

Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG
Form 424B5
October 28, 2015

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS 2](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed maximum offering price per unit	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee(1)
4.35% Senior Notes due 2025	\$500,000,000	99.952%	\$499,760,000	\$50,325.83
Guarantee of 4.35% Senior Notes due 2025				\$0.00(2)

(1)
Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

(2)
Pursuant to Rule 457(n), no separate registration fee is payable with regard to the guarantees.

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-205082

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated June 19, 2015)

\$500,000,000

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd

4.35% Senior Notes due 2025

Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd is offering \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 4.35% senior notes due 2025. Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd will pay interest on the notes on April 29 and October 29 of each year, beginning April 29, 2016. The 4.35% senior notes due 2025 will mature on October 29, 2025. Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd may redeem some or all of the notes at any time and from time to time at the applicable redemption prices described in this prospectus supplement under the heading "Description of Notes and Guarantee Optional Redemption." Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd may also redeem all of the notes if certain tax events occur as described in this prospectus supplement under the heading "Description of Notes and Guarantee Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes." The notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd is a Bermuda company and is a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, a Swiss company and the ultimate holding company. The notes will be direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and will rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The notes will be effectively junior to all of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's future secured debt, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt, and will rank senior to all of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's existing and future subordinated debt. The notes will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's subsidiaries. Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG will fully and unconditionally guarantee the notes on a senior unsecured basis.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	99.952%	\$499,760,000

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Underwriting discount	0.650%	\$3,250,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to us(1)	99.302%	\$496,510,000

(1)

Plus accrued interest, if any, from October 29, 2015, if settlement occurs after that date.

None of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and its participants, which may include Clearstream Banking, société anonyme and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., against payment in New York, New York on or about October 29, 2015.

Joint Book-Running Managers

**Barclays
Citigroup**

**Credit Suisse
Wells Fargo Securities**

Co-Managers

BMO Capital Markets

ING

The date of this prospectus supplement is October 26, 2015.

Table of Contents

You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus delivered with this prospectus supplement. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus that we may provide you in connection with the sale of the notes offered hereby. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial conditions, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

No offered securities may be offered or sold in Bermuda and offers may only be accepted from persons resident in Bermuda, for Bermuda exchange control purposes, where such offers have been delivered outside of Bermuda.

GENERAL PERMISSION UNDER THE BERMUDA EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT 1972 (AND ITS RELATED REGULATIONS) HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE BERMUDA MONETARY AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO A NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ISSUED BY THE BERMUDA MONETARY AUTHORITY ON 1 JUNE 2005 FOR THE ISSUE AND TRANSFER OF OUR NOTES TO AND BETWEEN NON-RESIDENTS OF BERMUDA FOR EXCHANGE CONTROL PURPOSES. IN GIVING SUCH CONSENT THE BERMUDA MONETARY AUTHORITY DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS OR THE CORRECTNESS OF ANY OF THE STATEMENTS MADE OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PROSPECTUS.

In this prospectus supplement, references to "Allied World", "Allied World Switzerland", "we", "us", "our" or the "Company" refer to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and, when the context so requires, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and its subsidiaries. In this prospectus supplement, references to "Allied World Bermuda" or the "Issuer" refer to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and, when the context so requires, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and its subsidiaries. In this prospectus supplement, references to "dollar" and "\$" are to United States currency and references to "CHF" are to Swiss francs.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	<u>S-iii</u>
<u>Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>S-iii</u>
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-6</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-12</u>
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>S-12</u>
<u>Capitalization</u>	<u>S-13</u>
<u>Description of Notes and Guarantee</u>	<u>S-14</u>
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>S-24</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-26</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-31</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-31</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>S-31</u>
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>About Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>About Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>General Description of the Offered Securities</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Description of Allied World Switzerland Shares</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of the Debt Securities</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Certain Provisions Applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Information Concerning the Trustee</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Description of the Debt Securities Guarantees</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Description of the Warrants to Purchase Common Shares</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Description of the Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Description of Units</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Enforcement of Civil Liabilities Under United States Federal Securities Laws</u>	<u>46</u>

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part is the accompanying prospectus that gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. If the description of this offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. In addition, you should review the risks of investing in the Notes (as defined below) discussed in this prospectus supplement, as well as the risk factors contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 incorporated herein by reference, prior to making an investment decision. Important information is incorporated into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus without charge by following the instructions under "Where You Can Find More Information."

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference herein, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which, with respect to future business decisions, are subject to change. These uncertainties and contingencies can affect actual results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, us.

In particular, statements using words such as "may", "should", "estimate", "expect", "anticipate", "intends", "believe", "predict", "potential" or words of similar import generally involve forward-looking statements. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all future projections, the inclusion of forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those addressed by the forward-looking statements, including those contained under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information about Allied World and this offering. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you in deciding whether to purchase Notes. We encourage you to read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we have filed with the Commission that are incorporated by reference prior to deciding whether to purchase Notes.

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG

Allied World, the guarantor of the 4.35% Senior Notes due 2025 (the "Notes"), is a Swiss-based holding company headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, whose subsidiaries provide innovative property, casualty and specialty insurance and reinsurance solutions to clients worldwide. We were formed in Bermuda in 2001 and have continued to maintain significant insurance and reinsurance operations there following our redomestication to Switzerland in 2010.

We manage our business through three operating segments: North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance. Our North American Insurance segment is comprised of our direct insurance operations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada. Within this segment we provide a diverse range of specialty liability products, including coverages for healthcare, professional liability risks and construction. Additionally, we offer a selection of direct casualty insurance and property insurance products. Our Bermuda operations underwrite primarily larger, Fortune 1000 casualty and property risks for accounts domiciled in North America, while our operations in the United States and Canada generally write small- and middle-market, non-Fortune 1000 accounts domiciled in North America, including public entities, private companies and non-profit organizations.

Our Global Markets Insurance segment includes all of our direct insurance business outside of North America. We operate primarily in Europe and Asia and have an office in Miami that underwrites Latin American risks. While our European offices have historically focused on mid-sized to large European and multi-national companies domiciled outside of North America, we continue to expand our product offerings for small- and middle-market accounts and for specialist classes of business with global exposures. This segment underwrites a variety of professional liability, casualty, healthcare liability, retail, property, marine, on-shore construction, motor, accident and health products. In addition, our Lloyd's Syndicate 2232 writes international property, casualty, professional liability, marine and aviation targeted either at key territories or where our customers have requested a Lloyd's policy.

Our Reinsurance segment includes the reinsurance of property, casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by other insurance companies. We write reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis targeting several niche markets including professional liability lines, specialty casualty, property for U.S. regional insurers, accident and health, marine, aerospace and crop risks.

The following table sets forth our gross premiums written by segment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015		Year Ended December 31, 2014	
	Gross Premiums Written (\$ in millions)	% of Total	Gross Premiums Written (\$ in millions)	% of Total
North American Insurance	\$ 1,358.6	55.3%	\$ 1,716.3	58.4%
Global Markets Insurance	328.2	13.3	280.5	9.6
Reinsurance	773.8	31.4	938.6	32.0
Total	\$ 2,460.6	100.0%	\$ 2,935.4	100.0%

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Ratings are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance and reinsurance companies. A.M. Best, Moody's and Standard & Poor's have each developed a rating system to provide an opinion of an insurer's or reinsurer's financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to its policyholders. Each rating reflects the rating agency's opinion of the capitalization, management and sponsorship of the entity to which it relates, and is neither an evaluation directed to investors in our securities nor a recommendation to buy, sell or hold our securities. All of our principal operating subsidiaries have financial strength ratings of "A" (Excellent) from A.M. Best, "A" (Strong) from Standard & Poor's, and "A2" (Good) by Moody's.

Allied World Switzerland is a Swiss corporation with its principal executive office located at Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor, 6300 Zug, Switzerland. Our telephone number at that address is +41-41-768-1080.

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd

Allied World Bermuda, the issuer of the Notes, is a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Allied World Switzerland. Allied World Bermuda is the issuer of Allied World's outstanding 5.50% Senior Notes due November 15, 2020 and 7.50% Senior Notes due August 1, 2016 (together, the "Pre-Existing Senior Notes").

Allied World Bermuda's principal executive offices are located at 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke, HM 08, Bermuda. Our telephone number at that address is (441) 278-5400.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The terms of the Notes and the full and unconditional guarantee thereof by Allied World Switzerland (the "Guarantee") are summarized below solely for your convenience. Because the following summary is not complete, you should refer to the indenture among Allied World Bermuda, as issuer, Allied World Switzerland, as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture relating to the Notes, for a complete description of the terms of the Notes, and the senior debt securities guarantee agreement relating to the Notes, between Allied World Switzerland, as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as guarantee trustee, for a complete description of the terms of the Guarantee. You should also read the full text and more specific details contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. For a more detailed description of the Notes and the Guarantee, see the discussion under the caption "Description of Notes and Guarantee" beginning on page S-14 of this prospectus supplement.

Issuer	Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd
Guarantor	Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG
Securities Offered	\$500 million aggregate principal amount of 4.35% senior notes due 2025.
Interest Rate	4.35% per year.
Interest Payment Dates	Semi-annually on each April 29 and October 29, commencing April 29, 2016.
Maturity	October 29, 2025.
Ranking	The Notes will be direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Allied World Bermuda and will rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Bermuda's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness including the Pre-Existing Senior Notes. The Notes will be effectively junior to all of Allied World Bermuda's future secured debt, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt, and will rank senior to all of Allied World Bermuda's existing and future subordinated debt. The Guarantee will be a direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligation of Allied World Switzerland and will rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Switzerland's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness including Allied World Switzerland's liability of its guarantees of the Pre-Existing Senior Notes. The Guarantee will be effectively junior to all of Allied World Switzerland's future secured obligations, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such obligations, and will rank senior to all of Allied World Switzerland's existing and future subordinated obligations.

Table of Contents

We currently conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries and our subsidiaries generate substantially all of our operating income and cash flow. Neither the Notes nor the Guarantee will be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries.

On an unconsolidated basis, Allied World Switzerland did not have any indebtedness for borrowed money as of September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, after giving effect to this offering of Notes, our outstanding consolidated indebtedness for money borrowed would be \$1,322 million. As of September 30, 2015, after giving effect to this offering of Notes, the consolidated liabilities of our subsidiaries reflected on our balance sheet would be \$10,142 million. All such liabilities (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda) would be effectively senior to the Notes.

Optional Redemption

We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time at our option on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at the applicable redemption prices described in "Description of Notes and Guarantee Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement.

Use of Proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for the repayment, upon maturity, of Allied World Bermuda's outstanding \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 7.50% senior notes due August 1, 2016, as well as for general corporate purposes (exclusively outside of Switzerland), which may include the repurchase of our outstanding common shares, dividends to our shareholders or potential acquisitions. See "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement.

Additional Amounts

Subject to certain limitations and exceptions, all payments of principal and of premium, if any, interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the Notes shall be made without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature with respect to payments made by Allied World Bermuda imposed by or on behalf of Bermuda or any other jurisdiction in which Allied World Bermuda or the guarantor of the Notes is organized or in which our principal executive offices are located. See "Description of Notes and Guarantee Payment of Additional Amounts."

Tax Redemption

We may redeem all of the Notes at any time if certain tax events occur as described in "Description of Notes and Guarantee Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes."

