as the debt securities. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other unsecured, unsubordinated obligations. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior debt.

Table of Contents

We will issue the senior debt securities in one or more series under the indenture, which we refer to herein as the senior indenture, dated as of April 11, 2007, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee. We will issue subordinated debt securities in one or more series under an indenture, which we refer to herein as the subordinated indenture, between us and the trustee to be named in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering of subordinated debt securities.

The following description of the terms of the debt securities is a summary. It summarizes only those terms of the debt securities which we believe will be most important to your decision to invest in our debt securities. You should keep in mind, however, that it is the indentures, and not this summary, which define your rights as a debtholder. There may be other provisions in the indentures which are also important to you. You should read the indentures for a full description of the terms of the debt. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain copies of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

Ranking of the Debt Securities

Our debt securities will be unsecured obligations and our senior debt securities will be unsecured and will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. As a non-operating holding company, we have no significant business operations of our own. Therefore, we rely on dividends from our insurance company and other subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet our obligations for payment of principal and interest on our outstanding debt obligations and corporate expenses. Accordingly, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and you should rely only on our assets for payments on the debt securities. The payment of dividends by our insurance subsidiaries is limited under the insurance holding company laws in the jurisdictions where those subsidiaries are domiciled. See [The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.](#)

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures do not limit us from incurring or issuing other secured or unsecured debt under either of the indentures or any other indenture that we may have entered into or enter into in the future. See [Subordination](#) and the prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities.

Terms of the Debt Securities

We may issue the debt securities in one or more series through an indenture that supplements the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture or through a resolution of our board of directors or an authorized committee of our board of directors.

You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for the specific terms of the debt securities. These terms may include the following:

title of the debt securities and any limit upon the aggregate principal amount, provided that such limit may be increased through a resolution of our board of directors or an authorized committee thereof,

maturity date(s) or the method of determining the maturity date(s),

interest rate(s) or the method of determining the interest rate(s),

dates on which interest will be payable or the method of determining these dates,

the regular record date or the method of determining this date,

Table of Contents

dates from which interest will accrue and the method of determining those dates,

place or places where we may pay principal, premium, if any, and interest, and where you may present the debt securities for registration of transfer or exchange,

place or places where notices and demands relating to the debt securities may be made,

redemption or early payment provisions,

sinking fund or similar provisions,

authorized denominations if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereafter,

currency, currencies, or currency units, if other than in U.S. dollars, in which the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities is payable, or in which the debt securities are denominated,

any additions, modifications or deletions, in the events of default or covenants of the Company specified in the indenture relating to the debt securities,

if other than the principal amount of the debt securities, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that is payable upon declaration of acceleration of maturity,

any additions or changes to the indenture relating to a series of debt securities necessary to permit or facilitate issuing the series in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons,

any index or indices used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, on the debt securities or the method of determining these amounts,

whether a temporary global security will be issued and the terms upon which such temporary global security may be exchanged for definitive debt securities,

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities,

identity of the depositary for global debt securities,

appointment of any paying agent(s),

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

the terms and conditions of any obligation or right we would have or any option you would have to convert or exchange the debt securities into other securities or cash or property of the Company or any other person and any changes to the indenture to permit or facilitate such conversion or exchange,

in the case of the subordinated indenture, any provisions regarding subordination, and

additional terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the indentures.

Debt securities may also be issued under the indentures upon the exercise of warrants or delivery upon settlement of stock purchase contracts. See Description of Warrants and Description of Stock Purchase Contracts.

We may, in certain circumstances, without notice to or consent of the holders of the debt securities, issue additional debt securities having the same terms and conditions as the debt securities previously issued (except as

Table of Contents

otherwise provided in the indenture or any supplemental indenture thereto, or resolutions of the board of directors or authorized committees thereof) under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, so that such additional debt securities and the debt securities previously offered under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement form a single series, and references in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement to the debt securities shall include, unless the context otherwise requires, any further debt securities issued as described in this paragraph.

Special Payment Terms of the Debt Securities

We may issue one or more series of debt securities at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. These debt securities may bear no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. When appropriate, we will describe certain of the United States federal income tax considerations relating to any series in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The purchase price of any of the debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. The debt securities may be denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, or the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. We will describe the restrictions, elections, United States federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information relating to the debt securities and any foreign currencies or foreign currency units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use any index to determine the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any series of debt securities, we will also describe the United States federal income tax consequences and any special considerations relating to the debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

We expect to issue most debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$2,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000. Except as we may describe in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities of any series will be exchangeable at the option of the holder for other debt securities of the same issue and series, in any authorized denominations, of a like tenor and aggregate principal amount, of the same original issue date and stated maturity, bearing the same interest rate and having the same terms.

You may, subject to the limitations described below, present debt securities for exchange as described above, or for registration of transfer, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate for that purpose. You will not incur a service charge in connection with the registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, but you may be obligated to pay any taxes, assessments or other governmental charges as described in the indentures. We will appoint the trustees as security registrar under the indentures. We may at any time rescind the designation of any transfer agent that we initially designate or approve a change in the location through which the transfer agent acts. We must maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment. We will specify the transfer agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents.

If we redeem any debt securities, neither we nor the trustees will be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the mailing of a notice of redemption of such debt securities and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing of notice of redemption, or

register, transfer or exchange any debt securities selected for redemption in whole or in part, except for any portion of such debt securities not redeemed.

Global Debt Securities

We may issue all or any part of a series of debt securities in the form of one or more global securities. We will identify the depositary holding the global debt securities. Unless we otherwise state in the applicable

Table of Contents

prospectus supplement, the depositary will be The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. We will issue global securities in fully registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless it is exchanged for individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole:

by the depositary to its nominee,

by a nominee of the depositary to the depositary or another nominee, or

by the depositary or any nominee to a successor of the depositary, or a nominee of the successor.

We will describe the specific terms of the depositary arrangement in the applicable prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will generally apply to these depositary arrangements.

Beneficial Interests in a Global Security

If we issue a global security, the depositary for the global security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the principal amounts of the individual debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with it. We refer to those persons as participants in this prospectus. The accounts will be designated by the dealers, underwriters or agents for the debt securities, or by us if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership and transfers of beneficial interests in the global security will be shown on, and effected only through, records maintained by the applicable depositary or its nominee, for interests of participants, and the records of participants, for interests of persons who hold through participants. The laws of some states require that you take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depositary or its nominee is the registered owner of the global security, the depositary or the nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as provided below, you:

will not be entitled to have any of the individual debt securities represented by the global security registered in your name,

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any debt securities in definitive form, and

will not be considered the owner or holder of the debt securities under the indenture.

Payments of Principal, Premium and Interest

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on global securities to the depositary that is the registered holder of the global security or its nominee. The depositary for the global securities will be solely responsible and liable for all payments made on account of your beneficial ownership interests in the global security and for maintaining, supervising and reviewing any records relating to your beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary or its nominee, upon receipt of any principal, premium, if any, or interest payment immediately will credit participants accounts with amounts in proportion to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global security as shown on the records of the depositary or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to you, as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global security held through those participants, will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. These payments will be the responsibility of those participants.

Table of Contents

Issuance of Individual Debt Securities

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if a depository for a series of debt securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depository, we will appoint a successor depository or we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global security. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion, subject to the procedures of the depository and to any limitations described in the prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities, determine not to have any debt securities represented by one or more global securities. If that occurs, we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global security.

Further, we may specify that you may, on terms acceptable to us, the trustee and the depository, receive individual debt securities in exchange for your beneficial interest in a global security, subject to any limitations described in the prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities. In that instance, you will be entitled to physical delivery of individual debt securities equal in principal amount to that beneficial interest and to have the debt securities registered in your name. Unless we otherwise specify, we expect to issue those individual debt securities in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay principal of, premium, if any, and interest on your debt securities at the office of the trustee for your debt securities in The City of New York or at the office of any paying agent that we may designate.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay any interest on debt securities to the registered owner of the debt security at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest, except in the case of defaulted interest. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent. We must maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities.

Any moneys or U.S. government obligation (including the proceeds thereof and interest thereon) deposited with the trustee or any paying agent, or then held by us in trust, for the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any debt security that remain unclaimed for two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will, at our request, be repaid to us. After repayment to us, you are entitled to seek payment only from us as a general unsecured creditor.

Redemption

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will not be subject to any sinking fund.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may, at our option, redeem any series of debt securities after its issuance date in whole or in part at any time and from time to time. We may redeem debt securities in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

Redemption Price

Except as we may otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, the redemption price for any debt security which we redeem will equal 100% of the principal amount then outstanding plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Notice of Redemption

Except as we may otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will mail notice of any redemption of debt securities at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to the

Table of Contents

registered holders of the debt securities at their addresses as shown on the security register. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities or the portions called for redemption.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We will not consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, and no person may consolidate with or merge into us, unless we will be the surviving company in any merger or consolidation, or:

if we consolidate with or merge into another person or convey or transfer our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, the successor person is a corporation, partnership, trust or limited liability company, organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and the successor entity expressly assumes our obligations relating to the debt securities, and

immediately after giving effect to the consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer, there exists no event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default, and

other conditions described in the relevant indenture are met.

This covenant does not apply to the direct or indirect conveyance, transfer or lease of all or any portion of the stock, assets or liabilities of any of our wholly owned subsidiaries to us or to our other wholly owned subsidiaries. In addition, this covenant does not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change of control of the Company or a highly leveraged transaction unless such transaction or change of control is structured to include a merger or consolidation by us or the conveyance, transfer or lease of our assets substantially as an entirety.

Limitations upon Liens

With certain exceptions set forth below, the indentures provide that neither we nor our restricted subsidiaries may create, incur, assume or permit to exist any lien, except liens created, incurred, assumed or existing prior to the date of the indentures, on, any property or assets (including the capital stock of any restricted subsidiary) now owned or hereafter acquired by it, or sell or transfer or create any lien on any income or revenues or rights in respect thereof.

General Exceptions

The restriction on our and our restricted subsidiaries' ability to create, incur, assume or permit to exist liens will not apply to:

liens on any property or asset hereafter acquired, constructed or improved by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries which are created or assumed to secure or provide for the payment of any part of the purchase price of such property or asset or the cost of such construction or improvement, or any lien on any such property or asset existing at the time of acquisition thereof; provided, however, that such lien shall not extend to any other property owned by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries;

liens existing upon any property or asset of a company which is merged with or into or is consolidated into, or substantially all the assets or shares of capital stock of which are acquired by, us or any of our restricted subsidiaries, at the time of such merger, consolidation or acquisition; provided that such lien does not extend to any other property or asset, other than improvements to the property or asset subject to such lien;

Table of Contents

any pledge or deposit to secure payment of workers' compensation or insurance premiums, or in connection with tenders, bids, contracts (other than contracts for the payment of money) or leases;

any pledge of, or other lien upon, any assets as security for the payment of any tax, assessment or other similar charge by any governmental authority or public body, or as security required by law or governmental regulation as a condition to the transaction of any business or the exercise of any privilege or right;

liens necessary to secure a stay of any legal or equitable process in a proceeding to enforce a liability or obligation contested in good faith by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries or required in connection with the institution by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries of any legal or equitable proceeding to enforce a right or to obtain a remedy claimed in good faith by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries, or required in connection with any order or decree in any such proceeding or in connection with any contest of any tax or other governmental charge; or the making of any deposit with or the giving of any form of security to any governmental agency or any body created or approved by law or governmental regulation in order to entitle us or any of our restricted subsidiaries to maintain self-insurance or to participate in any fund in connection with workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, old age pensions or other social security or to share in any provisions or other benefits provided for companies participating in any such arrangement or for liability on insurance of credits or other risks;

mechanics', carriers', workmen's, repairmen's, or other like liens, if arising in the ordinary course of business, in respect of obligations which are not overdue or liability for which is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings;

liens on property in favor of the United States, or of any agency, department or other instrumentality thereof, to secure partial, progress or advance payments pursuant to the provisions of any contract;

liens securing indebtedness of any of our restricted subsidiaries to us or to another restricted subsidiary; provided that in the case of any sale or other disposition of such indebtedness by us or such restricted subsidiary, such sale or other disposition shall be deemed to constitute the creation of another lien not permitted by this clause;

liens affecting our or any of our restricted subsidiaries' property securing indebtedness of the United States or a state thereof (or any instrumentality or agency of either thereof) issued in connection with a pollution control or abatement program required in our opinion to meet environmental criteria with respect to our or any of our restricted subsidiaries' operations and the proceeds of which indebtedness have financed the cost of acquisition of such program; or

the renewal, extension, replacement or refunding of any mortgage, pledge, lien, deposit, charge or other encumbrance, permitted as specified above; provided that in each case such amount outstanding at that time shall not be increased.

Exceptions for Specified Amount of Indebtedness

We and one or more of our restricted subsidiaries may create, incur, assume or permit to exist any lien which would otherwise be subject to the above restrictions, provided that immediately after the creation or assumption of such lien, the total of the aggregate principal amount of our and our restricted subsidiaries' indebtedness secured by all liens (not including any liens incurred pursuant to the ten exceptions described above under "Limitations upon Liens-General Exceptions") shall not exceed an amount equal to 10% of our consolidated net tangible assets.

Table of Contents

When we use the term consolidated net tangible assets, we mean the total of all assets appearing on a consolidated balance sheet of the Company and our restricted subsidiaries, less the sum of the following items as shown on such consolidated balance sheet:

the book amount of all segregated intangible assets, including such items as good will, trademarks, trademark rights, trade names, trade name rights, copyrights, patents, patent rights and licenses and unamortized debt discount and expense less unamortized debt premium;

all depreciation, valuation and other reserves;

current liabilities;

any minority interest in the shares of stock (other than preferred stock) and surplus of our restricted subsidiaries;

investments by us or any of our restricted subsidiaries in any of our subsidiaries that is not a restricted subsidiary;

our and our restricted subsidiaries total indebtedness incurred in any manner to finance or recover the cost to us or any restricted subsidiary of any physical property, real or personal, which prior to or simultaneously with the creation of such indebtedness shall have been leased by us or a restricted subsidiary to the United States or a department or agency thereof at an aggregate rental, payable during that portion of the initial term of such lease (without giving effect to any options of renewal or extension) which shall be unexpired at the date of the creation of such indebtedness, sufficient (taken together with any amounts required to be paid by the lessee to the lessor upon any termination of such lease) to pay in full at the stated maturity date or dates thereof the principal of and the interest on such indebtedness;

deferred income and deferred liabilities; and

other items deductible under generally accepted accounting principles.

When we use the term preferred stock, we mean any capital stock entitled by its terms to a preference as to dividends or upon a distribution of assets.

When we use the term restricted subsidiary, we mean Hartford Fire and any subsidiary which is incorporated under the laws of any state of the United States or of the District of Columbia, and which is a regulated insurance company principally engaged in one or more of the property, casualty and life insurance businesses, provided, however, no subsidiary is a restricted subsidiary:

if the total assets of that subsidiary are less than 10% of our total assets and the total assets of our consolidated subsidiaries, including that subsidiary, in each case as set forth on the most recent fiscal year-end balance sheets of the subsidiary and us and our consolidated subsidiaries, respectively, and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or

if in the judgment of our board of directors, as evidenced by a board resolution, the subsidiary is not material to the financial condition of us and our subsidiaries taken as a whole.

As of the date of this prospectus, the following subsidiaries meet the definition of restricted subsidiaries: Hartford Fire, Hartford Life Insurance Company and Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company.

Table of Contents

Modification and Waiver

Modification

We and the trustees may, without the consent of the holders of debt securities, amend, waive or supplement each indenture for specified purposes, including, among other things, curing ambiguities, defects or inconsistencies. However, no action may adversely affect in any material respect the interests of holders of any series of debt securities. We may also amend each indenture to maintain the qualification of each indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

We and the trustee may modify and amend each indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the series of outstanding debt securities affected. However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest payable on, any outstanding debt security,

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any outstanding debt security,

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount security that would be due and payable upon a redemption or would be provable in bankruptcy, or adversely affect any right of repayment of the holder of, any outstanding debt security,

change the place of payment, or the coin or currency in which any outstanding debt security or the interest on any outstanding debt security is payable,

impair your right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any outstanding debt security after the stated maturity or redemption date,

reduce the percentage of principal amount of outstanding debt securities, the holders of which are necessary to modify or amend the applicable indenture, to waive compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or certain defaults and consequences of such defaults or to reduce the quorum or voting requirements set forth in the applicable indenture,

modify any of the above provisions or any of the provisions relating to the waiver of certain past defaults or certain covenants, except to increase the required percentage to effect such action or to provide that certain other provisions may not be modified or waived without the consent of all of the holders of the debt securities affected, or

modify the provisions with respect to the subordination of outstanding subordinated debt securities in a manner materially adverse to the holders of such outstanding subordinated debt securities.

In addition, we and the trustees may execute, without your consent, any supplemental indenture for the purpose of creating any new series of debt securities.

Waiver

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive compliance by us with certain restrictive covenants of the indenture which relate to that series.

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may, on behalf of the holders of that series, generally waive any past default under the indenture relating to

Table of Contents

that series of debt securities and the consequences of such default. However, no such waiver may occur for a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or any interest on, any debt security of that series or relating to a covenant or provision which under the indenture relating to that series of debt security cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of that series affected.

Events of Default

Under the terms of each indenture, each of the following constitutes an event of default for a series of debt securities:

default for 30 days in the payment of any interest on the debt securities when due,

default in the payment of principal, or premium, if any, on the debt securities when due,

default in the performance, or breach, of any covenant or warranty in the indenture for 90 days after written notice,

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, or

any other event of default described in the applicable board resolution or supplemental indenture under which the series of debt securities is issued.

We are required to furnish the trustee annually with a statement as to the fulfillment of our obligations under the indenture. Each indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to you of any default, except in respect of the payment of principal, or premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities, if it considers it in the interests of the holders of the debt securities to do so.

Effect of an Event of Default

If an event of default exists and is continuing (other than an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy), the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities may declare the principal amount (or, if the debt securities are original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately, by a notice in writing to us, and to the trustee if given by holders. Upon that declaration the principal (or specified) amount will become immediately due and payable.

If an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy exists, the principal amount of all debt securities outstanding under the indentures shall automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of such outstanding debt, become immediately due and payable.

Subject to the provisions of the indentures relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indentures (other than the payment of any amounts on the debt securities furnished to it pursuant to the indenture) at your (or any other person's) request, order or direction, unless you have (or such other person has) offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to the provisions for the security or indemnification of the trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities 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 in connection with the debt securities of that series.

Table of Contents

Waiver of Event of Default

At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities may, subject to conditions specified in the indenture, rescind and annul that declaration and its consequences if:

the event of default is other than our non-payment of the principal (or specified amount of principal) of the debt securities which has become due solely by such acceleration and all other events of default have been cured or waived, and

we have paid or deposited with the relevant trustee a sum sufficient to pay:

- all overdue installments of interest (including interest on overdue installments of interest) and principal, and premium, if any, due other than by acceleration, and
- certain amounts owing to the trustee, its agents and counsel.

Legal Proceedings and Enforcement of Right to Payment

You will not have any right to institute any proceeding in connection with the indentures or for any remedy under the indentures, unless you have previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series. In addition, the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of the outstanding debt securities must have made written request, and offered reasonable security or indemnity, to the trustee to institute that proceeding as trustee, and, within 60 days following the receipt of that notice, the trustee must not have received from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request, and must have failed to institute the proceeding. However, you will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in the debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date) and to institute a suit for the enforcement of that payment.

Satisfaction and Discharge

Each indenture provides that when, among other things, all debt securities not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation:

have become due and payable, or

will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year, or

are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the trustee in our name and at our expense,

and we deposit or cause to be deposited with the trustee, in trust, (a) money; (b) government obligations which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment, money; or (c) a combination thereof, in each case in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on the debt securities not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation, for the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the date of the deposit or to the stated maturity or redemption date, as the case may be, then the indenture will cease to be of further effect and we will be deemed to have satisfied and discharged the indenture. However, we will continue to be obligated to pay all other sums due under the indenture and to provide the officers certificates and opinions of counsel described in the indenture.

Table of Contents

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, each indenture provides that we may discharge all of our obligations, other than as to transfers and exchanges and certain other specified obligations, under any series of the debt securities at any time, and that we may also be released from our obligations described above under **Limitation upon Liens** and **Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets** and from certain other obligations, including obligations imposed by supplemental indentures with respect to that series, if any, and elect not to comply with those sections and obligations without creating an event of default. Discharge under the first procedure is called **defeasance** and under the second procedure is called **covenant defeasance**.