Table of Contents

Form and Denomination	The Notes will be represented by global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee. The Notes sold will be issuable in denominations of \$2,000 or any integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
Covenants	The indenture under which the Notes will be issued, as supplemented by the supplemental indenture, will not contain any financial covenants or any provisions restricting us or our subsidiaries from purchasing or redeeming share capital. In addition, we will not be required to repurchase, redeem or modify the terms of any of the Notes upon a change of control or other event involving us, which may adversely affect the value of the Notes. In addition, the indenture, as supplemented by the supplemental indenture, will not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities we may issue under it, and we may issue additional debt securities in one or more series, including issuing additional Notes at later dates under the same supplemental indenture relating to the Notes, subject to compliance with the terms of the supplemental indenture and the indenture.
Risk Factors	Investing in the Notes involves certain risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.
Trustee, Guarantee Trustee and Paying Agent	The Bank of New York Mellon.
Governing Law and Consent to Jurisdiction	The Indenture (as defined below), Notes and Guarantee will be governed by the laws of the State of New York. We and the holders agree that any judicial proceedings in relation to any matter arising under the Indenture, Notes or Guarantee may be brought in any United States Federal or New York State court sitting in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, New York to the extent that such court has subject matter jurisdiction over the controversy.

S-5

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the Notes will involve a degree of risk, including those risks that are described in this section. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones relevant to an investment in the Notes. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of the Notes could decline substantially. You should carefully consider the following discussion of risks as well as the risks in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference, before deciding whether an investment in the Notes is suitable for you.

Risks Relating to the Notes

An Active Trading Market for the Notes may not Develop.

The Notes constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Notes are not listed, and we do not plan to apply to list the Notes on any national securities exchange or to include them in any automated quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the Notes after completion of the offering. However, they are under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading market for the Notes or that an active public market for the Notes will develop or be sustained or that holders of the Notes will be able to sell their Notes at favorable prices or at all. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected. If the Notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our operating performance and financial condition, general economic conditions and other factors.

Our Obligations Under the Notes and the Guarantee are Unsecured and Subordinated in Right of Payment to any Secured Debt that We may Incur in the Future.

The Notes will be direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Allied World Bermuda and will:

rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Bermuda's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness including the Pre-Existing Senior Notes;

be effectively junior to all of Allied World Bermuda's future secured debt, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt; and

not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and, therefore, will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries.

The Guarantee will be a direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligation of Allied World Switzerland and will:

rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Switzerland's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness including Allied World Switzerland's liability of its guarantees of the Pre-Existing Senior Notes;

be effectively junior to all of Allied World Switzerland's future secured obligations, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such obligations; and

Table of Contents

not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and, therefore, will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda).

As a result, in the event of the bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland or upon acceleration of the Notes or the Guarantee due to an event of default, Allied World Bermuda's or Allied World Switzerland's assets will be available to pay its obligations on the Notes or the Guarantee, as applicable, only after all secured indebtedness and other obligations have been paid in full. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the Notes or on the Guarantee then outstanding.

Because the Notes and the Guarantee will not be Guaranteed by any of Our Subsidiaries, the Notes and the Guarantee will be Effectively Subordinated to the Obligations of Our Subsidiaries.

We are a holding company whose assets primarily consist of the shares in our subsidiaries and we conduct substantially all of our business through our subsidiaries. Because our subsidiaries are not guaranteeing Allied World Bermuda's or Allied World Switzerland's obligations under the Notes or the Guarantee, respectively, holders of the Notes will have a junior position to the claims of creditors of our subsidiaries other than Allied World Bermuda (including policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) on their assets and earnings. All obligations (including insurance obligations) of our subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda) would be effectively senior to the Notes. As a result, in the event of the bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland or upon acceleration of the Notes or the Guarantee due to an event of default, Allied World Bermuda's or Allied World Switzerland's assets will be available to pay its obligations on the Notes or the Guarantee, as applicable, only after all secured indebtedness and other obligations of our subsidiaries have been paid in full. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the Notes or on the Guarantee then outstanding. As of September 30, 2015, after giving effect to this offering of the Notes, the consolidated liabilities of our subsidiaries reflected on our balance sheet would be \$10,142 million. All such liabilities (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda) would be effectively senior to the Notes.

Allied World Bermuda will Depend upon Dividends from its Subsidiaries to Meet its Obligations under the Notes and Allied World Switzerland will Depend upon Dividends from its Subsidiaries to Meet its Obligations as a Guarantor of the Notes.

Allied World Bermuda's ability to meet its obligations under the Notes and Allied World Switzerland's ability to meet its obligations as a guarantor of the Notes will be dependent upon the earnings and cash flows of their respective subsidiaries and the ability of the subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to Allied World Bermuda and Allied World Switzerland, respectively. Dividends and other permitted distributions from our insurance subsidiaries are expected to be the main source of funds to meet Allied World Bermuda's obligations under the Notes and Allied World Switzerland's obligations as a guarantor of the Notes. Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to significant regulatory restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay any dividends.

The inability of its subsidiaries to pay dividends to Allied World Switzerland in an amount sufficient to enable it to meet its cash requirements at the holding company level could have a material adverse effect on its operations and on Allied World Bermuda's ability to satisfy its obligations to you under the Notes and Allied World Switzerland's ability to satisfy its obligations to you under the Guarantee. Dividend payments and other distributions from the subsidiaries of Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda may also be subject to withholding tax.

Table of Contents

We may Incur Additional Indebtedness that could Limit the Amount of Funds Available to Make Payments on the Notes.

Neither the Notes, the Guarantee, nor the indenture, as supplemented by the supplemental indenture, prohibit or limit the incurrence of secured or senior indebtedness or the incurrence of other indebtedness and liabilities by us. Any additional indebtedness or liabilities so incurred by Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland would reduce the amount of funds Allied World Bermuda would have available to pay its obligations under the Notes or Allied World Switzerland would have available to pay its obligations under the Guarantee, respectively.

The Supplemental Indenture and Indenture under which the Notes will be Issued will Contain only Limited Protection for Holders of the Notes in the Event we are Involved in a Highly Leveraged Transaction, Reorganization, Restructuring, Merger, Amalgamation or Similar Transaction in the Future.

The indenture and the supplemental indenture under which the Notes will be issued may not sufficiently protect holders of Notes in the event we or Allied World Bermuda are involved in a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, restructuring, merger, amalgamation or similar transaction. The supplemental indenture and the indenture will not contain any provisions restricting our or Allied World Bermuda's ability to:

incur additional debt or other obligations, including debt or other obligations effectively senior in right of payment to the Notes;

pay dividends on or purchase or redeem share capital;

sell assets (other than certain restrictions on our ability to consolidate, merge, amalgamate or sell all or substantially all of our assets and our ability to sell the shares of certain subsidiaries);

enter into transactions with affiliates;

create liens (other than certain limitations on creating liens on the shares of certain subsidiaries) or enter into sale and leaseback transactions; or

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

Additionally, the supplemental indenture and the indenture will not require us or Allied World Bermuda to offer to purchase the Notes in connection with a change of control or require that we or our subsidiaries, including Allied World Bermuda, adhere to any financial tests or ratios or specified levels of net worth.

The Notes may be Redeemed Prior to Maturity, which may Adversely Affect your Return on the Notes.

The Notes may be redeemed in whole or in part on one or more occasions at any time. Redemption may occur at a time when prevailing interest rates are relatively low. If this happens, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as that of the redeemed Notes. See "Description of Notes and Guarantee Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement for a more detailed discussion of redemption of the Notes.

U.S. Persons who own Our Notes may have more Difficulty in Protecting their Interests than U.S. Persons who are Creditors of a U.S. Corporation.

Creditors of a company in Bermuda or Switzerland, such as Allied World Bermuda and Allied World Switzerland, respectively, may enforce their rights against the company by legal process in Bermuda or Switzerland, respectively. The creditor would first have to obtain a judgment in its favor against Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland by pursuing a legal action against Allied World Bermuda in Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland in Switzerland. This would entail retaining

Table of Contents

attorneys in Bermuda or Switzerland, as applicable, and (in the case of a plaintiff who is a U.S. person) pursuing an action in a jurisdiction that would be foreign to the plaintiff. Pursuing such an action could be more costly than pursuing corresponding proceedings against a U.S. person.

Appeals from decisions of the Supreme Court of Bermuda (the first instance court for most civil proceedings in Bermuda) may be made in certain cases to the Court of Appeal for Bermuda. In turn, appeals from the decisions of the Court of Appeal may be made in certain cases to the English Privy Council. Rights of appeal in Bermuda may be more restrictive than rights of appeal in the United States. Similarly, in Switzerland, appeals from decisions of a district court (the first instance court for most civil proceedings in Switzerland) may be made in certain cases to the cantonal court. In turn, appeals from the decisions of such cantonal court may be made in certain cases to the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland. Rights of appeal in Switzerland may be more restrictive than rights of appeal in the United States.

In the Event that Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland Becomes Insolvent, the Rights of a Creditor Against Us would be Severely Impaired.

In the event of the insolvent liquidation (or appointment of a provisional liquidator) of Allied World Bermuda, a creditor may pursue legal action only upon obtaining permission to do so from the Supreme Court of Bermuda. The rights of creditors in a insolvency will extend only to filing and, if contested, proving a claim in the liquidation and receiving a dividend *pro rata* along with other unsecured creditors to the extent of Allied World Bermuda's or Allied World Switzerland's available assets, as applicable (after the payment of costs of the liquidation). The procedure for filing such claim, and the principles concerning the distribution of any assets, will be governed by the laws at the place of the insolvent entity. However, creditors are not prevented from taking action against Allied World Bermuda or Allied World Switzerland in places outside Bermuda or Switzerland, as applicable, unless there has been an injunction preventing them from doing so in that particular place. Any judgment thus obtained may be capable of enforcement against Allied World Bermuda's assets located outside Bermuda or against Allied World Switzerland's assets located outside Switzerland, as applicable.

The impairment of the rights of an unsecured creditor may be more severe in an insolvency in Bermuda or Switzerland than would be the case where a U.S. person has a claim against a U.S. corporation which becomes insolvent. This is so mainly because in the event of an insolvency, Bermuda law or Swiss law, as applicable, may be more generous to secured creditors (and hence less generous to unsecured creditors) than U.S. law. The rights of secured creditors in an insolvent liquidation in Bermuda or Switzerland remain largely unimpaired, with the result that secured creditors will be paid in full to the extent of the value of the security they hold. Another possible consequence of the favorable treatment of secured creditors under Bermuda insolvency law or Swiss insolvency law, as applicable, is that a rehabilitation of an insolvent company in Bermuda or Switzerland may be more difficult to achieve than the rehabilitation of an insolvent U.S. corporation.

It may be Difficult to Enforce Civil Liabilities Under United States Federal Securities Laws.

Allied World Switzerland. Switzerland and the United States do not have a treaty providing for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. The recognition and enforcement of a judgment of the courts of the United States in Switzerland is governed by the principles set forth in the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law. This statute provides in principle that a judgment rendered by a non-Swiss court may be enforced in Switzerland only if:

the foreign court had jurisdiction pursuant to the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law;

the judgment of such foreign court has become final and non-appealable;

Table of Contents

no reason for refusal in the sense of Article 27 of the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law is given (in particular, but not limited to, the decision does not contravene Swiss public policy); and

the court procedures and the service of documents leading to the judgment were in accordance with the due process of law, legal precedent and similar requirements.

Allied World Bermuda. Allied World Bermuda has been advised by its Bermuda counsel that a judgment for the payment of money rendered by a court in the United States of America based on civil liability would not be automatically enforceable in Bermuda. There is no treaty between Bermuda and the United States of America providing for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments. Allied World Bermuda has also been advised by Bermuda counsel that the courts of Bermuda would recognize as a valid judgment a final and conclusive judgment *in personam* obtained in a court in the United States of America against Allied World Bermuda under which a sum of money is payable (other than a sum of money payable in respect of multiple damages, taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty) and would give a judgment based thereon, provided that (a) such courts had proper jurisdiction over the parties subject to such judgment, (b) such courts did not contravene the rules of natural justice of Bermuda, (c) such judgment was not obtained by fraud, (d) the enforcement of the judgment would not be contrary to the public policy of Bermuda, (e) no new admissible evidence relevant to the action is submitted prior to the rendering of the judgment by the courts of Bermuda and (f) there is due compliance with the correct procedures under the laws of Bermuda.