Defeasance or covenant defeasance may be effected only if:

we irrevocably deposit with the trustee money or United States government obligations or a combination thereof, as trust funds in an amount sufficient to pay on the respective stated maturities, the principal of and any premium and interest on, all outstanding debt securities of that series; provided that the trustee shall have the right (but not the obligation) to require us to deliver to the trustee an opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification, or other evidence satisfactory to the trustee, as to the sufficiency of such deposits,

we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel (in the case of a defeasance, this opinion must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in United States federal income tax law since the date of execution of the applicable indenture) to the effect that:

- the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge or as a result of the deposit and covenant defeasance, and
- the deposit, defeasance and discharge or the deposit and covenant defeasance will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same time as would be the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge or deposit and covenant defeasance were not to occur,

no event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default under the indenture has occurred and is continuing,

such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any indenture or other agreement or instrument for borrowed money to which we are a party or by which we are bound,

such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in the trust arising from such deposit constituting an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the Investment Company Act, unless such trust shall be registered under the Investment Company Act or shall be exempt from registration thereunder,

we deliver to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with, and

other conditions specified in the indentures are met.

The subordinated indenture will not be discharged as described above if we have defaulted in the payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any senior debt, as defined below under **Subordination under the Subordinated Indenture**, and that default is continuing or another

event of default on the senior debt then exists and has resulted in the senior debt becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date it otherwise would have become due and payable.

Table of Contents

Conversion or Exchange

We may issue debt securities that we may convert or exchange into other securities, property or assets. If so, we will describe the specific terms on which the debt securities may be converted or exchanged in the applicable prospectus supplement. The conversion or exchange may be mandatory, at your option, or at our option. The applicable prospectus supplement will state the manner in which the other securities, property or assets you would receive would be issued or delivered.

Subordination Under the Subordinated Indenture

In the subordinated indenture, we have agreed, and holders of subordinated debt will be deemed to have agreed, that any subordinated debt securities are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all senior debt to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture.

Upon any payment or distribution of assets to creditors upon any liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshaling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency, debt restructuring or similar proceeding in connection with our insolvency or bankruptcy, the holders of senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt before the holders of subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities is accelerated, the holders of all senior debt outstanding at the time of the acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due, including any amounts due upon acceleration, before you will be entitled to receive any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

We will not make any payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities or for the acquisition of subordinated debt securities (other than any sinking fund payment) if:

a default in any payment on senior debt then exists,

an event of default on any senior debt resulting in the acceleration of its maturity then exists, or

any judicial proceeding is pending in connection with such default.

When we use the term "debt" we mean, with respect to any person, whether recourse is to all or a portion of the assets of that person and whether or not contingent:

every obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, that person for money borrowed, whether or not evidenced by a written instrument,

every obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, that person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses but excluding the obligation to pay the deferred purchase price of any such property, assets or business if payable in full within 90 days from the date such debt was created,

every capital lease obligation of that person,

leases of property or assets made as part of any sale and lease-back transaction to which that person is a party, and

any amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any such debt.

Table of Contents

The term "debt" does not include trade accounts payable or accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business.

When we use the term "senior debt" we mean the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on debt, whether incurred on, prior to, or after the date of the subordinated indenture, unless the instrument

creating or evidencing that debt or pursuant to which that debt is outstanding, or pursuant to the terms established for any subordinated debt securities, states that those obligations are not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities or to other debt which ranks equally with, or junior to, the subordinated debt securities. Interest on this senior debt includes interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to the Company, whether or not the claim for post-petition interest is allowed in that proceeding.

However, senior debt will not include:

any debt of the Company which when incurred and without regard to any election under Section 1111(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, was without recourse to the Company,

any debt of the Company to any of its subsidiaries,

debt to any employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries,

any liability for taxes,

indebtedness or other monetary obligations to trade creditors or assumed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of goods, materials or services,

the Income Capital Obligation Notes due 2067 of the Company issuable pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of February 12, 2007, between the Company and Wilmington Trust Company (as successor trustee to LaSalle Bank National Association), as trustee,

the 8.125% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2068 of the Company issued pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, which we refer to herein as the "junior subordinated indenture," dated as of June 6, 2008, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee, as such junior subordinated indenture was supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 6, 2008, between the same parties,

the 10% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2068 of the Company issued pursuant to the junior subordinated indenture, as supplemented by the Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 17, 2008, between the Company and the trustee, and

the subordinated debt securities.

The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of additional senior debt that we may incur. We expect from time to time to incur additional senior debt.

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

The subordinated indenture provides that we may change the subordination provisions relating to any particular issue of subordinated debt securities prior to issuance. We will describe any change in the prospectus supplement relating to the subordinated debt securities.

Table of Contents

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Information Concerning the Trustees

The trustee under each indenture will have all the duties and responsibilities of an indenture trustee specified in the Trust Indenture Act. Subject to those provisions, each of the trustees will not be required to exercise any of its powers under the applicable indenture at your request, unless you offer reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which the trustee might incur. Neither trustee is required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur financial liability in performing its duties or exercising its rights and powers if it reasonably believes that it is not reasonably assured of repayment or adequate indemnity. Each of the trustees acts, or we expect will act, as depositary for funds of, and performs, or we expect will perform, other services for us and our subsidiaries in the normal course of business.

DESCRIPTION OF JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

We will issue the junior subordinated debt securities in one or more series under the junior subordinated indenture, dated as of June 6, 2008, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee.

The following description of the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities is a summary. It summarizes only those terms of the junior subordinated debt securities which we believe will be most important to your decision to invest in our junior subordinated debt securities. You should keep in mind, however, that it is the junior subordinated indenture, and not this summary, which defines your rights as a holder of our junior subordinated debt securities. There may be other provisions in the junior subordinated indenture which are also important to you. You should read the junior subordinated indenture for a full description of the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities. The junior subordinated indenture is incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy of the junior subordinated indenture.

Ranking of the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

Each series of junior subordinated debt securities will rank equally with all other series of junior subordinated debt securities, and will be unsecured and subordinate and junior to all of our senior indebtedness as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

As a non-operating holding company, we have no significant business operations of our own. Therefore, we rely on dividends from our insurance company and other subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet our obligations for payment of principal and interest on our outstanding debt obligations and corporate expenses. Accordingly, the junior subordinated debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and you should rely only on our assets for payments on the junior subordinated debt securities. The payment of dividends by our insurance subsidiaries is limited under the insurance holding company laws in the jurisdictions where those subsidiaries are domiciled. See [The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.](#)

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated indenture does not limit us from incurring or issuing other secured or unsecured debt under the junior subordinated indenture or any other indenture that we may have entered into or enter into in the future. See [Subordination](#) and the prospectus supplement relating to any offering of junior subordinated debt securities.

Table of Contents

Terms of the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

We may issue the junior subordinated debt securities in one or more series through an indenture that supplements the junior subordinated indenture or through a resolution of our board of directors or an authorized committee of our board of directors.

You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for the specific terms of the junior subordinated debt securities. These terms may include the following:

title of the junior subordinated debt securities and any limit upon the aggregate principal amount, provided that such limit may be increased through a resolution of our board of directors or an authorized committee thereof,

maturity date(s) or the method of determining the maturity date(s),

interest rate(s), including for additional interest, if any, or the method of determining the interest rate(s),

dates on which interest will be payable or the method of determining these dates,

circumstances in which interest may be deferred, if any,

the regular record date or the method of determining this date,

dates from which interest will accrue and the method of determining those dates,

place or places where we may pay principal, premium, if any, and interest, and where you may present the junior subordinated debt securities for registration of transfer or exchange,

place or places where notices and demands relating to the junior subordinated debt securities may be made,

redemption or early payment provisions,

sinking fund or similar provisions,

authorized denominations if other than denominations of \$5,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereafter,

currency, currencies, or currency units, if other than in U.S. dollars, in which the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the junior subordinated debt securities is payable, or in which the junior subordinated debt securities are denominated,

conversion or exchange provisions, if any,

any additions, modifications or deletions, in the events of default or covenants of the Company specified in the junior subordinated indenture relating to the junior subordinated debt securities,

if other than the principal amount of the junior subordinated debt securities, the portion of the principal amount of the junior subordinated debt securities that is payable upon declaration of acceleration of maturity, or method of determining such portion,

Table of Contents

any additions or changes to the indenture relating to a series of junior subordinated debt securities necessary to permit or facilitate issuing the series in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons,

any index or indices used to determine the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, on the junior subordinated debt securities or the method of determining these amounts,

whether a temporary global junior subordinated debt security will be issued and the terms upon which such temporary global junior subordinated debt security may be exchanged for definitive junior subordinated debt securities,

whether the junior subordinated debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global junior subordinated debt securities,

identity of the depositary for global junior subordinated debt securities,

the terms and conditions upon which such global junior subordinated debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities if other than by registration of transfer or exchange,

appointment of any paying agent(s),

the terms and conditions of any obligation or right we would have or any option you would have to convert or exchange the junior subordinated debt securities into other securities or cash or property of the Company or any other person and any changes to the junior subordinated indenture to permit or facilitate such conversion or exchange,

the relative degree, if any, of seniority or subordination to other securities in right of payment,

whether and under what circumstances provisions relating to the subordination of the junior subordinated debt securities will apply or cease to apply,

provisions granting special rights to holders of junior subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of specific events,

if applicable, that the junior subordinated debt securities, in whole or any specified part, shall not be defeasible pursuant to the terms of the junior subordinated indenture, and, if other than by resolution of the board of directors or an authorized committee thereof, the manner in which any election by the Company to defease such junior subordinated debt securities will be evidenced,

any special tax considerations of the junior subordinated debt securities,

any change in the right of the indenture trustee or the requisite holders of the junior subordinated debt securities to declare the principal amount due and payable pursuant to the junior subordinated indenture,

provisions of the junior subordinated indenture, if any, that shall not apply to a series of junior subordinated debt securities, and

additional terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the junior subordinated indenture.

Junior subordinated debt securities may also be issued under the junior subordinated indenture upon the exercise of warrants or delivery upon settlement of stock purchase contracts. See [Description of Warrants](#) and [Description of Stock Purchase Contracts](#).

We may, in certain circumstances, without notice to or consent of the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities, issue additional junior subordinated debt securities having the same terms and conditions as the

Table of Contents

junior subordinated debt securities previously issued (except as otherwise provided in the junior subordinated indenture or any supplemental indenture thereto, or resolutions of the board of directors or authorized committees thereof) under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, so that such additional junior subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated debt securities previously offered under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement form a single series, and references in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement to the junior subordinated debt securities shall include, unless the context otherwise requires, any further junior subordinated debt securities issued as described in this paragraph.

Special Payment Terms of the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

We may issue one or more series of junior subordinated debt securities at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. These junior subordinated debt securities may bear no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. When appropriate, we will describe certain of the United States federal income tax considerations relating to any series of junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The purchase price of any of the junior subordinated debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. The junior subordinated debt securities may be denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, or the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any junior subordinated debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. We will describe the restrictions, elections, United States federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information relating to the junior subordinated debt securities and any foreign currencies or foreign currency units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use any index to determine the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any series of junior subordinated debt securities, we will also describe the United States federal income tax consequences and any special considerations relating to the junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue the junior subordinated debt securities only in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$5,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000. Except as we may describe in the applicable prospectus supplement, junior subordinated debt securities of any series will be exchangeable at the option of the holder for other junior subordinated debt securities of the same issue and series, in any authorized denominations, of a like tenor and aggregate principal amount, of the same original issue date and stated maturity, bearing the same interest rate and having the same terms.

You may, subject to the limitations described below, present junior subordinated debt securities for exchange as described above, or for registration of transfer, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate for that purpose. You will not incur a service charge in connection with the registration of transfer or exchange of junior subordinated debt securities, but you may be obligated to pay any taxes, assessments or other governmental charges as described in the junior subordinated indenture. We will appoint the indenture trustee as security registrar under the junior subordinated indenture. We may at any time rescind the designation of any transfer agent that we initially designate or approve a change in the location through which the transfer agent acts. We must maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment. We will specify the transfer agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents.

Table of Contents

If we redeem any junior subordinated debt securities, neither we nor the indenture trustee will be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange junior subordinated debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the mailing of a notice of redemption of such junior subordinated debt securities and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing of notice of redemption, or

register, transfer or exchange any junior subordinated debt securities selected for redemption in whole or in part, except for any portion of such junior subordinated debt securities not redeemed.

Global Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

We may issue all or any part of a series of junior subordinated debt securities in the form of one or more global junior subordinated debt securities. We will identify the depository holding the global junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we otherwise state in the applicable prospectus supplement, the depository will be DTC. We will issue global junior subordinated debt securities only in fully registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless it is exchanged for individual junior subordinated debt securities, a global junior subordinated debt security may not be transferred except as a whole:

by the depository to its nominee,

by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee, or

by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository, or a nominee of the successor.

We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement in the applicable prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will generally apply to these depository arrangements.

Beneficial Interests in a Global Junior Subordinated Debt Security

If we issue a global junior subordinated debt security, the depository for the global junior subordinated debt security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the principal amounts of the individual junior subordinated debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with it. We refer to those persons as *participants* in this prospectus. The accounts will be designated by the dealers, underwriters or agents for the junior subordinated debt securities, or by us if the junior subordinated debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global junior subordinated debt security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership and transfers of beneficial interests in the global junior subordinated debt security will be shown on, and effected only through, records maintained by the applicable depository or its nominee, for interests of participants, and the records of participants, for interests of persons who hold through participants. The laws of some states require that you take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global junior subordinated debt security.

So long as the depository or its nominee is the registered owner of the global junior subordinated debt security, the depository or the nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the junior subordinated debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security for all purposes under the junior subordinated indenture. Except as provided below, you:

will not be entitled to have any of the individual junior subordinated debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security registered in your name,

Table of Contents

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any junior subordinated debt securities in definitive form, and

will not be considered the owner or holder of the junior subordinated debt securities under the junior subordinated indenture.

Payments of Principal, Premium and Interest

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on global junior subordinated debt securities to the depositary that is the registered holder of the global junior subordinated debt security or its nominee. The depositary for the global junior subordinated debt securities will be solely responsible and liable for all payments made on account of your beneficial ownership interests in the global junior subordinated debt security and for maintaining, supervising and reviewing any records relating to your beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary or its nominee, upon receipt of any principal, premium, if any, or interest payment, immediately will credit participants' accounts with amounts in proportion to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global junior subordinated debt security as shown on the records of the depositary or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to you, as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global junior subordinated debt security held through those participants, will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. These payments will be the responsibility of those participants.

Issuance of Individual Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if a depositary for a series of junior subordinated debt securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depositary, we will appoint a successor depositary or we will issue individual junior subordinated debt securities in exchange for the global junior subordinated debt security. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion, subject to the procedures of the depositary and any limitations described in the prospectus supplement relating to the junior subordinated debt securities, determine not to have any junior subordinated debt securities represented by one or more global junior subordinated debt securities. If that occurs, we will issue individual junior subordinated debt securities in exchange for the global junior subordinated debt security.

Further, we may specify that you may, on terms acceptable to us, the indenture trustee and the depositary, receive individual junior subordinated debt securities in exchange for your beneficial interest in a global junior subordinated debt security, subject to any limitations described in the prospectus supplement relating to the junior subordinated debt securities. In that instance, you will be entitled to physical delivery of individual junior subordinated debt securities equal in principal amount to that beneficial interest and to have the junior subordinated debt securities registered in your name. Unless we otherwise specify, we will issue individual junior subordinated debt securities in denominations of \$5,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay principal of, premium, if any, and interest on your junior subordinated debt securities at the office of the indenture trustee in The City of New York or at the office of any paying agent that we may designate.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay any interest on junior subordinated debt securities to the registered owner of the junior subordinated debt security at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest, except in the case of defaulted interest. We may at any time

Table of Contents

designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent. We must maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the junior subordinated debt securities.

Any moneys or U.S. government obligation (including the proceeds thereof and interest thereon) deposited with the indenture trustee or any paying agent, or then held by us in trust, for the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any junior subordinated debt security that remain unclaimed for two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will, at our request, be repaid to us. After repayment to us, you are entitled to seek payment only from us as a general unsecured creditor.

Redemption

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, junior subordinated debt securities will not be subject to any sinking fund.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may, at our option, redeem any series of junior subordinated debt securities after its issuance date in whole or in part at any time and from time to time. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may redeem junior subordinated debt securities in denominations larger than \$5,000 and in integral multiples of \$1,000 thereafter.

Redemption Price

Except as we may otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, the redemption price for any junior subordinated debt security which we redeem will equal 100% of the principal amount then outstanding plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Notice of Redemption

Except as we may otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will mail notice of any redemption of junior subordinated debt securities at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to the registered holders of the junior subordinated debt securities at their addresses as shown on the security register. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the junior subordinated debt securities or the portions called for redemption.

Option to Defer Payment of Interest

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will have the right during the term of any series of junior subordinated debt securities to defer the payment of interest for a specified number of interest payment periods, subject to the terms, conditions and covenants specified in the prospectus supplement. At the end of such period, we will pay all accrued and unpaid interest, as well as additional interest, if any, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, we may not defer these interest payments beyond the final maturity of the junior subordinated debt securities. When appropriate, we will describe certain of the United States federal income tax considerations relating to any series of junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we exercise this right, during the deferral period we and our subsidiaries may not, except as otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement:

declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment on, any of our capital stock, or

make any payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities that rank equally with or junior in interest to the junior subordinated debt securities or make any related guarantee payments,

Table of Contents

other than:

dividends or distributions in our common stock,

redemptions or purchases of any rights pursuant to any shareholders rights plan, and the declaration of a dividend of, or issuance of stock pursuant to, these rights in the future,

repurchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of shares of capital stock in connection with any employment contract, benefit plan or similar arrangement, and

payments under any guarantee.

Modification and Waiver

Modification

We and the indenture trustee may, without the consent of the holders of junior subordinated debt securities, amend, waive or supplement the junior subordinated indenture for specified purposes, including, among other things, curing ambiguities, defects or inconsistencies. However, no action may adversely affect in any material respect the interests of holders of any series of junior subordinated debt securities. We may also amend the junior subordinated indenture to maintain the qualification of the junior subordinated indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

We and the indenture trustee may modify and amend the junior subordinated indenture, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the series of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities affected. However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding junior subordinated debt security affected:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest, including additional interest, if any, payable on, any outstanding junior subordinated debt security, except as permitted under the junior subordinated indenture or as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement,

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any outstanding junior subordinated debt security, except as permitted under the junior subordinated indenture or as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement,

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount security that would be due and payable upon a redemption or would be provable in bankruptcy, or adversely affect any right of repayment of the holder of, any outstanding junior subordinated debt security,

change the place of payment, or the coin or currency in which any outstanding junior subordinated debt security or the interest on any outstanding junior subordinated debt security is payable,

impair your right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any outstanding junior subordinated debt security after the stated maturity or redemption date,

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

reduce the percentage of principal amount of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities, the holders of which are necessary to modify or amend the junior subordinated indenture, to waive compliance with certain provisions of the junior subordinated indenture or certain defaults and consequences of such defaults,

modify any of the above provisions or any of the provisions relating to the waiver of certain past defaults or certain covenants, except to increase the required percentage to effect such action or to provide that

Table of Contents

certain other provisions may not be modified or waived without the consent of all of the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities affected, or

modify the provisions with respect to the subordination of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities in a manner materially adverse to the holders of such outstanding junior subordinated debt securities.

In addition, we and the indenture trustee may execute, without your consent, any supplemental indenture for the purpose of creating any new series of junior subordinated debt securities.

Waiver

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of a series may, on behalf of the holders of all junior subordinated debt securities of that series, waive compliance by us with certain restrictive covenants of the junior subordinated indenture which relate to that series.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of a series may, on behalf of the holders of that series, generally waive any past default under the junior subordinated indenture relating to that series of junior subordinated debt securities and the consequences of such default. However, no such waiver may occur for a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or any interest, including additional interest, if any, on any junior subordinated debt security of that series or relating to a covenant or provision which under the junior subordinated indenture relating to that series of junior subordinated debt security cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding junior subordinated debt security of that series affected.

Events of Default

Under the terms of the junior subordinated indenture, each of the following constitutes an event of default for a series of junior subordinated debt securities:

default for 30 days in the payment of any interest, including additional interest, if any, on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, subject to the deferral of any due date in the case of a deferral period,

default in the payment of principal, or premium, if any, on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, subject to an extension of the maturity date in accordance with the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities or supplemental indenture,

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, or

any other event of default described in the applicable board resolution or supplemental indenture under which the series of debt securities is issued.

We are required to furnish the trustee annually with a statement as to the fulfillment of our obligations under the indenture. Each indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to you of any default, except in respect of the payment of principal, or premium, if any, or interest on the junior subordinated debt securities, if it considers it in the interests of the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities to do so.

Effect of an Event of Default

If an event of default exists and is continuing (other than an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy), the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of

Table of Contents

outstanding junior subordinated debt securities may declare the principal amount of (or, if the junior subordinated debt securities are original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) and accrued but unpaid interest on the junior subordinated debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately, by a notice in writing to us, and to the trustee if given by holders. Upon that declaration the principal (or specified) amount and accrued but unpaid interest will become immediately due and payable.