It may be Difficult to Enforce Service of Process and Enforce Judgments Against Us and Our Officers and Directors.

Allied World Switzerland is a Swiss company and Allied World Bermuda is a Bermuda company and it may be difficult for investors in the Notes to enforce judgments against us or our directors and executive officers.

Allied World Switzerland. Allied World Switzerland is incorporated pursuant to the laws of Switzerland. In addition, certain of our directors and officers may reside outside the United States, and all or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of such persons are located in jurisdictions outside the United States. As such, it may be difficult or impossible to effect service of process within the United States upon us or those persons or to recover against us or them on judgments of U.S. courts, including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

We have been advised by Swiss counsel that there is doubt as to whether the courts in Switzerland would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our directors and officers predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws or original actions brought in Switzerland against us or such persons predicated solely upon U.S. federal securities laws. Further, we have been advised by Swiss counsel that there is no treaty in effect between the United States and Switzerland providing for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts. Some remedies available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including some remedies available under the U.S. federal securities laws, may not be allowed in Swiss courts as contrary to that jurisdiction's public policy. Because judgments of U.S. courts are not automatically enforceable in Switzerland, it may be difficult for investors to recover against us based upon such judgments.

Allied World Bermuda. Allied World Bermuda is incorporated pursuant to the laws of Bermuda and its business is based in Bermuda. In addition, certain of its directors and officers reside outside the United States, and all or a substantial portion of its assets and the assets of such persons are located in jurisdictions outside the United States. As such, it may be difficult or impossible to effect service of

Table of Contents

process within the United States upon us or those persons or to recover against Allied World Bermuda or them on judgments of U.S. courts, including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

Further, no claim may be brought in Bermuda against Allied World Bermuda or its directors and officers in the first instance for violation of U.S. federal securities laws because these laws have no extraterritorial jurisdiction under Bermuda law and do not have force of law in Bermuda. A Bermuda court may, however, impose civil liability, including the possibility of monetary damages, on us or our directors and officers if the facts alleged in a complaint constitute or give rise to a cause of action under Bermuda law.

We have been advised by Bermuda counsel that there is doubt as to whether the courts of Bermuda would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against Allied World Bermuda or its directors and officers, as well as the experts named herein, predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws or original actions brought in Bermuda against us or such persons predicated solely upon U.S. federal securities laws. Further, we have been advised by Bermuda counsel that there is no treaty in effect between the United States and Bermuda providing for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts. Some remedies available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including some remedies available under the U.S. federal securities laws, may not be allowed in Bermuda courts as contrary to that jurisdiction's public policy. Because judgments of U.S. courts are not automatically enforceable in Bermuda, it may be difficult for investors to recover against Allied World Bermuda based upon such judgments.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect that the net proceeds from this offering, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$495,310,000. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for the repayment, upon maturity, of Allied World Bermuda's outstanding \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 7.50% senior notes due August 1, 2016, as well as for general corporate purposes (exclusively outside of Switzerland), which may include the repurchase of our outstanding common shares, dividends to our shareholders or potential acquisitions.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratio of our earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)	3.1	9.4	7.9	9.6	6.2	16.4

- (1) For purposes of determining this ratio, "earnings" consist of consolidated pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees, fixed charges and distributed income of equity investees. "Fixed charges" consist of interest expense on our Pre-Existing Senior Notes and one-third of payments under our operating leases.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization at September 30, 2015, on a historical basis and as adjusted to give effect to the offering of the Notes and the application of the estimated net proceeds therefrom. See "Use of Proceeds". This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," both of which can be found in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2015, which are incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference.

	September 30, 2015	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(\$ in thousands, except share numbers)	
Debt:		
7.50% Senior Notes due 2016	\$ 499,833	\$ 499,833
5.50% Senior Notes due 2020	299,210	299,210
4.35% Senior Notes due 2025 offered hereby		500,000
Other long-term debt	23,328	23,328
Total debt	822,371	1,322,371
Shareholders' equity:		
Common shares, par value CHF 4.10 per share (95,523,230 shares issued and 90,911,888 shares outstanding)	386,702	386,702
Treasury shares, at cost (4,611,342)	(156,281)	(156,281)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4,265)	(4,265)
Retained earnings	3,329,249	3,329,249
Total shareholders' equity	3,555,405	3,555,405
Total capitalization	4,377,776	4,877,776

S-13

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES AND GUARANTEE

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

The following description of the specific terms of the Notes that Allied World Bermuda is offering and the Guarantee of the Notes by Allied World Switzerland supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of (i) the senior debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Description of the Debt Securities", and (ii) the Guarantees set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Description of the Debt Securities Guarantees".

The Notes constitute a series of debt securities, which are more fully described in the accompanying prospectus, to be issued pursuant to an indenture among Allied World Bermuda, as issuer, Allied World Switzerland, as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture relating to the Notes (as supplemented by the supplemental indenture, the "Indenture"). The terms of the Notes include those provisions contained in the Indenture (including as supplemented by the supplemental indenture) and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"). The Notes are subject to all such terms, and holders of Notes are referred to the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act for a statement of such terms. The terms of the Guarantee will be set forth in a senior debt securities guarantee agreement in respect of the Notes between Allied World Switzerland, as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as guarantee trustee, and holders of Notes are referred to the senior debt securities guarantee agreement for a statement of such terms (the "Guarantee Agreement"). The following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture and the Guarantee Agreement do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the Indenture and the Guarantee Agreement, including the definitions in the Indenture of certain terms used below.

General

The Notes will be direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Allied World Bermuda and will rank equally in right of payment to all of Allied World Bermuda's existing and future unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding including the Pre-Existing Senior Notes. The Notes will be effectively subordinated to all of Allied World Bermuda's future secured obligations to the extent of the collateral securing such obligations and effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of Allied World Bermuda's subsidiaries. All liabilities of our future subsidiaries will be effectively senior to the Notes.

Under the Indenture, we covenant that if any direct or indirect parent company of Allied World Bermuda guarantees the outstanding 7.50% Senior Notes due 2016 or 5.50% Senior Notes due 2020, equivalent guarantees will be provided with respect to the Notes so long as such 7.50% Senior Notes due 2016 or 5.50% Senior Notes due 2020 are so guaranteed.

The Notes will mature on October 29, 2025. The Notes will be initially issued through The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") in fully registered form without coupons, in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof, except under the limited circumstances described below under "Delivery and Form." The Notes will initially be issued in aggregate principal amount of \$500 million. On one or more occasions after the sale of the Notes, Allied World Bermuda may issue additional notes under the Indenture, including issuing additional Notes at later dates under the same supplemental indenture relating to the Notes, subject to compliance with the terms of Indenture, having substantially identical terms to the Notes offered hereby (except for the public offering price and the issue date), but if any additional notes are not fungible with the originally issued Notes, as applicable, for United States federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number. Each of the Notes and any such corresponding additional notes subsequently

Table of Contents

issued under the supplemental indenture, will be treated as a single class for all purposes under the Indenture, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments and redemptions.

Principal and Interest

Allied World Bermuda will pay interest on the Notes at a rate of 4.35% per year, semi-annually in arrears on April 29 and October 29 of each year, commencing April 29, 2016, to the persons in whose names the Notes are registered at the close of business on April 14 or October 14, as the case may be (whether or not a Business Day (as defined in the Indenture)), immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the interest payment will be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such interest payment date. If the maturity date of the Notes falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the payment of interest and principal may be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after the maturity date. Interest payments for the Notes will include accrued interest from and including the date of issue or from and including the last date in respect of which interest has been paid, as the case may be, to, but excluding, the interest payment date or the date of maturity, as the case may be. Interest on the Notes which have a Redemption Date (as defined below) after a regular record date and on or before the following interest payment date will also be payable to the persons in whose names the Notes are so registered.

Payment of Additional Amounts

Allied World Bermuda will make all payments on the Notes without withholding of any present or future taxes or governmental charges of (i) Allied World Bermuda's jurisdiction of organization or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, (ii) the jurisdiction of Allied World Bermuda's principal executive offices or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or (iii) the jurisdiction of organization of Allied World Switzerland or any other guarantor of the Notes or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein (each of clause (i), (ii) and (iii), a "taxing jurisdiction"), unless Allied World Bermuda is required to do so by applicable law or regulation. If under the laws or regulations of a taxing jurisdiction Allied World Bermuda is required to withhold amounts, Allied World Bermuda will, subject to the limitations described in the accompanying prospectus under "Description of the Debt Securities," pay to persons in whose names the Notes are registered additional amounts so that every net payment made to such persons, after the withholding, will be the same amount provided for in the Notes. Allied World Bermuda will pay any stamp, issue, registration, documentary, value added, excise, property or other similar taxes and duties (including interest and penalties) payable in respect of the creation, issue, offering or execution of the Notes or any guarantee of the Notes, or any documentation with respect thereto, and will indemnify the holders for any such taxes paid by the holders.

FATCA

In order to assist the Trustee with its compliance with Sections 1471 through 1474 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and the rules and regulations thereunder (as in effect from time to time, collectively, the "Applicable Law"), the Issuer agrees (i) to provide to the Trustee sufficient information regarding the Issuer or the holders of Notes (solely in their capacity as such) and which is necessary for the Trustee's determination of whether it has tax related obligations under Applicable Law and (ii) that the Trustee shall be entitled to make any withholding or deduction from payments under the Indenture to the extent necessary to comply with Applicable Law and shall have no liability in connection therewith other than as a result of its negligence or willful misconduct. Nothing in the immediately

Table of Contents

preceding sentence shall be construed as obligating the Issuer to make any "gross up" payment or similar reimbursement in connection with a payment in respect of which amounts are so withheld or deducted.

Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes

Allied World Bermuda will be entitled to redeem the Notes, at its option, at any time as a whole but not in part, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest (if any) to the Redemption Date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date), in the event that we or Allied World Bermuda have become or would become obligated to pay, on the next date on which any amount would be payable with respect to the Notes, any additional amounts as a result of:

a change in or an amendment to the laws (including any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction, which change or amendment (i) in our or Allied World Bermuda's case, is announced after the date of this prospectus supplement and (ii) in the case of any successor to us or Allied World Bermuda, is announced after the date such successor assumes our obligations under the Notes and the Indenture; or

any change in or amendment to any official position regarding the application, administration, interpretation or enforcement of the laws, regulations or rulings (including a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a taxing authority) of a taxing jurisdiction, which change or amendment (i) in our or Allied World Bermuda's case, is announced after the date of this prospectus supplement and (ii) in the case of any successor to us or Allied World Bermuda, is announced after the date such successor assumes our obligations under the Notes and the Indenture,

and, in each case, we or Allied World Bermuda, as applicable, cannot avoid such obligation by taking reasonable measures available to us or Allied World Bermuda, respectively.

Before Allied World Bermuda publishes or mails any notice of redemption of the Notes as described above, we or Allied World Bermuda, as applicable, will deliver to the trustee an officers' certificate to the effect that we or Allied World Bermuda, as applicable, cannot avoid our or Allied World Bermuda's, as applicable, obligation to pay additional amounts by taking reasonable measures available to us or Allied World Bermuda (consistent with practices and interpretations generally followed or in effect at the time such measures could be taken) and an opinion of independent legal counsel of recognized standing stating that there is a substantial probability that we or Allied World Bermuda, as applicable, would be obligated to pay additional amounts as a result of a change in tax laws or regulations or the application or interpretation of such laws or regulations.