If an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy exists, the principal (or specified) amount of and accrued but unpaid interest on all junior subordinated debt securities outstanding under the junior subordinated indenture shall automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of such outstanding debt, become immediately due and payable.

Subject to the provisions of the junior subordinated indenture relating to the duties of the indenture trustee, the indenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the junior subordinated indenture (other than the payment of any amounts on the junior subordinated debt securities furnished to it pursuant to the junior subordinated indenture) at your (or any other person's) request, order or direction, unless you have (or such other person has) offered to the indenture trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to the provisions for the security or indemnification of the indenture trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the indenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the indenture trustee in connection with the junior subordinated debt securities of that series.

Waiver of Event of Default

At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities may, subject to conditions specified in the junior subordinated indenture, rescind and annul that declaration and its consequences if:

the event of default is other than our non-payment of the principal (or specified amount of principal) of the junior subordinated debt securities which has become due solely by such acceleration and all other events of default have been cured or waived, and

we have paid or deposited with the indenture trustee a sum sufficient to pay:

- all overdue installments of interest (including additional interest, if any, and interest on overdue installments of interest) and principal, and premium, if any, due other than by acceleration, and
- certain amounts owing to the indenture trustee, its agents and counsel.

Legal Proceedings and Enforcement of Right to Payment

You will not have any right to institute any proceeding in connection with the junior subordinated indenture or for any remedy under the junior subordinated indenture, unless you have previously given to the indenture trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to junior subordinated debt securities of that series. In addition, the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities must have made written request, and offered reasonable security or indemnity, to the indenture trustee to institute that proceeding as indenture trustee, and, within 60 days following the receipt of that notice, the indenture trustee must not have received from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request, and must have failed to institute the proceeding. However, you will have an absolute and unconditional right to

Table of Contents

receive payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, including additional interest, if any, on that junior subordinated debt security on or after the due dates expressed in the junior subordinated debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date) and to institute a suit for the enforcement of that payment.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We will not consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, and no person may consolidate with or merge into us, unless we will be the surviving company in any merger or consolidation, or:

if we consolidate with or merge into another person or convey or transfer our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, the successor person is a corporation, partnership, trust or limited liability company, organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and the successor entity expressly assumes our obligations relating to the junior subordinated debt securities, and

immediately after giving effect to the consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer, there exists no event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default, and

other conditions described in the junior subordinated indenture are met.

This covenant does not apply to the direct or indirect conveyance, transfer or lease of all or any portion of the stock, assets or liabilities of any of our wholly owned subsidiaries to us or to our other wholly owned subsidiaries. In addition, this covenant does not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change of control of the Company or a highly leveraged transaction unless such transaction or change of control is structured to include a merger or consolidation by us or the conveyance, transfer or lease of our assets substantially as an entirety.

Satisfaction and Discharge

The junior subordinated indenture provides that when, among other things, all junior subordinated debt securities not previously delivered to the indenture trustee for cancellation:

have become due and payable, or

will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year, or

are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the indenture trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the indenture trustee in our name and at our expense,

and we deposit or cause to be deposited with the indenture trustee, in trust, (a) money; (b) government obligations which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment, money; or (c) a combination thereof, in each case in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on the junior subordinated debt securities not previously delivered to the indenture trustee for cancellation, for the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the date of the deposit or to the stated maturity or redemption date, as the case may be, then the junior subordinated indenture will cease to be of further effect and we will be deemed to have satisfied and discharged the indenture. However, we will continue to be obligated to pay all other sums due under the junior subordinated indenture and to provide the officers' certificates and opinions of counsel described in the junior subordinated indenture.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated indenture provides that we may discharge all of our obligations, other than as to transfers and exchanges and certain other

Table of Contents

specified obligations, under any series of the junior subordinated debt securities at any time, and that we may also be released from our obligations described above under Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets and from certain other obligations, including obligations imposed by supplemental indentures with respect to that series, if any, and elect not to comply with those sections and obligations without creating an event of default. Discharge under the first procedure is called defeasance and under the second procedure is called covenant defeasance.

Defeasance or covenant defeasance may be effected only if:

we irrevocably deposit with the trustee money or United States government obligations or a combination thereof, as trust funds in an amount sufficient to pay on the respective stated maturities, the principal of and any premium and interest on, all outstanding debt securities of that series ; provided that the trustee shall have the right (but not the obligation) to require us to deliver to the trustee an opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification, or other evidence satisfactory to the trustee, as to the sufficiency of such deposits,

we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel (in the case of a defeasance, this opinion must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in United States federal income tax law since the date of execution of the applicable indenture) to the effect that:

- the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities of that series will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge or as a result of the deposit and covenant defeasance, and
- the deposit, defeasance and discharge or the deposit and covenant defeasance will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same time as would be the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge or deposit and covenant defeasance were not to occur,

no event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default under the indenture has occurred and is continuing,

such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any indenture or other agreement or instrument for borrowed money to which we are a party or by which we are bound,

such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in the trust arising from such deposit constituting an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act unless such trust shall be registered under the Investment Company Act or shall be exempt from registration thereunder,

we deliver to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with, and

other conditions specified in the indentures are met.

Conversion or Exchange

We may issue junior subordinated debt securities that we may convert or exchange into other securities, property or assets. If so, we will describe the specific terms on which junior subordinated debt securities may be converted or exchanged in the applicable prospectus supplement. The conversion or exchange may be mandatory, at your option or at our option. The applicable prospectus supplement will state the manner in which the securities, property or assets you would receive would be issued or delivered.

Table of Contents

Subordination

In the junior subordinated indenture, we have agreed, and holders of junior subordinated debt will be deemed to have agreed, that any junior subordinated debt securities are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all senior debt to the extent provided in the junior subordinated indenture.

Upon any payment or distribution of assets to creditors upon any liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshaling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency, debt restructuring or similar proceeding in connection with our insolvency or bankruptcy, the holders of senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt before the holders of junior subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the junior subordinated debt securities.

If the maturity of any junior subordinated debt securities is accelerated, the holders of all senior debt outstanding at the time of the acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due, including any amounts due upon acceleration, before you will be entitled to receive any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the junior subordinated debt securities.

We will not make any payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the junior subordinated debt securities or for the acquisition of junior subordinated debt securities (other than any sinking fund payment) if:

a default in any payment on senior debt then exists,

an event of default on any senior debt resulting in the acceleration of its maturity then exists, or

any judicial proceeding is pending in connection with such default.

When we use the term `debt` we mean, with respect to the Company:

all obligations of the Company for money borrowed,

all obligations of the Company evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses, and including all other debt securities issued by the Company to any trust or trustee of such trust, or to a partnership or other affiliate that acts as a financing vehicle for the Company, in connection with such issuance of securities,

all capital lease obligations of the Company,

all reimbursement obligations of the Company with respect to letters of credit, bankers' acceptances or similar facilities issued for the account of the Company,

all obligations of the Company issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services, including all obligations under master lease transactions pursuant to which the Company or any subsidiary has agreed to be treated as owner of the subject property for federal income tax purposes, but excluding trade accounts payable or accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business,

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

all payment obligations of the Company under interest rate swap or similar agreements or foreign currency hedge, exchange or similar agreements at the time of determination, including any such obligations incurred solely to act as a hedge against increases in interest rates that may occur under the terms of other outstanding variable or floating rate indebtedness of the Company,

Table of Contents

every obligation of the type referred to in the prior six clauses of another person and all dividends of another person the payment of which the Company has assumed or guaranteed or is responsible or liable for, directly or indirectly, jointly or severally, including as obligor, guarantor or otherwise,

all compensation, reimbursement and indemnification obligations of the Company to the indenture trustee pursuant to the junior subordinated indenture, and

any amendments, modifications, renewals, extensions, refinancings, replacements and refundings of any such debt.

When we use the term **senior debt** we mean the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on debt, whether outstanding on, or incurred or created after the date of the junior subordinated indenture, unless the instrument creating or evidencing that debt or pursuant to which that debt is outstanding, or pursuant to the terms established for any series of junior subordinated debt securities, states that those obligations are not superior in right of payment to the junior subordinated debt securities or to other obligations which rank equally with, or junior to, the junior subordinated debt securities.

As a non-operating holding company, we have no significant business operations of our own. Therefore, we rely on dividends from our insurance company and other subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet our obligations for payment of principal and interest on our outstanding debt obligations and corporate expenses. Accordingly, the junior subordinated debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and you should rely only on our assets for payments on the junior subordinated debt securities. The payment of dividends by our insurance subsidiaries is limited under the insurance holding company laws in the jurisdictions where those subsidiaries are domiciled. See **The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.**

The junior subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of additional senior or subordinated debt that we may incur. We expect from time to time to incur additional senior or subordinated debt.

The junior subordinated indenture provides that we may change the subordination provisions relating to any particular issue of junior subordinated debt securities prior to issuance. We will describe any change in the prospectus supplement relating to the junior subordinated debt securities.

Governing Law

The junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Information Concerning the Indenture Trustee

The indenture trustee will have all the duties and responsibilities of an indenture trustee specified in the Trust Indenture Act. Subject to those provisions, the indenture trustee will not be required to exercise any of its powers under the junior subordinated indenture at your request, unless you offer reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which the trustee might incur. The indenture trustee will not be required to expend or risk its own funds or incur personal financial liability in performing its duties if the indenture trustee reasonably believes that it is not reasonably assured of repayment or adequate indemnity. The indenture trustee acts as depository for funds of, and performs other services for us and our subsidiaries in the normal course of business.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF THE HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.

The following description of our capital stock is a summary. It summarizes only those aspects of our capital stock which we believe will be most important to your decision to invest in our capital stock. You should keep in mind, however, that it is our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-Laws, and the Delaware General Corporation Law, and not this summary, which define your rights as a securityholder. There may be other provisions in these documents which are also important to you. You should read these documents for a full description of the terms of our capital stock. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-Laws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain copies of these documents.

Common Stock

Subject to any preferential rights of any preferred stock created by our board of directors, holders of our common stock are entitled to dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time out of funds that we can lawfully use to pay dividends. See [Dividend Policy](#). Holders of our common stock possess exclusive voting rights, except to the extent provided by law and as set forth in our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, including any certificate of designations of a series of preferred stock. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock and do not have any right to cumulate votes in the election of directors.

Holders of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights, are not entitled to any preemptive rights by virtue of their status as stockholders and that status does not entitle them to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series, and generally have no appraisal rights except in certain limited transactions. Under Delaware law, our stockholders generally are not liable for our debts or obligations.

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive on a proportionate basis any assets remaining after provision for payment of creditors and after payment or provision for payment of any liquidation preferences to holders of preferred stock.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol [HIG](#). The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is The Bank of New York Mellon.

We have 1,500,000,000 authorized shares of common stock. As of July 30, 2010, 444,324,287 shares were outstanding, 65,000,000 shares are required to be reserved for issuance pursuant to the terms of our contingent capital facility, 287,000,000 shares are required to be reserved for issuance pursuant to the terms of our 2008 debt instruments, 41,441,400 shares were reserved for issuance in connection with the conversion of the 7.25% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock, Series F, par value \$0.01 per share, or the Series F Preferred Stock, 52,093,973 shares were reserved for issuance in connection with the conversion of the outstanding warrants issued to Treasury in connection with our participation in the CPP, or the CPP Warrants, and 69,351,806 shares were reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding warrants issued to Allianz SE, or Allianz (assuming receipt of certain regulatory approvals). For more information on the conversion of the warrants issued to Allianz, see

Allianz's Investment. In addition, as of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which information is available, 5,474,379 shares were reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights under our stock compensation plans, 18,000,000 were reserved for future issuance under our 2010 Incentive Stock Plan (together with such adjustments as are provided in the 2010 Incentive Stock Plan), 7,789,532 shares were reserved for issuance under the employee stock purchase plan and 256,099 were reserved for issuance under the 2000 PLANCO Non-Employee Option Plan.

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock

We have 50,000,000 shares of authorized preferred stock. 8,800,000 shares are designated for our Series B Non-Voting Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or the Series B Preferred Stock, none of which are currently outstanding, and 8,900,000 shares are designated for our Series C Non-Voting Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or the Series C Preferred Stock, none of which are currently outstanding. If exercised today, the warrants issued to Allianz would be exercisable for 8,731,386 shares of our Series B Preferred Stock and 8,606,565 shares of our Series C Preferred Stock (assuming regulatory approvals required for Allianz to exercise the warrants for our common stock have not yet been received). See Allianz's Investment. If issued, the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock will rank pari passu with each other, will rank junior to each other series of preferred stock of the Company unless specifically determined otherwise by our board of directors, and will participate on an as-converted basis with dividends and other distributions paid on our common stock. If issued, the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock will have no voting rights. Each share of the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock is currently convertible into approximately 4.00 shares of our common stock, subject to receipt of certain regulatory approvals. The conversion ratios under the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock are subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, as further specified under the terms of the warrants issued to Allianz.

We also have 575,000 shares of our Series F Preferred Stock outstanding, represented by 23,000,000 1/40th interest depositary shares. We pay cumulative dividends on each share of the Series F Preferred Stock at a rate of 7.25% per annum on the initial liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share. Each share of the Series F Preferred Stock automatically converts into shares of our common stock on April 1, 2013 (if not earlier converted at the option of the holder or upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, as further specified in the Series F Preferred Stock).

Additional shares of preferred stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series. We will describe the particular terms of any series of preferred stock in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering. Our board of directors is empowered, without the approval of our stockholders, to cause our preferred stock to be issued in one or more classes or series, or both, with the numbers of shares of each class or series and the provisions, designations, powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, of each class or series to be determined by it. The specific matters that may be determined by our board of directors include dividend rights, voting rights, redemption rights, liquidation preferences, conversion and exchange rights, retirement and sinking fund provisions, conditions or restrictions on our creation of indebtedness or our issuance of additional shares of stock, and other powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions on any wholly unissued series of preferred stock, or of the entire class of preferred stock if none of the shares have been issued, the number of shares constituting that series and the terms and conditions of the issue of the shares.

Dividend Policy

The payment of future dividends on our common stock is subject to the discretion of our board of directors, which will consider, among other factors, our operating results, overall financial condition, credit-risk considerations and capital requirements, as well as general business and market conditions. Dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries and other subsidiaries are the primary source of funds for payment of dividends to our stockholders and there are statutory limits on the amount of dividends that our insurance company subsidiaries can pay to us without regulatory approval.

The Connecticut insurance holding company laws limit the payment of dividends by Connecticut-domiciled insurers. In addition, these laws require notice to and approval by the state insurance commissioner for the declaration or payment by those subsidiaries of any dividend, if the dividend and other dividends or distributions made within the preceding twelve months exceeds the greater of (i) 10% of the insurer's policyholder surplus as of December 31 of the preceding year, and (ii) net income, or net gain from operations if the subsidiary is a life

Table of Contents

insurance company, for the previous calendar year, in each case determined under statutory insurance accounting principles. In addition, if any dividend of a Connecticut-domiciled insurer exceeds the insurer's earned surplus, it requires the prior approval of the Connecticut Insurance Commissioner. The insurance holding company laws of the other jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are incorporated, or deemed commercially domiciled, generally contain similar, and in some instances more restrictive, limitations on the payment of dividends. Likewise, our rights to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of our subsidiaries, for example, upon their liquidation or reorganization, and the ability of holders of the securities to benefit indirectly from a distribution, are subject to the prior claims of creditors of the applicable subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor of that subsidiary.

In addition, as a savings and loan holding company, we are subject to regulation, supervision and examination by the OTS, including with respect to required capital, cash flow, organization structure, risk management and earnings at the parent company level. We will be subject to similar, and potentially stricter, requirements when regulatory authority over us transfers to The Federal Reserve (for the Company) and the Office of Comptroller of the Currency (for our subsidiary, Federal Trust Corporation).

Moreover, our common stockholders are subject to the prior dividend rights of any holders of our preferred stock or depositary shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding. Under the terms of the Series F Preferred Stock, our ability to declare and pay dividends on or repurchase our common stock will be subject to restrictions in the event we fail to declare and pay (or set aside for payment) full dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock. In addition, the terms of our outstanding junior subordinated debt securities prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our capital stock, including our Series F Preferred Stock and our common stock, or purchasing, acquiring, or making a liquidation payment on such stock, if we have given notice of our election to defer interest payments but the related deferral period has not yet commenced or a deferral period is continuing.

Allianz's Investment

Under our Investment Agreement with Allianz, or the Investment Agreement, we agreed to issue and sell securities in a private placement to Allianz, including warrants to acquire certain of our securities, or the Allianz Warrants. The Allianz Warrants are exercisable for 8,731,386 shares of our Series B Preferred Stock and 8,606,565 shares of our Series C Preferred Stock, and subject to receipt of any required regulatory approvals by Allianz, are exercisable for 69,351,806 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$25.23 per share of common stock. The Allianz Warrants expire on October 17, 2018.

Under the Investment Agreement, if on or prior to the seventh anniversary of October 17, 2008, we propose to issue any shares of common stock, rights or options to acquire common stock or securities convertible or exchangeable into common stock (other than any issuance (i) as consideration in any merger, acquisition of a business or a similar transaction with a third party, (ii) to a financial institution in connection with any borrowing or (iii) that is Qualifying Employee Stock, as defined in the Allianz Warrants), we must provide prompt written notice to Allianz, and Allianz (or its designated subsidiary) shall have the right to participate in such issuance and to purchase from us an amount up to Allianz's pro rata share (as defined in the Investment Agreement) of each class or series of shares, rights, options or securities so issued at a price and on terms no less favorable to Allianz than those provided to any other person purchasing in the issuance.

Under the Investment Agreement, for so long as Allianz Warrants that are exercisable for at least 1% of our outstanding common stock remain outstanding, we may not, without the prior written consent of the Investor (as defined in the Investment Agreement) (which shall not be unreasonably withheld), issue equity securities other than our common stock, subject to specified exceptions.

The Investment Agreement contains standstill provisions that apply to Allianz and its subsidiaries and affiliates lasting until October 6, 2018, including limitations or prohibitions on, among other things, the acquisition of shares of common stock that would result in its beneficially owning more than 25% of our

Table of Contents

outstanding common stock, making or proposing a merger or change of control transaction with respect to us or soliciting proxies with respect thereto, subject in each case to certain exceptions for a change of control and other matters, as specified in the Investment Agreement. We have also agreed under the Investment Agreement that, prior to entering into any binding agreement to effect a merger or similar business combination with a third party or to pay a break-up fee or similar compensation to a third party with respect to such a potential transaction, we will permit Allianz a reasonable period of time to conduct due diligence and make a bona fide competing proposal to us.

The CPP Warrants

In connection with our participation in the CPP, we issued to the Treasury 52,093,973 CPP Warrants, each representing the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an initial exercise price of \$9.79, subject to adjustments. The CPP Warrants expire on June 26, 2019.

Contractual and Statutory Provisions May Delay or Make More Difficult Acquisitions or Changes of Control of the Company

Some provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-Laws may delay or make more difficult unsolicited acquisitions or changes of control of the Company. We believe that these provisions will enable us to develop our business in a manner that will foster long-term growth without disruption caused by the threat of a takeover not thought by our board of directors to be in our best interest and the best interests of our stockholders.

Those provisions could have the effect of discouraging third parties from making proposals involving an unsolicited acquisition or change of control of the Company, although the proposals, if made, might be considered desirable by a majority of our stockholders. Those provisions may also have the effect of making it more difficult for third parties to cause the replacement of our current management without the concurrence of our board of directors.

These provisions include:

the availability of capital stock for issuance from time to time at the discretion of our board of directors (see Preferred Stock),

prohibitions against stockholders calling a special meeting of stockholders or acting by written consent instead of at a meeting,

requirements for advance notice for raising business or making nominations at stockholders meetings, and

the ability of our board of directors to increase the size of the board and to appoint directors to fill newly created directorships.

The restrictions on ownership of our stock described under Restrictions on Ownership and the terms of Allianz's investment in us, described under Allianz's Investment, could also have the effect of discouraging third parties from making proposals involving an acquisition or change of control of the Company.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that stockholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting and cannot be taken by written consent. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-Laws also provide that special meetings of stockholders can be called by the chairman of our board of directors or by a vote of the majority of the entire board of directors. Furthermore, our Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that only such business as is specified in the notice of any special meeting of stockholders may come before the meeting.

Table of Contents

Advance Notice for Raising Business or Making Nominations at Meetings

Our Amended and Restated By-Laws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of stockholders and for nominations by stockholders of candidates for election as directors at an annual or special meeting at which directors are to be elected. The only business that may be conducted at an annual meeting of stockholders is the election of members of the board of directors for the succeeding year and business that has been specified in the notice of the meeting given by or at the direction of the board of directors or otherwise brought before the meeting by, or at the direction of, the board of directors, or by a stockholder who has given to our corporate secretary timely written notice, in proper form, of the stockholder's intention to bring that business before the meeting. Only persons who are nominated by, or at the direction of, the board of directors, or who are nominated by a stockholder who has given timely written notice, in proper form, to the secretary prior to a meeting at which directors are to be elected will be eligible for election as directors.