Optional Redemption

Allied World Bermuda will be entitled to redeem the Notes, at its option, at any time or from time to time in whole or in part, on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' prior notice to the holders of the Notes. Allied World Bermuda may redeem the Notes on any date prior to July 29, 2025 (three months prior to the maturity date of the Notes) (such date a "Make-Whole Redemption Date") at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed and (ii) the Discounted Present Value of the Notes subject to redemption, plus in each case accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed to, but excluding, the Make-Whole Redemption Date.

In addition, Allied World Bermuda may redeem the Notes on any date on or after July 29, 2025 (three months prior to the maturity date of the Notes) (such date a "Par Call Redemption Date" and,

Table of Contents

together with any Make-Whole Redemption Date, a "Redemption Date") at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus in each case accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed to, but excluding, the Par Call Redemption Date.

"Discounted Present Value" of any Note subject to optional redemption shall be equal to the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (excluding interest accrued to the Make-Whole Redemption Date) on such Note discounted to the Make-Whole Redemption Date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the applicable Treasury Rate plus 35 basis points.

"Treasury Rate" means, with respect to any Make-Whole Redemption Date, (i) the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release designated "H.15 (519)" or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption "Treasury Constant Maturities," for the maturity corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue (if no maturity is within three months before or after the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue will be determined and the Treasury Rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from such yields on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month) or (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain such yields, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield-to-maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such Make-Whole Redemption Date. The Treasury Rate will be calculated on the third Business Day preceding the Make-Whole Redemption Date.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means (i) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such Make-Whole Redemption Date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Independent Investment Banker obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

"Independent Investment Banker" means Barclays Capital Inc. or Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and their respective successors or, if both firms are unwilling or unable to select the Comparable Treasury Issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by us.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means each of (i) Barclays Capital Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., and a Primary Treasury Dealer (defined herein) selected by Wells Fargo Securities, LLC; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the City of New York (a "Primary Treasury Dealer"), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer and (ii) any two other Primary Treasury Dealers selected by the Independent Investment Banker after consultation with us.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation" means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any Make-Whole Redemption Date, the average, as determined by the Independent Investment Banker, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Independent Investment Banker at

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such Make-Whole Redemption Date.

If less than all of the Notes are to be redeemed, the Notes to be redeemed shall be selected not more than 60 days prior to the Redemption Date by the trustee, by lot; provided that if the Notes are in global form, interests in such Notes will be selected for redemption by the applicable depository in accordance with its standard practice.

The Notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any mandatory redemption or sinking fund.

Allied World Bermuda will not be required to (1) register the transfer of or exchange the Notes during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any Notes and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer or exchange of any Note selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any Note being redeemed in part.

We or Allied World Bermuda may acquire Notes by means other than a redemption, whether by tender offer, open market purchases, negotiated transactions or otherwise, so long as such acquisition does not otherwise violate the terms of the Indenture.

Certain Covenants

Limitation on Liens on Stock of Designated Subsidiaries

Under the Indenture, Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda will covenant that, so long as any Notes are outstanding, we will not, nor will we permit any subsidiary to, create, assume, incur, guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any Indebtedness secured by any Lien upon any shares of Capital Stock of any Designated Subsidiary (whether such shares of stock are now owned or hereafter acquired) without effectively providing concurrently that the Notes (and, if we so elect, any of our other Indebtedness that is not subordinate to the Notes and with respect to which the governing instruments require, or pursuant to which we are otherwise obligated, to provide such security) shall be secured equally and ratably with such Indebtedness for at least the time period such other Indebtedness is so secured; *provided, however*, that the foregoing restriction shall not apply to:

liens on the Capital Stock of any entity existing at the time it becomes a subsidiary of Allied World Switzerland (and any extensions, renewals or replacements thereof);

any lien existing as of the original date of the Indenture; and

any lien in favor of Allied World Switzerland or Allied World Bermuda.

For purposes of the Indenture, "Capital Stock" of any person means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such person, including preferred stock, but excluding any debt securities convertible into such equity.

The term "Designated Subsidiary" means any present or future consolidated subsidiary of Allied World Switzerland or Allied World Bermuda (other than Allied World Bermuda), the consolidated net worth of which constitutes at least 20% of Allied World Switzerland's consolidated net worth. As of October 23, 2015, our only Designated Subsidiaries were Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd, Allied World Assurance Holdings (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World Insurance Company.

Table of Contents

The term "Indebtedness" means, with respect to any person:

- (1) the principal of and any premium and interest on (a) indebtedness of such person for money borrowed and (b) indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which such person is responsible or liable;
- (2) all Capitalized Lease Obligations (as defined in the Indenture) of such person;
- (3) all obligations of such person issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations and all obligations under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business);
- (4) all obligations of such person for the reimbursement of any obligor on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance or similar credit transaction (other than obligations with respect to letters of credit securing obligations (other than obligations described in (1) through (3) above) entered into in the ordinary course of business of such person to the extent such letters of credit are not drawn upon or, if and to the extent drawn upon, such drawing is reimbursed no later than the third Business Day following receipt by such person of a demand for reimbursement following payment on the letter of credit);
- (5) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (4) above of other persons and all dividends of other persons for the payment of which, in either case, such person is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise;
- (6) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (5) above of other persons secured by a Lien on any property or asset of such person (whether or not such obligation is assumed by such person), the amount of such obligation being deemed to be the lesser of the value of such property or assets or the amount of the obligation so secured; and
- (7) any amendments, modifications, refundings, renewals or extensions of any indebtedness or obligation described as Indebtedness in clauses (1) through (6) above.

The term "Lien" means any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance.

Limitations on Disposition of Stock of Designated Subsidiaries

The Indenture also provides that, so long as any Notes are outstanding and except in a transaction otherwise governed by the Indenture, Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda will not issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of, securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, Capital Stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of any Designated Subsidiary, nor will we permit any Designated Subsidiary to issue (other than to us or to other Designated Subsidiaries) any shares (other than director's qualifying shares or similar securities) of, or securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, Capital Stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of any Designated Subsidiary, unless such Capital Stock is issued, sold, assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed of, as the case may be, for consideration which is at least equal to the fair market value of the Capital Stock so issued, sold, assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed of, as the case may be, as determined by our board of directors, pursuant to a resolution adopted in good faith. The foregoing will not prohibit any such issuance or disposition of securities if required by any law or any regulation or order of any governmental or insurance regulatory authority. In addition, notwithstanding the foregoing, we may merge or consolidate any Designated Subsidiary into or with another of our direct or indirect subsidiaries.

Compliance with the covenants described herein and any additional covenants with respect to the Notes may not be waived by the trustee in most instances unless the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of all outstanding Notes consent to such waiver.

Table of Contents

Events of Default

Reference is made to the section entitled "Description of the Debt Securities Events of Default" in the accompanying prospectus, which provides a description of the events that constitute "Events of Default" with respect to the Notes. If an Event of Default with respect to the Notes occurs (other than an Event of Default resulting from certain events relating to the bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us) and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Notes may declare the unpaid principal amount of the Notes, together with accrued interest thereon, to be due and payable immediately. An Event of Default resulting from certain events relating to the bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us will cause the principal amount of, and accrued interest on, the Notes to become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder of the Notes.

Delivery and Form

DTC

The Notes will be issued in the form of one or more securities in registered global form. Each global security will be deposited on the date of the closing of the sale of the Notes with, or on behalf of DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as DTC's nominee. So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner or holder of the Notes, DTC or such nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Notes represented by such global securities for all purposes under the Indenture. No beneficial owner of an interest in the global securities will be able to transfer such interest except in accordance with DTC's procedures, as described below, in addition to those provided for under the Indenture with respect to the Notes.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of transactions in those securities between those participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations. Access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly (referred to as the "indirect participants"). Persons who are not participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the participants or the indirect participants. The ownership interest and transfer of ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each security held by or on behalf of DTC is recorded on the records of the participants and indirect participants.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC, (1) upon deposit of the global securities, DTC will credit the accounts of participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amount of the global securities and (2) ownership of such interests in the global securities will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to the participants) or by the participants and the indirect participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the global securities).

All interests in a global security may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC. The laws of some states require that some persons take physical delivery in certificated form of securities that they own. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security to those persons will be limited to that extent. Because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, which in turn act on behalf of indirect participants and certain banks, the ability of owners of interests in the global securities to pledge their interests in a global security to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interests, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interests.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Except as described below, owners of interests in the global securities will not have Notes registered in their name, will not receive physical delivery of Notes in certificated form and will not be considered the registered owners or holders of Notes for any purpose.

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

Payments on the global securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee will be payable by the trustee to DTC in its capacity as the registered holder under the Indenture. Under the terms of the Indenture, the trustee will treat the persons in whose names the Notes, including the global securities, are registered, as the owners for the purpose of receiving those payments and for any and all other purposes.

Consequently, neither the trustee nor any agent of the trustee has or will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspect of DTC's records or any participant's or indirect participant's records relating to, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in, the global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records or any participant's or indirect participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests in the global security, or

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of DTC or any of its participants or indirect participants.

DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment on securities such as the Notes, is to credit the accounts of the relevant participants with the payment on the payment date, in amounts proportionate to their respective holdings in principal amounts of beneficial interests in the relevant security as shown on the records of DTC unless DTC has reason to believe it will not receive payment on the payment date. Payments by the participants and the indirect participants to the beneficial owners of the Notes will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of the participants or the indirect participants and will not be the responsibility of DTC, the trustee or us. Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC or any of its participants in identifying the beneficial owners of the Notes, and we and the trustee may conclusively rely on and will be protected in relying on instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes.

DTC will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of the Notes only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account with DTC interests in the global securities are credited and only in respect of such portion of the Notes as to which the participant or participants has or have given such direction. However, if there is an Event of Default, DTC reserves the right to exchange the global securities for Notes in certificated form and to distribute the Notes to its participants.

A global security is exchangeable for Notes in registered certificated form if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if we determine that DTC is unable to continue as depository and we fail to appoint a successor depository within 90 days;

we determine that the Notes will no longer be represented by global securities and execute and deliver to the trustee instructions to such effect; or

there has occurred and is continuing an Event of Default under the Indenture.

DTC has advised us that it is:

- (1) a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- (2) a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

Table of Contents

- (3) a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- (4) a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and
- (5) a "Clearing Agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of beneficial ownership interests in the global securities among participants of DTC, it is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we, nor the trustee nor any of their respective agents will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations, including maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in global securities.

Clearstream and Euroclear

Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, Luxembourg ("Clearstream Banking SA") and Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V. ("Euroclear") (two international clearing systems that perform functions similar to those that DTC performs in the U.S.), to facilitate the initial issuance of book-entry securities and cross-market transfers of book-entry securities associated with secondary market trading.

Although DTC, Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear have agreed to the procedures provided below in order to facilitate transfers, they are under no obligation to perform such procedures, and the procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time.

Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear will record the ownership interests of their participants in much the same way as DTC, and DTC will record the aggregate ownership of each of the U.S. agents of Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear, as participants in DTC.

When book-entry securities are to be transferred from the account of a DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream Banking SA participant or a Euroclear participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear, as the case may be, will instruct its U.S. agent to receive book-entry securities against payment. After settlement, Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear will credit its participant's account. Credit for the book-entry securities will appear on the next day (European time).

Because settlement is taking place during New York business hours, DTC participants can employ their usual procedures for sending book-entry securities to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. Thus, to the DTC participant, a cross market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two DTC participants.

When a Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant wishes to transfer book-entry securities to a DTC participant, the seller must send instructions to Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer the book-entry securities against payment. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant the following day, with the proceeds back-valued to the value date (which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York). If settlement is not completed on the intended value date (i.e., the trade fails), proceeds credited to the Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant's account would instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

Table of Contents

The information in this section concerning DTC, Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear and their respective book-entry systems has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we have not independently determined the accuracy of such information. We will not have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Clearstream Banking SA, Euroclear or any of their respective participants of their obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Guarantee

Allied World Switzerland will fully and unconditionally guarantee all payments on the Notes. The Guarantee will be a direct unsecured and unsubordinated obligation of Allied World Switzerland and will rank equally in right of payment with all of Allied World Switzerland's existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness including Allied World Switzerland's liability of its guarantees of the Pre-Existing Senior Notes. The Guarantee will be effectively junior to all of Allied World Switzerland's future secured obligations, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such obligations, and will rank senior to all of Allied World Switzerland's existing and future subordinated obligations. The Guarantee will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of Allied World Switzerland's subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda). On an unconsolidated basis, Allied World Switzerland did not have any indebtedness for borrowed money as of September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, after giving effect to this offering of Notes, our outstanding consolidated indebtedness for money borrowed would be \$1,322 million. As of September 30, 2015, after giving effect to this offering of Notes, the consolidated liabilities of our subsidiaries reflected on our balance sheet would be \$10,142 million. All such liabilities (including to policyholders, trade creditors, debt holders and taxing authorities) of our subsidiaries (other than Allied World Bermuda) would be effectively senior to the Notes.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Notes by U.S. Holders (as defined below), and does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax effects. This discussion does not address all the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of such holder's particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as financial institutions, banks, partnerships and other pass-through entities, U.S. expatriates, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities or currencies, persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, tax-exempt organizations, persons that purchase or sell the Notes as part of a wash sale for tax purposes and persons holding the Notes as part of a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction" or other integrated transaction. In addition, this discussion is limited to persons purchasing the Notes for cash pursuant to this prospectus supplement at the offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and does not discuss the tax considerations applicable to subsequent purchasers of the Notes. Moreover, the effect of any applicable state, local or foreign tax laws is not discussed. The discussion deals only with Notes held as "capital assets" within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

The discussion is based on the provisions of the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations issued thereunder, rulings and pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") and judicial decisions, all as in effect as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change at any time. Any such change may be applied retroactively in a manner that could adversely affect a holder of the Notes.

We have not sought and will not seek any rulings from the IRS with respect to the matters discussed below. There can be no assurance that the IRS will not take a different position concerning the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of the Notes or that any such position would not be sustained.

Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the tax consequences discussed below to their particular situations as well as the application of any state, local, foreign or other tax laws, including gift and estate tax laws.

U.S. Holders

As used herein, "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of the Notes who or 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 taxable as a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S. or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source;

a trust, if a U.S. court can exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons can control all substantial trust decisions, or, if the trust was in existence on August 20, 1996, and has elected to continue to be treated as a U.S. person; or

a person whose worldwide income or gain is otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds Notes, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Each partner of a partnership (and member of any other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding Notes should consult its own tax advisor.

Table of Contents

Interest

A U.S. Holder must generally include stated interest on a Note as ordinary income at the time such interest is received or accrued, in accordance with such U.S. Holder's method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Interest on a Note will be foreign source income and generally will be treated as "passive category" income for U.S. foreign tax credit limitation purposes, but may in the case of certain U.S. Holders be treated as "general category" income.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a Note equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the disposition of the Note, excluding any amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest (which will be treated as interest payments), and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will be the U.S. Holder's cost therefor. Such recognized gain or loss generally will be a capital gain or loss and, if the U.S. Holder is a non-corporate U.S. Holder, including an individual that has held the Note for more than one year, such capital gain will generally be subject to tax at long-term capital gain rates. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses may be limited. Gain or loss generally will be treated as U.S.-source income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

A 3.8% Medicare contribution tax is imposed on net investment income, including interest, dividends and capital gain, of U.S. individuals with income exceeding \$200,000 (or \$250,000 if married filing jointly), and of estates and trusts.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information returns may be filed with the IRS and backup withholding may apply in connection with certain payments of principal and interest on a Note and payments of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of a Note by a U.S. Holder. A U.S. Holder will not be subject to backup withholding tax if such U.S. Holder provides its taxpayer identification number to us or our paying agent and complies with certain certification procedures or otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding. Certain U.S. Holders, including corporations, are currently not subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, the U.S. federal income tax liability of U.S. Holders subject to backup withholding will be offset by the amount of tax withheld. If backup withholding tax results in an overpayment of U.S. federal income taxes, a refund or credit may be obtained from the IRS, provided the required information is timely furnished.

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals who hold certain foreign financial assets (which may include Notes) may be required to report information relating to such assets, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for assets held in accounts maintained by certain financial institutions). Each U.S. Holder should consult its own tax advisor regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on its ownership and disposition of Notes.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Barclays Capital Inc. and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC are acting as representatives of each of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in a firm commitment underwriting agreement among us and the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase from us, the principal amount of Notes set forth opposite its name below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Barclays Capital Inc.	\$ 150,000,000
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	150,000,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	65,000,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	65,000,000
BMO Capital Markets Corp.	35,000,000
ING Financial Markets LLC	35,000,000
Total	\$ 500,000,000

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

Allied World Bermuda and Allied World Switzerland have agreed to indemnify the underwriters and their controlling persons against certain liabilities in connection with this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make with respect to those liabilities.

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

Commissions and Discounts

The representatives have advised us that the underwriters propose initially to offer the Notes at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of 0.40% of the principal amount of the Notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow, a concession not in excess of 0.25% of the principal amount of the Notes. After the initial offering, the public offering price, concession or any other term of the offering may be changed.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$1.2 million and are payable by us. Certain of the underwriters have agreed to reimburse us for certain expenses incurred in connection with this offering.

New Issue of Notes

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the Notes on any automated dealer quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the Notes after completion of the offering. However, they are under no

Table of Contents

obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading market for the Notes or that an active public market for the Notes will develop. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected. If the Notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our operating performance and financial condition, general economic conditions and other factors.

Short Positions

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell the Notes in the open market. These transactions may include short sales and purchases on the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater principal amount of Notes than they are required to purchase in the offering. The underwriters must close out any short position by purchasing Notes in the open market. A short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the Notes in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriters' purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the Notes or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes. As a result, the price of the Notes may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market.

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

Reserved Notes

At our request, the underwriters have reserved for sale, at the public offering price, up to \$5.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes offered hereby for sale to certain of our directors, officers, relatives of directors or officers or trusts for the benefit of any of the foregoing. The aggregate principal amount of Notes available for sale to the general public will be reduced to the extent such persons purchase such reserved Notes. Any reserved Notes which are not so purchased will be offered by the underwriters to the general public on the same terms as the other Notes offered hereby.

Other Relationships

The underwriters and certain of their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. From time to time, the underwriters and their respective affiliates have directly or indirectly provided investment and/or commercial banking services to us for which they have received customary compensation and expense reimbursement. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may in the future provide similar services to us. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and certain of their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve

Table of Contents

securities and/or instruments of the issuer or its affiliates. If the underwriters or their affiliates have a lending relationship with us, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates may hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, the underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities or the securities of our affiliates, including potentially the Notes offered hereby. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the EEA

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area 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), no offer of Notes to the public may be made in that Relevant Member State other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 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 underwriters; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of Notes shall require the Company or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been prepared on the basis that any offer of Notes in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that Relevant Member State, from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of notes. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus supplement may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the company or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither the company nor any underwriter have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of Notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the company or any underwriter to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purposes of the above provisions, the expression an "offer of Notes to the public" in relation to any Notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Notes, as the same may be varied in the Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in the Relevant Member State, the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

In addition, in the United Kingdom, this document and the accompanying prospectus are being distributed only to, and are directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are "qualified investors" (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional

Table of Contents

experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19 (5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the "Order") and/or (ii) who are high net worth companies (or persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated) falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document and the accompanying prospectus must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document or the accompanying prospectus relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

This prospectus supplement does not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a or Article 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations and the Notes will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. Therefore, this prospectus supplement may not comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules (including any additional listing rules or prospectus schemes) of the SIX Swiss Exchange. Accordingly, the Notes may not be offered to the public in or from Switzerland, but only to a selected and limited circle of investors who do not subscribe to the Notes with a view to distribution. Any such investors will be individually approached by the underwriters from time to time.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

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

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (2) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; or (3) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the Notes are subscribed 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 individual who 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

Table of Contents

transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Notes 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; (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or (5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any Notes, 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 Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Canada

The Notes may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the *Securities Act* (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*. Any resale of the Notes must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus supplement (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* (NI 33-105), the underwriters are not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to United States, New York and Delaware law with respect to the validity of the offered securities will be passed upon for us by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters with respect to Bermuda law will be passed upon for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman Limited, Bermuda. Certain legal matters with respect to Swiss law will be passed upon for us by Baker & McKenzie Zurich. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedules, incorporated herein by reference from Allied World's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the effectiveness of Allied World's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte Ltd., an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports dated February 17, 2015, which are incorporated herein by reference which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedules and (2) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. 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.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act relating to our debt securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains additional information and exhibits.

Allied World is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Accordingly, Allied World files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other reports with the Commission. You can read and copy the registration statement and the reports that we file with the Commission at the Commission's public reference rooms at Judiciary Plaza, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such material can also be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates.

The Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information set forth in certain documents we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, or information that we later file with the Commission, modifies or replaces this information. All documents subsequently filed by Allied World pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In addition, we incorporate by reference the following documents filed prior to the date of this prospectus supplement:

Allied World's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on February 17, 2015;

Allied World's definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on March 13, 2015, as supplemented on April 17 and April 22, 2015;

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Allied World's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2015, June 30, 2015 and September 30, 2015, filed with the Commission on April 22, 2015, July 22, 2015 and October 21, 2015, respectively; and

Allied World's Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on February 20, March 2, March 31, April 1, May 6, May 11 and July 14, 2015.

In no event, however, will any of the information that we furnish under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may file from time to time with the Commission be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise be included in, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus (other than exhibits), call or write us at the following address: Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, Attn.: Corporate Secretary, Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor, 6300 Zug, Switzerland, telephone 41-41-768-1080.

Our filings with the Commission are also available from the Commission's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Please call the Commission's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 if you need further information about the operation of the Commission's public reference rooms. Allied World's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and Allied World's reports can also be inspected at their offices at 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005. For information on obtaining copies of Allied World's public filings at the New York Stock Exchange, please call (212) 656-5060.

We maintain a website at <http://www.awac.com>. We make available, free of charge through our website, our financial information, including the information contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the Commission. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG
("Allied World Switzerland")
ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD
("Allied World Bermuda")**

**COMMON SHARES (ALLIED WORLD SWITZERLAND), DEBT SECURITIES
(ALLIED WORLD BERMUDA, GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES, WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES,
WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT SECURITIES AND UNITS**

We may offer and sell from time to time:

common shares of Allied World Switzerland;

senior or subordinated debt securities of Allied World Bermuda;

guarantees of debt securities of Allied World Bermuda;

warrants to purchase common shares of Allied World Switzerland;

warrants to purchase debt securities of Allied World Bermuda;

units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above.

Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda will provide the specific terms and initial public offering prices of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest. Allied World Switzerland or, Allied World Bermuda will not use this prospectus to confirm sales of any securities unless it is attached to a prospectus supplement.

Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda may sell these securities to or through underwriters and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda may sell any combination of these securities in one or more offerings for an indeterminate number or amount of securities.

Allied World Switzerland common shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AWH". Other than Allied World Switzerland common shares, there is no public trading market for the other securities that may be offered hereby.