To be timely, notice of business to be brought before an annual meeting or nominations of candidates for election as directors at an annual meeting must be given by a stockholder to our corporate secretary not later than 90 days prior to the anniversary date for the immediately preceding annual meeting (or, if the date of the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or after the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting, not later than the later of (a) 90 days prior to the date of such annual meeting or (b) if the first public announcement of the date of an advanced or delayed annual meeting is less than 100 days prior to the date of such annual meeting, ten days after the first public announcement of the date of such annual meeting).

Similarly, in the case of a special meeting of stockholders at which the board of directors gives notice that directors are to be elected, notice of nominations to be brought before a special meeting of stockholders for the election of directors must be delivered to the secretary no later than the close of business on the seventh day following the date on which notice of the date of the special meeting of stockholders is given.

The notice of any nomination for election as a director is required to state, among other things:

specified information regarding the stockholder who intends to make the nomination,

a representation that the stockholder is a holder of record of stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice,

a description of all arrangements or understandings relating to the nomination between the stockholder and each nominee and any other person or persons, naming those persons,

if applicable, a representation that the stockholder intends to solicit proxies in support of each nominee,

specified information regarding each nominee proposed by the stockholder, including all other information that would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed under the proxy rules of the SEC had each nominee been nominated, or intended to be nominated, by our board of directors,

the consent of each nominee to serve as a director if so elected, and

whether, if elected, the nominee intends to tender any advance resignation notices requested by our board of directors in connection with subsequent elections, such advance resignation to be contingent upon the nominee's failure to receive a majority vote and acceptance of such resignation by our board of directors.

Number of Directors; Filling of Vacancies

Edgar Filing: HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE - Form 424B5

Our Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that the number of directors that constitute our board of directors may be set from time to time by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire board of directors, but that such number shall not be less than three nor more than twenty-five. In addition, newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors, or any vacancy, may be filled by a vote of a

Table of Contents

majority of directors then in office. Accordingly, our board of directors may be able to prevent any stockholder from obtaining majority representation on the board of directors by increasing the size of the board and filling the newly created directorships with its own nominees. In addition, the NYSE rules require that the majority of directors holding office immediately after the election must be independent directors.

Restrictions on Ownership

State insurance laws could be a significant deterrent to any person interested in acquiring control of the Company. The insurance holding company laws of each of the jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are incorporated or commercially domiciled, as well as state corporation laws, govern any acquisition of control of the Company or of our insurance subsidiaries. In general, these laws provide that no person or entity may directly or indirectly acquire control of an insurance company unless that person or entity has received the prior approval of the insurance regulatory authorities. An acquisition of control would be presumed in the case of any person or entity that purchases 10% or more of our outstanding common stock, unless the applicable insurance regulatory authorities determine otherwise.

In addition, we became a savings and loan holding company when the OTS approved our application to acquire Federal Trust Corporation, the parent company of Federal Trust Bank, a federally chartered, FDIC-insured thrift. As a savings and loan holding company, we are subject to federal banking laws that could be a significant deterrent to any person interested in acquiring control of the Company. Federal law requires, for example, that any person or company must obtain the prior approval or nonobjection of the OTS before taking any action that could result in that person or company acquiring control of a savings and loan holding company. Control is broadly defined under federal law, and the federal regulations governing whether control exists are extremely complex. In general, any person or company that owns or controls, directly or indirectly, or acting in concert with others, 25% or more of any class of our voting stock would be found to control us, and a person or company could be found to control us under other circumstances, including based on a presumption that could arise with the direct or indirect ownership or control of 10% or more of any class of our voting stock under certain conditions, unless the OTS determines otherwise. In addition, any company that acquires control of the Company would itself become a savings and loan holding company subject to regulation, supervision and examination by the OTS.

Delaware General Corporation Law

The terms of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law apply to us since we are a Delaware corporation and we have a class of voting stock that is listed on a national securities exchange. Under Section 203, with some exceptions, a Delaware corporation may not engage in a broad range of business combinations, such as mergers, consolidations and sales of assets, with an interested stockholder, for a period of three years from the date that person became an interested stockholder unless:

the transaction or the business combination that results in a person becoming an interested stockholder is approved by the board of directors of the corporation before the person becomes an interested stockholder,

upon consummation of the transaction that results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owns 85% or more of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding, for purposes of determining the voting stock outstanding, shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and shares owned by certain employee stock plans, or

on or after the date the person becomes an interested stockholder, the business combination is approved by the corporation's board of directors and by holders of at least two-thirds of the corporation's outstanding voting stock, excluding shares owned by the interested stockholder, at a meeting of stockholders.

Table of Contents

Under Section 203, an interested stockholder is defined as any person (or the affiliates or associates of such person), other than the corporation and any direct or indirect majority-owned subsidiary, that is:

the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or

an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within the three-year period immediately prior to the date on which it is sought to be determined whether the person is an interested stockholder.

Section 203 does not apply to a corporation that so provides in an amendment to its certificate of incorporation or by-laws passed by a majority of its outstanding shares at any time. As a general matter, this stockholder action does not become effective for 12 months following its adoption and would not apply to persons who were already interested stockholders at the time of the amendment. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation does not exclude us from the restrictions imposed under Section 203.

Section 203 makes it more difficult for a person who would be an interested stockholder to effect business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period, although the stockholders may elect to exclude a corporation from the restrictions imposed. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with our board of directors, because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if a majority of the directors then in office approve either the business combination or the transaction which results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions also may have the effect of preventing changes in our management. It is further possible that these provisions could make it more difficult to accomplish transactions that stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interest.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General Terms

We may elect to offer depositary shares representing receipts for fractional interests in debt securities or preferred stock. In this case, we will issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction of a debt security or share of a particular series of preferred stock, as the case may be.

We will deposit the debt securities or shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares under a deposit agreement between us and a depositary which we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, as an owner of a depositary share you will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a debt security or share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the debt security or preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary share, including, as the case may be, interest, dividend, voting, conversion, redemption, sinking fund, repayment at maturity, subscription and liquidation rights.

The following description of the terms of the deposit agreement is a summary. It summarizes only those terms of the deposit agreement that we believe would be most important to your decision to invest in our depositary shares. You should keep in mind, however, that it will be the deposit agreement entered into with respect to a particular offering of securities, and not this summary, that will define your rights as a holder of depositary shares. There may be other provisions in the deposit agreement that will also be important to you. You should read the applicable prospectus supplement and the deposit agreement for a full description of the terms of the depositary shares, some of which may differ from the provisions summary below. The form of the deposit agreement will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, either by amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus or by a Current Report on Form 8-K. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy of the deposit agreement.

Table of Contents

Interest, Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all payments of interest, cash dividends or other cash distributions received on the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be, to you in proportion to the number of depositary shares that you own.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to you in an equitable manner, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make a distribution. In that case the depositary may sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to you.

Withdrawal of Debt Securities or Preferred Stock

Any holder of depositary shares may receive interests in deposited debt securities or the number of whole shares of deposited preferred stock, as the case may be, and all money or other property represented by such holder's depositary receipts upon surrendering the depositary receipts at the depositary office or at such other office designated by the depositary, paying all taxes and charges provided for in the deposit agreement and complying with any other requirement of the deposit agreement.

However, holders of such interests in debt securities or whole shares of preferred stock, as the case may be, will not be entitled to deposit such debt securities or preferred stock under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts for such debt securities or preferred stock after such withdrawal or to receive depositary receipts therefor. If the depositary shares surrendered by the holder in connection with such withdrawal exceed the number of depositary shares that represent the number of whole shares of preferred stock or minimum issuable denominations of debt securities to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a debt security or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the depositary will redeem your depositary shares from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per debt security or share of preferred stock, as the case may be, payable in relation to the redeemed series of debt securities or preferred stock. Whenever we redeem debt securities or shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing, as the case may be, the debt securities or shares of preferred stock redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot, proportionately or by any other equitable method as the depositary may determine.

Exercise of Rights under the Indentures or Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which you, as a holder of interests in deposited preferred stock, are entitled to vote, or of any request for instructions or directions from you, as a holder of interests in deposited debt securities, the depositary will mail to you the information contained in that notice. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary how to give instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities represented by that holder's depositary shares or how to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The record date for the depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be. The depositary will endeavor, to the extent practicable, to give instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities or to vote or cause to be voted the maximum number of whole shares of the preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions. We will agree to take all reasonable action which the depositary may deem necessary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will abstain from giving instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities or voting shares of the preferred stock, as the case may be, if it does not receive specific instructions from you.

Table of Contents

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

We and the depositary may amend the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement at any time. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of the depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. We will make no amendment that impairs the right of any holder of depositary shares, as described above under **Withdrawal of Debt Securities or Preferred Stock**, to receive interests in debt securities or shares of preferred stock, as the case may be, and all money or other property represented by those depositary shares, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. If an amendment becomes effective, holders are deemed to agree to the amendment and to be bound by the amended deposit agreement if they continue to hold their depositary receipts.

We may terminate the deposit agreement at any time with at least 30 days' prior written notice to the depositary if holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding consent to such termination. Upon termination, the depositary will deliver or make available to holders of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares, the number of whole or fractional interests in deposited debt securities or shares of deposited preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary shares, together with any other property represented by such depositary shares. The deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or converted or exchanged for any other securities into which they or the underlying debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be, are convertible or exchangeable, or

there has been a complete repayment or redemption of the debt securities or a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock, including in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and the repayment, redemption or distribution proceeds, as the case may be, have been distributed to you.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

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

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be, and the initial issuance of depositary receipts, all withdrawals of shares of debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be, by you and any repayment or redemption of the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be. You will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges, as well as the other charges that are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for your account.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward all reports and communications from us which are delivered to the depositary and which we are required or otherwise determine to furnish to holders of debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable under the deposit agreement to you other than for the depositary's gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to

Table of Contents

prosecute or defend any legal proceedings relating to any depositary shares, debt securities or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting debt securities or shares of preferred stock for deposit, you or other persons believed to be competent and on documents which we and the depositary believe to be genuine.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants, including warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities, property or assets (including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices) as well as other types of warrants. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities, and they may be attached to or separate from those securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, that we will describe in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants that we offer.

The following description of the terms of the warrants is a summary. It summarizes only those terms of the warrants and the warrant agreement which we believe would be most important to your decision to invest in our warrants. You should keep in mind, however, that it will be the warrant agreement and the warrant certificate relating to the warrants, and not this summary, which will define your rights as a warrant holder. There may be other provisions in the warrant agreement and the warrant certificate relating to the warrants which will also be important to you. You should read these documents for a full description of the terms of the warrants. Forms of these documents will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, either by amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus or by a Current Report on Form 8-K. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain copies of these documents.

Debt Warrants

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of warrants to purchase debt securities that we may offer, the warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants and the warrant certificates representing the debt warrants. These terms will include the following:

the title of the debt warrants,

the debt securities for which the debt warrants are exercisable,

the aggregate number of the debt warrants,

the price or prices at which we will issue the debt warrants, the principal amount of debt securities that you may purchase upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price or prices at which such principal amount may be purchased upon exercise,

currency, currencies, or currency units, if other than in U.S. dollars, in which such debt warrants are to be issued or for which the debt warrants may be exercised,

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the debt warrants,

the designation and terms of any related debt securities issued with the debt warrants, and the number of debt warrants issued with each debt security,

the date, if any, from which you may separately transfer the debt warrants and the related securities,

Table of Contents

the date on which your right to exercise the debt warrants commences, and the date on which your right expires,

the maximum or minimum number of the debt warrants which you may exercise at any time,

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations,

any other terms of the debt warrants and terms, procedures and limitations relating to your exercise of the debt warrants, and

the terms of the securities you may purchase upon exercise of the debt warrants.

We will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any provisions for a change in the exercise price or expiration date of the warrants and the kind, frequency and timing of any notice to be given. You may exchange debt warrant certificates for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and may exercise debt warrants at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office that we indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to exercise, you will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon that exercise and will not be entitled to payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities purchasable upon the exercise.

Other Warrants

We may issue other warrants. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the following terms of those warrants:

the title of the warrants,

the securities, which may include preferred stock, common stock or other securities, property or assets (including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices), for which you may exercise the warrants,

the aggregate number of the warrants,

the price or prices at which we will issue the warrants, the number of securities or amount of other property or assets that you may purchase upon exercise of each warrant and the price or prices at which such securities, property or assets may be purchased,

currency, currencies, or currency units, if other than in U.S. dollars, in which such debt warrants are to be issued or for which the debt warrants may be exercised,

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the warrants,

the designation and terms of any related securities issued with the warrants, and the number of warrants issued with each security,

the date, if any, from which you may separately transfer the warrants and the related securities,

the date on which your right to exercise the warrants commences, and the date on which your right expires,

the maximum or minimum number of warrants which you may exercise at any time,

Table of Contents

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations, and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to your exchange and exercise of the warrants. We will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any provisions for a change in the exercise price or the expiration date of the warrants and the kind, frequency and timing of any notice to be given. You may exchange warrant certificates for new warrant certificates of different denominations and may exercise warrants at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office that we indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of your warrants, you will not have any of the rights of holders of the preferred stock, common stock or other securities purchasable upon that exercise and will not be entitled to dividend payments, if any, or voting rights of the preferred stock, common stock or other securities purchasable upon the exercise.

Exercise of Warrants

We will describe in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants the principal amount or the number of our securities, or amount of other securities, property or assets that you may purchase for cash upon exercise of a warrant, and the exercise price. You may exercise a warrant as described in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date stated in the prospectus supplement. Unexercised warrants will become void after the close of business on the expiration date, or any later expiration date that we determine.

We will forward the securities purchasable upon the exercise as soon as practicable after receipt of payment and the properly completed and executed warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or other office stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. If you exercise less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue you a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating or entitling you to purchase from us, and obligating or entitling us to sell to you, a specific number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, or other securities, property or assets, at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the stock purchase contracts may obligate or entitle us to purchase from you, and obligate or entitle you to sell to us, a specific or varying number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, or other securities, property or assets, at a future date. The price per share of preferred stock or common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula described in the stock purchase contracts. We may issue stock purchase contracts separately or as a part of units each consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, undivided beneficial ownership interests in debt securities, trust preferred securities, depository shares representing fractional interests in debt securities or shares of preferred stock, or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, securing your obligations to purchase the preferred stock or the common stock, or other securities, property or assets, under the stock purchase contract. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to you or vice versa and the payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require you to secure your obligations in a specified manner. We will issue the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units under stock purchase agreements that we will describe in the prospectus supplement relating to the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units that we offer. We will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. The form of the purchase contract agreement will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, either by amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus or by a Current Report on Form 8-K. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy of the purchase contract agreement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Initial Offering and Sale of Securities

We may sell securities from time to time in one or more transactions separately or as units with other securities. We may sell the securities of or within any series to or through agents, underwriters, dealers, remarketing firms or other third parties or directly to one or more purchasers or through a combination of any of these methods. We may issue securities as a dividend or distribution. In some cases, we or dealers acting with us or on behalf of us may also purchase securities and reoffer them to the public. We may also offer and sell, or agree to deliver, securities pursuant to, or in connection with, any option agreement or other contractual arrangement.

Agents whom we designate may solicit offers to purchase the securities.

If required, we will name any agent involved in offering or selling securities, and disclose any commissions that we will pay to the agent, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, agents will act on a best efforts basis for the period of their appointment.

Agents may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act, of any of the securities that they offer or sell. We may use an underwriter or underwriters in the offer or sale of the securities.

If we use an underwriter or underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter or underwriters at the time that we reach an agreement for the sale of the securities.

We will include the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as the names of any other underwriters, and the terms of the transactions, including the compensation the underwriters and dealers will receive, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The underwriters will use the applicable prospectus supplement, together with this prospectus, to sell the securities. We may use a dealer to sell the securities.

If we use a dealer, we will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal.

The dealer will then sell the securities to the public at varying prices that the dealer will determine at the time it sells the securities.

We will include the name of the dealer and the terms of the transactions with the dealer in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may solicit directly offers to purchase the securities, and we may directly sell the securities to institutional or other investors. We will describe the terms of direct sales in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may engage in at the market offerings into an existing trading market in accordance with Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act.

We may also offer and sell securities, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or

Table of Contents

otherwise, by one or more firms referred to as remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agents. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with us, and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the securities they remarket.

We may indemnify agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms, or their affiliates, may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or our respective affiliates, in the ordinary course of business.

We may authorize agents and underwriters to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase the securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts.

If we use delayed delivery contracts, we will disclose that we are using them in the prospectus supplement and will tell you when we will demand payment and delivery of the securities under the delayed delivery contracts.

These delayed delivery contracts will be subject only to the conditions that we describe in the prospectus supplement.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the commission that underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of the securities under delayed contracts will be entitled to receive.

Any underwriter, agent or dealer that is a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority member is not permitted to sell securities in an offering to accounts over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of its customer.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with a particular underwritten offering of securities, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase offered securities unless specified conditions are satisfied, and if the underwriters do purchase any offered securities, they will purchase all offered securities.

In connection with underwritten offerings of the offered securities and in accordance with applicable law and industry practice, the underwriters in certain circumstances are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize the price of the securities. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. If the underwriters create a short position in the securities in connection with the offering, i.e., if they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing securities in the open market. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid on certain underwriters. This means that if the underwriters purchase the securities in the open market to reduce the underwriters short position or to stabilize the price of the securities, they may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from the underwriters who sold those securities as part of the offering. In general, purchases of a security for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. The imposition of a penalty bid might also have an effect on the price of a security to the extent that it were to discourage resales of the security. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may enter into derivative or other hedging transactions involving the securities with third parties, or sell securities not covered by the prospectus to third parties in privately-negotiated transactions. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with those derivative transactions, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions, or may lend securities in order to facilitate short sale transactions by others. 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

Table of Contents

open borrowings of securities, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivative or hedging transactions to close out any related open borrowings of securities. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus).

We may effect sales of securities in connection with forward sale, option or other types of agreements with third parties. Any distribution of securities pursuant to any forward sale agreement may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions that may take place through a stock exchange, including block trades or ordinary broker's transactions, or through broker-dealers acting either as principal or agent, or through privately-negotiated transactions, or through an underwritten public offering, or through a combination of any such methods of sale, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices relating to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated or fixed prices.

We may loan or pledge securities to third parties that in turn may sell the securities using this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or, if we default in the case of a pledge, may offer and sell the securities from time to time using this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. Such third parties may transfer their short positions to investors in the securities or in connection with a concurrent offering of other securities offered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or otherwise.

Sales by Selling Securityholders

Selling securityholders may use this prospectus in connection with resales of the securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will identify the selling securityholders, the terms of the securities and any material relationships with the selling securityholders. Selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the selling securityholders will receive all the proceeds from the sale of the securities.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters relating to any securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by corporate counsel for The Hartford, who may be Alan J. Kreczko, Esq., and Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York. As of June 30, 2010, Mr. Kreczko beneficially owned 6,102 shares of our common stock, 9,236 shares of our common stock obtainable through the exercise of vested options, 3,808 restricted stock units, 86,504 restricted units and unvested options to acquire an additional 51,324 shares of our common stock. Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for any underwriters or agents by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, the related financial statement schedules, and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which report on the financial statements expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's change in its method of accounting and reporting for other-than-temporary impairments in 2009 and for the fair value measurement of financial instruments in 2008), which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. This information may be read and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of these public reference facilities. The SEC maintains an Internet site, <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that are subject to the SEC's reporting requirements.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC relating to the securities to be offered. This prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC, and we refer you to the omitted information. The statements this prospectus makes pertaining to the content of any contract, agreement or other document that is an exhibit to the registration statement necessarily are summaries of their material provisions and does not describe all exceptions and qualifications contained in those contracts, agreements or documents. You should read those contracts, agreements or documents for information that may be important to you. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available at the SEC's Public Reference Room or through its Internet site.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 7, 2010, February 16, 2010, February 24, 2010, March 9, 2010, March 16, 2010 (Items 1.01 and 8.01), March 17, 2010, March 18, 2010, March 19, 2010, March 23, 2010 (Items 1.01, 2.03, 3.03, 5.03 and 8.01), March 31, 2010 (Item 1.01), April 2, 2010 (Item 5.02), April 23, 2010, April 27, 2010, May 25, 2010, June 30, 2010, July 13, 2010 and July 27, 2010;

the description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on September 18, 1995, as amended by the Form 8-A/A, filed on November 13, 1995; and

all documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of this prospectus but prior to the termination of the offering (other than information in the documents that is deemed not to be filed and that is not specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement).

You can obtain any of the filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus through us or from the SEC through the SEC's Internet site or at the address listed above. We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should direct requests for those documents to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, Attention: Investor Relations (telephone (860) 547-5000).

Table of Contents

\$

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

% Fixed-to-Floating Rate

Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2042

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT APRIL , 2012

Joint Structuring Advisors and Joint Book-Running Managers

Citigroup

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Barclays

Deutsche Bank Securities

J.P. Morgan