INVESTING IN THESE SECURITIES INVOLVES CERTAIN RISKS. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THE RISK FACTORS THAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN AN ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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

The date of this prospectus is June 18, 2015.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

In this prospectus, references to "Allied World", "we", "us", "our", "the company" or other similar terms mean the consolidated operations of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and our consolidated subsidiaries; references to "Allied World Switzerland" means Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG; and references to "Allied World Bermuda" means Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd; in each case unless the context requires otherwise. References to "issuers" means Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda. In addition, references in this prospectus to "dollar" and "\$" are to the lawful currency of the United States and references to "Swiss francs" and "CHF" are to the lawful currency of Switzerland. All amounts of Swiss francs reported in this prospectus, or metrics reported in U.S. dollars that are based on Swiss francs (for example par value and share capital amounts for Allied World Switzerland), assume an exchange rate of CHF 0.9458 to \$1.00, the exchange rate prevailing on June 1, 2015.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG</u>	2
<u>ABOUT ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD</u>	3
<u>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	5
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF ALLIED WORLD SWITZERLAND SHARES</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	20
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	34
<u>INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE</u>	35
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES GUARANTEES</u>	36
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES</u>	37
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	39
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	41
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	42
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	45
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	45
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	46
<u>EXPERTS</u>	46
<u>ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER UNITED STATES FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS</u>	46

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") using a "shelf" registration process, relating to the common shares of Allied World Switzerland, debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, guarantees of debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, warrants to purchase common shares of Allied World Switzerland, warrants to purchase debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, and units described in this prospectus. This means:

either or both of Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda may issue any combination of securities covered by this prospectus from time to time for an indeterminate number or amount of securities;

each time Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda offers securities pursuant to this prospectus, the issuer(s) will provide a prospectus supplement; and

the prospectus supplement will provide specific information about the terms of that offering and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Commission. For additional information regarding Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda and the offered securities, please refer to the registration statement. Each time Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda sells securities, the issuer(s) will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information".

Table of Contents

ABOUT ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

Allied World is a Swiss-based holding company headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, whose subsidiaries provide property, casualty and specialty insurance and reinsurance solutions to clients worldwide. We were formed in Bermuda in 2001 and have continued to maintain significant insurance and reinsurance operations there following our redomestication to Switzerland in 2010. In 2014, we received approval from Lloyd's, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority to establish our own Lloyd's managing agent, Allied World Managing Agency Limited, to manage Allied World's Lloyd's Syndicate 2232. On April 1, 2015, we completed our acquisitions of the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc for approximately \$192.7 million, subject to post-closing adjustments.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, our Chief Executive Officer reorganized how we manage our business, and as a result we realigned our executive management team and changed our reportable segments to correspond to the reorganization. Our Bermuda insurance operations, which had previously been included in the international insurance segment, were combined with the U.S. insurance segment, with the new segment renamed the "North American Insurance" segment. The remaining insurance operations of the international insurance segment were renamed the "Global Markets Insurance" segment. The Reinsurance segment remained unchanged.

Our North American Insurance segment is comprised of our direct insurance operations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada. Within this segment we provide a diverse range of specialty liability products, including coverages for healthcare, professional liability risks and construction. Additionally, we offer a selection of direct general casualty insurance and general property insurance products. Our Bermuda operations underwrite primarily larger, Fortune 1000 casualty and property risks for accounts domiciled in North America, while our operations in the United States and Canada generally write small- and middle-market, non-Fortune 1000 accounts domiciled in North America, including public entities, private companies and non-profit organizations.

Our Global Markets Insurance segment includes all of our direct insurance business outside of North America. We operate primarily in Europe and Asia and have an office in Miami that underwrites Latin American risks. While our European offices have historically focused on mid-sized to large European and multi-national companies domiciled outside of North America, we continue to expand our product offerings for small- and middle-market accounts and for specialist classes of business with global exposures. We underwrite a variety of professional liability, general casualty, healthcare liability, retail, property, marine, on-shore construction, motor, accident and health products from our offices in Asia and Australia. In addition, our Lloyd's Syndicate 2232 writes international property, general casualty and professional liability, motor and aviation targeted either at key territories or where our customers have requested a Lloyd's policy.

Our Reinsurance segment includes the reinsurance of property, general casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by other insurance companies. We write reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis targeting several niche markets including professional liability lines, specialty casualty, property for U.S. regional insurers, accident and health, marine, aerospace and crop risks.

Allied World Switzerland is a Swiss corporation with its principal executive office located at Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor, 6300 Zug, Switzerland. Our telephone number at that address is +41-41-768-1080.

Table of Contents

ABOUT ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD

Allied World Bermuda is a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Allied World Switzerland. Allied World Bermuda is the issuer of Allied World's outstanding 5.50% Senior Notes due November 10, 2020 and 7.50% Senior Notes due August 1, 2016 ("Senior Notes").

Allied World Bermuda's principal executive offices are located at 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke, HM 08, Bermuda. Our telephone number at that address is (441) 278-5400.

Table of Contents

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda may from time to time offer under this prospectus, separately or together:

common shares of Allied World Switzerland, which we would expect to list on the New York Stock Exchange;

senior debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, which may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Allied World Switzerland to the extent described in this prospectus;

subordinated debt securities of Allied World Bermuda which will be subordinated in right of payment to our senior indebtedness;

warrants to purchase common shares of Allied World Switzerland, which will be evidenced by share warrant certificates and may be issued under the share warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities;

warrants to purchase debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, which will be evidenced by debt warrant certificates and may be issued under the debt warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities; and

units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above.

Table of Contents

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratio of our earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31,		FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)</u>	9.2	9.1	8.1	9.6	6.2	16.4

- (1) For purposes of determining this ratio, "earnings" consist of consolidated net income before federal income taxes plus fixed charges. "Fixed charges" consist of interest expense on our Senior Notes and one third of payments under our operating leases.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. These statements include in general forward-looking statements both with respect to us and the insurance industry. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements that use terms such as "anticipates", "believes", "expects", "intends", "plans", "projects", "seeks" and "will" and that relate to our plans and objectives for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all forward-looking statements, the inclusion of such statements in this prospectus should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and expectations. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements and therefore you should not place undue reliance on them. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement under the heading "Risk Factors." We are under no obligation (and expressly disclaim any such obligation) to update or revise any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by Allied World Switzerland and/or Allied World Bermuda will be used by us and our subsidiaries for working capital, refinancing existing debt, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes. Until we use the net proceeds in this manner, we may temporarily use them to make short-term investments or reduce short-term borrowings.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF ALLIED WORLD SWITZERLAND SHARES

The following description of Allied World Switzerland's share capital is a summary. This summary is not complete and is subject to the complete text of Allied World Switzerland's articles of association and organizational regulations as well as Swiss corporate law.

CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Allied World Switzerland has one class of shares (voting shares) currently outstanding. All references to "shares" in this "Description of Allied World Switzerland Shares" refer to the shares of Allied World Switzerland with a par value CHF 4.10 (\$4.33) per share.

Issued Share Capital. As of May 31, 2015, the share capital of Allied World Switzerland registered in the commercial register was CHF 419,946,403.20 (\$444,011,845.21), composed of 102,425,952 shares with a nominal value of CHF 4.10 each.

Increases of Share Capital. Under Swiss law, Allied World Switzerland may increase its share capital and issue new shares through an ordinary capital increase, an authorized capital increase or a conditional capital increase. In each case the issue price for each share may not be less than the par value of the newly issued share. The ordinary capital increase is resolved by the general meeting of shareholders (a "shareholder meeting"). The required majority is as a general rule the approval by a majority of the votes cast at the shareholder meeting. A qualified majority of at least 66²/₃% of the votes and the majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at the shareholder meeting, is required for capital increases against reserves, contributions-in-kind or capital increases where the preemptive rights of shareholders are limited or excluded. The amount by which the capital can be increased in an ordinary capital increase is unlimited, under the condition that sufficient funds can be provided to cover the capital increase. An ordinary capital increase that has been approved by the shareholders must be executed within three months of shareholder approval.

The shareholders can further authorize the board of directors by way of an amendment of the articles of association to increase the share capital in an amount not to exceed CHF 92,258,954.40 (\$97,545,944.60) until May 1, 2016 without further shareholder approval. To create authorized capital, a resolution of the shareholder meeting passed by a qualified majority of at least 66²/₃% of the votes and a majority of the par value of the shares represented at a shareholder meeting is required. Additional information regarding authorized share capital increases is set forth below under " Authorized Share Capital."

Under Swiss law, conditional share capital is used to issue new shares in the context of employee benefit and incentive plans, debt instruments with conversion rights or warrants granted to shareholders. To create conditional capital, a resolution of the shareholder meeting passed by a qualified majority of at least 66²/₃% of the votes and a majority of the par value of the shares represented at a shareholder meeting is required. The requirements for a conditional capital increase are set forth below under " Conditional Share Capital."

Authorized Share Capital. Our board of directors is authorized to issue new shares at any time during a two-year period ending May 1, 2016, and thereby increase the share capital, without further shareholder approval, by a maximum amount of CHF 92,258,954.40 (\$97,545,944.60), or 22,502,184 shares with a par value of CHF 4.10 each. After the expiration of the initial two-year period, and each subsequent two-year period, if any, authorized share capital will be available to the board of directors for issuance of additional shares only if the authorization is reappraised by shareholders. Our authorized share capital expires on May 1, 2016.

The board of directors determines the time of the issuance, the issuance price, the manner in which the new shares have to be paid in, the date from which the new shares carry the right to

Table of Contents

dividends and, subject to the provisions of Allied World Switzerland's articles of association, the conditions for the exercise of the preemptive rights with respect to the issuance as well as the allotment of preemptive rights that are not exercised. The board of directors may allow preemptive rights that are not exercised to expire, or it may place such rights or shares, the preemptive rights of which have not been exercised, at market conditions or use them otherwise in the interest of Allied World Switzerland.

In an authorized capital increase, holders of Allied World Switzerland shares would have preemptive rights to obtain newly issued shares in an amount proportional to the par value of the shares they already hold. However, the board of directors may withdraw or limit these preemptive rights in certain circumstances as set forth in Allied World Switzerland's articles of association. For further details on these circumstances, see " Preemptive Rights and Advance Subscription Rights."

Conditional Share Capital. Our articles of association provide for conditional capital that allows the board of directors to authorize the issuance of up to 15,600,000 of additional shares without obtaining additional shareholder approval as follows:

up to a maximum amount not exceeding CHF 12,300,000 (\$13,004,863.61), or 3,000,000 shares, in connection with the exercise of conversion and/or option or warrant rights granted in connection with bonds, notes or similar instruments, issued or to be issued by Allied World Switzerland or by subsidiaries of Allied World Switzerland, including convertible debt instruments; or

up to a maximum amount not exceeding CHF 51,660,000 (\$54,620,427.15), or 12,600,000 shares, in connection with the exercise of option rights granted to any employee of Allied World Switzerland or a subsidiary, and any consultant, director or other person providing services to Allied World Switzerland or a subsidiary.

Shareholders' preemptive rights are excluded with respect to new shares issued out of conditional share capital in connection with our equity-based incentive plans.

In connection with the issuance of bonds, notes or other similar instruments convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Allied World Switzerland shares to be issued out of conditional share capital, the board of directors is authorized to withdraw or limit the advance subscription rights of shareholders in certain circumstances. See " Preemptive Rights and Advance Subscription Rights" below.

Other Classes or Series of Shares. The board of directors may not create shares with increased voting powers (*i.e.*, super-voting shares) or preferred stock. To create super-voting shares or preferred stock, a resolution of a shareholder meeting passed by a qualified majority of at least 66²/₃% of the votes and a majority of the par value of the shares represented at such shareholder meeting is required. To create preferred stock, a resolution of a shareholder meeting passed by a majority of the votes cast at such shareholder meeting is required.

Treasury Shares. Treasury Shares held by Allied World Switzerland or any of its subsidiaries are available for future issuances of shares, such as pursuant to our equity-based incentive plans. These Treasury Shares do not have any voting or other rights while held by Allied World Switzerland or any of its subsidiaries.

PREEMPTIVE RIGHTS AND ADVANCE SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

Under the Swiss Code of Obligations (the "Swiss Code"), if new shares are being issued, the existing shareholders will have preemptive rights in relation to such shares in proportion to the respective par values of their holdings. In the context of an ordinary capital increase resolved by the shareholder meeting, the shareholders may by a qualified majority of at least 66²/₃% of the votes and a majority of the par value of the shares represented at a shareholder meeting resolve to withdraw or

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

limit the preemptive rights for valid reasons (such as a merger, an acquisition or any of the reasons authorizing the board of directors to withdraw or limit the preemptive rights of shareholders in the context of an authorized capital increase as described below).

If the shareholder meeting approves the creation of authorized or conditional capital, it can thereby also delegate the decision whether to withdraw or limit the preemptive and advance subscription rights for valid reasons to the board of directors. Allied World Switzerland's articles of association provide for this delegation with respect to Allied World Switzerland's authorized and conditional share capital in the circumstances described below under " Authorized Share Capital" and " Conditional Share Capital."

Authorized Share Capital. Under the articles of association, the board of directors is authorized to withdraw or limit the preemptive rights of shareholders (and to allocate them to third parties) with respect to the issuance of shares from authorized capital if the issuances are made for the purpose of:

mergers, acquisitions of enterprises or participations, financing and/or refinancing of such mergers and acquisitions and other investment projects (including by way of private placements);

improving the regulatory capital position of Allied World Switzerland or its subsidiaries (including by way of private placements);

broadening the shareholder constituency; or

the participation of employees.

Conditional Share Capital. In connection with the issuance of bonds, notes, or similar instruments convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Allied World Switzerland shares, the preemptive rights of shareholders are excluded and the board of directors is authorized to withdraw or limit the advance subscription rights of shareholders with respect to such bonds, notes, or similar instruments convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Allied World Switzerland shares if their issuance is made in order to (1) finance or re-finance the acquisition of companies, parts of companies or holdings, or new investments planned by Allied World Switzerland, or (2) issue convertible bonds and warrants on the international capital markets or through private placement.

If the advance subscription rights are to be excluded then:

the instruments have to be placed at market conditions;

the exercise period is not to exceed ten years from the date of issue for warrants and twenty years for conversion rights; and

the conversion or exercise price for the new shares is to be set at least in line with the market conditions prevailing at the date on which the instruments are issued.

The preemptive rights of shareholders are excluded with respect to issuances of new shares out of conditional share capital under an equity-based incentive plan to directors, employees, contractors or other persons providing services to Allied World Switzerland or one of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

DIVIDENDS

Under Swiss law, dividends may be paid out only if the corporation has sufficient distributable profits from previous fiscal years, or if the corporation has freely distributable reserves, each as will be presented on the audited annual stand-alone statutory balance sheet. Payments out of the share capital (in other words, the aggregate par value of Allied World Switzerland's share capital) in the form of dividends are not allowed; however, payments out of share capital may be made by way of a capital reduction to achieve a similar result as the payment of dividends. See " Reduction of Share Capital" for more information. Qualifying additional paid-in capital may be paid out as dividends to

Table of Contents

shareholders to the extent permissible under the Swiss Code. The affirmative vote of shareholders holding a majority of the votes cast at a shareholder meeting must approve distributions of dividends. The board of directors may propose to shareholders that a dividend be paid but cannot itself authorize the dividend. In addition, an Allied World Switzerland shareholder may propose dividends without any dividend proposal by the board. To the extent that dividends are approved by the shareholders, they must be paid.

Under the Swiss Code, if Allied World Switzerland's general capital reserves amount to less than 20% of the share capital recorded in the commercial register (*i.e.*, 20% of the aggregate par value of Allied World Switzerland's capital), then at least 5% of Allied World Switzerland's annual profit must be retained as general reserves. The Swiss Code permits Allied World Switzerland to accrue additional general reserves. In addition, Allied World Switzerland is required to create a special reserve on its stand-alone annual statutory balance sheet in the amount of the purchase price of shares it or any of its subsidiaries repurchases, which amount may not be used for dividends or subsequent repurchases.

Swiss companies generally must maintain a separate company, stand-alone statutory balance sheet for the purpose of, among other things, determining the amounts available for the return of capital to shareholders, including by way of a distribution of dividends. Amounts available for the return of capital as indicated on Allied World Switzerland's statutory balance sheet may be materially different from amounts reflected in the consolidated financial statements of Allied World Switzerland prepared using accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Allied World Switzerland's auditor must confirm that a dividend proposal made to shareholders conforms with the requirements of the Swiss Code and Allied World Switzerland's articles of association.

Allied World Switzerland is required under Swiss law to declare any dividends and other capital distributions in Swiss francs. Allied World Switzerland makes dividend payments, if any, to holders of Allied World Switzerland shares in U.S. dollars. Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is responsible for paying the U.S. dollars to registered holders of shares, less amounts subject to withholding for taxes.

REPURCHASES OF SHARES

The Swiss Code limits a company's ability to hold or repurchase its own shares. Allied World Switzerland and its subsidiaries may only repurchase shares if and to the extent that sufficient freely distributable equity (including nominal share capital, legal reserves, reserves for Allied World Switzerland's own shares and special reserves) is available, as described above under " Dividends." The aggregate par value of all Allied World Switzerland shares held by Allied World Switzerland and its subsidiaries may not exceed 10% of the aggregate share capital. However, Allied World Switzerland may, according to legal doctrine, repurchase its own shares beyond the statutory limit of 10%, and the requirement for sufficient freely distributable equity will not apply, if the shareholders have passed a resolution at a shareholder meeting authorizing the board of directors to repurchase shares in an amount in excess of 10% and the repurchased shares are designated for cancellation. Any shares repurchased pursuant to such an authorization will then be cancelled at the next shareholder meeting upon the approval of shareholders holding a majority of the votes cast at the shareholder meeting. On May 1, 2014, Allied World Switzerland's shareholders approved a new share repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$500 million of the shares. Under the terms of this new share repurchase program, the first three million of shares repurchased will remain in treasury and will be used to satisfy share delivery obligations under our equity-based compensation plans. Any additional shares repurchased shall be designated for cancellation and shall be cancelled upon shareholder approval at a future shareholder meeting and therefore shall not be subject to the statutory provision of Swiss law that prohibits Allied World Switzerland from holding in treasury more than 10% of its aggregate shares. The repurchase of shares will only be made from reserves from capital contributions.

Table of Contents

Repurchased shares held by Allied World Switzerland or its subsidiaries do not carry any rights to vote at any shareholder meeting but are entitled to the economic benefits generally associated with the shares.

REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

Capital distributions may also take the form of a distribution of cash or property that is based upon a reduction of Allied World Switzerland's share capital recorded in the commercial register. Such a capital reduction requires the approval of shareholders holding a majority of the votes cast at the shareholder meeting. A special audit report must confirm that creditors' claims remain fully covered despite the reduction in the share capital recorded in the commercial register. Upon approval by the shareholder meeting of the capital reduction, the board of directors must give public notice of the capital reduction resolution in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce three times and notify creditors that they may request, within two months of the third publication, satisfaction of or security for their claims. Reduction of share capital requires that the company's net assets still exceed the share capital and statutory reserves after a par value reduction payment to the shareholders has been made.

SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS

The general meeting of shareholders is Allied World Switzerland's supreme corporate body. Annual and extraordinary shareholder meetings may be held. The following powers are vested exclusively in the shareholder meeting:

adoption and amendment of Allied World Switzerland's articles of association;

election and removal of members of the board of directors and the auditor;

approval of the statutory required annual report, the annual accounts and the consolidated financial statements;

payments of dividends and any other distributions of capital;

discharge of the members of the board of directors from liability for business conduct;

approval of the compensation of the members of the Board of Directors and the persons entrusted by the Board of Directors in whole or in part with the management of the Company's business operations; and

any other resolutions that are submitted to a shareholder meeting pursuant to law, Allied World Switzerland's articles of association or by voluntary submission by the board of directors (unless a matter is within the exclusive competence of the board of directors pursuant to the Swiss Code).

Under the Swiss Code and Allied World Switzerland's articles of association, Allied World Switzerland must hold an annual shareholder meeting within six months after the end of its fiscal year for the purpose, among other things, of approving the annual financial statements and the annual report, the annual election of directors for the class whose term has expired and the annual election of auditors. The invitation to shareholder meetings must be published in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce at least 20 days prior to the relevant shareholder meeting. The notice of a meeting must state the items on the agenda and the proposals of the board of directors and of the shareholders who demanded that a shareholder meeting be held or that an item be included on the agenda and, in case of elections, the names of the nominated candidates. No resolutions may be passed at a shareholder meeting concerning agenda items for which proper notice was not given. This does not apply, however, to proposals made during a shareholder meeting to convene an extraordinary shareholder meeting or to initiate a special investigation. No previous notification will be required for proposals concerning items included on the agenda or for debates as to which no vote is taken. Pursuant to the Swiss Code, any

Table of Contents

shareholder may make proposals for any item included on the agenda of a shareholder meeting at any time before the taking of the resolution including the nomination of a director if the election of the board of directors is an item on the agenda. A shareholder registered in the share register with voting rights may participate in such meeting either in person or by a third party appointed by way of a written proxy. Beneficial owners of shares held through a nominee exercise shareholders' rights through such nominee.

An annual shareholder meeting may be convened by the board of directors or, under certain circumstances, by the auditor. Shareholder meetings can be held anywhere in Switzerland, provided that the selection of the meeting location does not impair shareholders' participation rights.

An extraordinary shareholder meeting of Allied World Switzerland may be called upon the resolution of the board of directors or, under certain circumstances, by the auditor. In addition, the board of directors is required to convene an extraordinary shareholder meeting if so requested by the shareholders registered in the share register as holding an aggregate of at least 10% of the shares, specifying the items for the agenda and their proposals, or if it appears from the stand-alone annual statutory balance sheet that half of the company's share capital and reserves are not covered by the company's assets. In the latter case, the board of directors must immediately convene an extraordinary shareholder meeting and propose financial restructuring measures.

Under Swiss law and Allied World Switzerland's articles of association, a shareholder or group of shareholders registered in Allied World Switzerland's share register representing shares with a par value of at least CHF 1 million may submit a proposal for consideration by the shareholders at any annual shareholder meeting by giving written notice of such intent in writing and received by Allied World Switzerland not less than 60 calendar days in advance of the date of the meeting.

The board of directors or chairman of the board of directors may postpone a shareholder meeting with sufficient factual reason, provided that notice of postponement is given to the shareholders in the same form as the invitation before the time for such meeting. A new notice is then required to hold the postponed meeting. According to legal doctrine, a shareholder meeting for which a notice of meeting has been duly published may not be adjourned without publishing a new notice of meeting.

Shareholders registered with voting rights in the share register may, at a shareholder meeting, raise new proposals or counterproposals related to any existing proposal or item already on the agenda. Except as required by law, no resolution of the shareholders may be passed on items proposed without notice at a shareholder meeting and having no bearing on any of the proposed items of the agenda.

Allied World Switzerland's annual report and auditor's report must be made available for inspection by the shareholders at Allied World Switzerland's place of incorporation no later than 20 days prior to the meeting. The annual report will include Allied World Switzerland's financial statements (statutory and consolidated) and a description of its business and economic situation. Each shareholder is entitled to request immediate delivery of a copy of these documents free of charge. Shareholders of record will be notified of this in writing.

VOTING

Each Allied World Switzerland share carries one vote at a shareholder meeting. Voting rights may be exercised by shareholders registered in Allied World Switzerland's share register with voting rights in person or by a duly appointed proxy of a shareholder registered in the share register with voting rights, which proxy need not be a shareholder. Except as described below, Allied World Switzerland's articles of association do not limit the number of shares that may be voted by a single shareholder. Beneficial owners of shares held through a nominee exercise shareholders' rights through the nominee.

Allied World Switzerland's articles of association limit the voting rights of shares that are "controlled shares" of a shareholder to one vote less than 10% of the total voting rights of Allied

Table of Contents

World Switzerland's share capital as registered with the commercial register. Controlled shares of a shareholder consist of shares owned by the shareholder (i) directly or (ii) by application of certain constructive ownership rules. These rules are derived from constructive ownership rules contained in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "U.S. Code") relating to "controlled foreign corporation" status but are broader than the U.S. Code in that the U.S. Code distinguishes in some respects between U.S. and non-U.S. persons, while Swiss law would not support rules that discriminate based on citizenship or residence. The board of directors may waive this restriction.

To be able to exercise voting rights, holders of the shares must apply to us for enrollment in our share register as shareholders with voting rights. The form of application includes a representation that the holder is holding shares for his own account. Certain exceptions exist for nominees. The board of directors has registered Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), with voting rights with respect to shares held in "street name" through DTC.

Registration of a shareholder in Allied World Switzerland's share register can be refused on the following grounds:

No individual or legal entity may, directly or indirectly, formally, constructively or beneficially own (as defined in Article 14 of the articles of association) or otherwise control voting rights with respect to 10% or more of the share capital recorded in the commercial register. Those associated through capital, voting power, joint management or in any other way, or joining for the acquisition of shares, shall be regarded as one person. Persons holding shares exceeding the limit of 10% shall be entered in the share register with respect to such shares as shareholders without voting rights;

The limit of 10% of the share capital also applies to the subscription for, or acquisition of, shares by exercising option or convertible rights arising from registered or bearer securities or any other securities issued by Allied World Switzerland or third parties, as well as by means of exercising purchased preemptive rights arising from either registered or bearer shares. Persons holding shares exceeding the limit of 10% shall be entered in the share register with respect to such excess shares as shareholders without voting rights;

The board of directors shall reject entry of holders of shares as shareholder with voting rights in the share register or shall decide on their deregistration when the acquirer or shareholder upon request does not expressly state that she/he has acquired or holds the shares in her/his own name and for her/his own account.

The board of directors may record Cede & Co and other nominees in our share register as shareholders with the right to vote without limitation when the nominee undertakes the obligation to disclose at any time to us at our written request the names, addresses and share holdings of each person for whom such nominee is holding shares. Beneficial owners of shares who hold their shares through nominees exercise their rights through the intermediation of such nominees.

If the board of directors refuses to register a shareholder in the share register as a shareholder with voting rights, the board must notify the shareholder of such refusal within 20 days of the receipt of the application. Furthermore, the board may cancel, with retroactive application, the registration of a shareholder with voting rights if the initial registration was on the basis of false information in the shareholder's application. Shareholders registered without voting rights may not participate in or vote at Allied World Switzerland's shareholder meetings, but will be entitled to dividends, preemptive rights and liquidation proceeds. Only shareholders that are registered as shareholders with voting rights on the relevant record date are permitted to participate in and vote at a shareholder meeting.

Treasury Shares, whether owned by Allied World Switzerland or one of its majority-owned subsidiaries, will not be entitled to vote at shareholder meetings.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

Pursuant to Allied World Switzerland's articles of association, the shareholders generally pass resolutions and make elections at shareholder meetings by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the votes cast (whereby abstentions, broker non-votes, blank or invalid ballots are disregarded for purposes of establishing the majority).

The Swiss Code and/or Allied World Switzerland's articles of association require the affirmative vote of at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the voting rights and a majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at a shareholder meeting to approve the following matters:

a change of the purpose of Allied World Switzerland;

the creation of shares with privileged voting rights;

the restriction on the transferability of shares;

an increase of capital, authorized or subject to a condition;

an increase of capital out of equity against contributions in kind, or for the purpose of acquisition of assets and the granting of special benefits;

the limitation or withdrawal of preemptive rights;

a change in the domicile of Allied World Switzerland;

the liquidation of Allied World Switzerland;

the alleviating or withdrawal of restrictions upon the transfer of shares;

the conversion of shares into bearer shares and vice versa;

the dismissal of any member of the board of directors according to Article 705, paragraph 1 of the Swiss Code; and

any alteration or amendment of Articles 8, 14, 15 or 16 of the articles of association, which relate to the voting rights of shareholders of Allied World Switzerland.

The same supermajority voting requirements apply to resolutions in relation to transactions among corporations based on Switzerland's Federal Act on Mergers, Demergers, Transformations and the Transfer of Assets (the "Merger Act"), including a merger, demerger or conversion of a corporation (other than a cash-out or certain squeeze-out mergers, in which minority shareholders of the company being acquired may be compensated in a form other than through shares of the acquiring company, for instance, through cash or securities of a parent company of the acquiring company or of another company in such a merger, an affirmative vote of 90% of the outstanding shares is required). Swiss law may also impose this supermajority voting requirement in connection with the sale of "all or substantially all of its assets" by Allied World Switzerland. See " Compulsory Acquisitions; Appraisal Rights."

QUORUM FOR SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Under Swiss law, there is no mandatory quorum requirement unless set forth in a company's articles of association (although certain actions by shareholders require the approval of a specified percentage of all shares, whether or not such shares are actually voted, which has the practical effect of a quorum requirement). Allied World Switzerland's articles of association provide for a quorum requirement the presence of two or more persons at the shareholder meeting representing in person or by proxy more than 50% of Allied World Switzerland's total outstanding shares throughout the meeting.

Table of Contents

INSPECTION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS

Under the Swiss Code, a shareholder registered in Allied World Switzerland's share register has a right to inspect the share register with regard to his own shares and otherwise to the extent necessary to exercise his shareholder rights. No other person has a right to inspect the share register. The books and correspondence of a Swiss company may be inspected with the express authorization of a shareholder meeting or by resolution of the board of directors (if unlawfully denied, by court order) and subject to the safeguarding of the company's business secrets. At a shareholder meeting, any shareholder registered in Allied World Switzerland's share register is entitled to request information from the board of directors concerning the affairs of the company. Shareholders registered in Allied World Switzerland's share register may also ask the auditor questions regarding its audit of the company. The board of directors and the auditor must answer shareholders' questions to the extent necessary for the exercise of shareholders' rights and subject to prevailing business secrets or other material interests of Allied World Switzerland.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

If the shareholders' inspection and information rights as outlined above prove to be insufficient, any shareholder may propose to a shareholder meeting that specific facts be examined by a special commissioner in a special investigation. If the shareholder meeting approves the proposal, Allied World Switzerland or any shareholder may, within 30 calendar days after the shareholder meeting, request the court at Allied World Switzerland's registered office to appoint a special commissioner. If the shareholder meeting rejects the request, one or more shareholders representing at least 10% of the share capital or holders of shares in an aggregate par value of at least two million Swiss francs may request the court to appoint a special commissioner. The court will issue such an order if the petitioners can demonstrate that the board of directors, any member of the board or an officer of Allied World Switzerland infringed the law or Allied World Switzerland's articles of association and thereby damaged the company or the shareholders. The costs of the investigation would generally be allocated to Allied World Switzerland and only in exceptional cases to the petitioners.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITIONS; APPRAISAL RIGHTS

Business combinations and other transactions that are binding on all shareholders are governed by the Merger Act. A statutory merger or demerger requires that at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the shares and a majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at the shareholder meeting vote in favor of the transaction. Under the Merger Act, a "demerger" may take two forms:

a legal entity may divide all of its assets and transfer such assets to other legal entities, with the shareholders of the transferring entity receiving equity securities in the acquiring entities and the transferring entity dissolving upon deregistration in the commercial register; or

a legal entity may transfer all or a portion of its assets to other legal entities, with the shareholders of the transferring entity receiving equity securities in the acquiring entities (in addition to the current shareholdings).

If a transaction under the Merger Act receives all of the necessary consents, all shareholders would be compelled to participate in the transaction. See " Voting."

Swiss companies may be acquired by an acquirer through the direct acquisition of the share capital of the Swiss company. With respect to corporations limited by shares, such as Allied World Switzerland, the Merger Act provides for the possibility of a so-called "cash-out" or "squeeze-out" merger if the acquirer controls 90% of the outstanding shares. In these limited circumstances, minority shareholders of the company being acquired may be compensated in a form other than through shares of the acquiring company (for instance, through cash or securities of a parent company of the acquiring

Table of Contents

company or of another company). For business combinations effected in the form of a statutory merger or demerger and subject to Swiss law, the Merger Act provides that if the equity rights have not been adequately preserved or compensation payments in the transaction are unreasonable, a shareholder may request the competent court to determine a reasonable amount of compensation.

In addition, under Swiss law, the sale of "all or substantially all of its assets" by Allied World Switzerland may require a resolution of the shareholder meeting passed by holders of at least 66²/₃% of the voting rights and a majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at the shareholder meeting.

Whether or not a shareholder resolution is required depends on the particular transaction, including whether the following test is satisfied:

the company sells a core part of its business, without which it is economically impracticable or unreasonable to continue to operate the remaining business;

the company's assets, after the divestment, are not invested in accordance with the company's statutory business purpose; and

the proceeds of the divestment are not earmarked for reinvestment in accordance with the company's business purpose but, instead, are intended for distribution to shareholders or for financial investments unrelated to the company's business.

If all of the foregoing apply, a shareholder resolution would likely be required.

ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS

Allied World Switzerland's articles of association have provisions that could have an anti-takeover effect. These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the board of directors and in the policies formulated by the board of directors, and may have the effect of discouraging actual or threatened changes of control by limiting certain actions that may be taken by a potential acquirer prior to its having obtained sufficient control to adopt a special resolution amending Allied World Switzerland's articles of association.

Under the Swiss Code, directors may at any time, with or without cause, be removed from office by resolution of the shareholders at a shareholder meeting, provided that a proposal for such resolution has been put on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Swiss Code and Allied World Switzerland's articles of association. Allied World Switzerland's articles of association provide that a decision of the shareholders at a shareholder meeting to remove a director requires the vote of shareholders holding 66²/₃% of the voting rights and a majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at a shareholder meeting.

Allied World Switzerland's articles of association include an authorized share capital, according to which the board of directors is authorized, at any time during a maximum two-year period, to issue CHF 92,258,954.40 (\$97,545,944.60) shares until May 1, 2016 and to limit or withdraw the preemptive rights of the existing shareholders in various circumstances.

Allied World Switzerland's articles of association include a provision that permits the board of directors to refuse the registration of a shareholder as shareholder with voting rights in the share register if and to the extent such shareholder owns or otherwise controls alone or together with others 10% of the total voting rights of Allied World Switzerland's share capital as registered with the commercial register or if such shareholder refuses to confirm to the company that it has acquired the shares for its own account and benefit.

In addition, under Allied World Switzerland's articles of association, shareholders whose "controlled shares" (as defined in the articles of association) represent 10% or more of the total shares

Table of Contents

of Allied World Switzerland will be limited to voting one vote less than 10% of the total voting rights of Allied World Switzerland's share capital as registered with the commercial register, which could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without the consent of our board of directors.

For other provisions that could be considered to have an anti-takeover effect, see " Preemptive Rights and Advance Subscription Rights", " Shareholder Meetings" and " Voting" above.

LEGAL NAME; FORMATION; FISCAL YEAR; REGISTERED OFFICE

The legal and commercial name of Allied World Switzerland is Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG. Allied World Switzerland was initially formed on May 4, 2010 and registered with the commercial register of the Canton of Zug on May 12, 2010. Allied World Switzerland is incorporated and domiciled in Zug, Switzerland, and operates under the Swiss Code as a stock corporation (Aktiengesellschaft). Allied World Switzerland is recorded in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Zug with the registration number CHE-115.679.530. Allied World Switzerland's fiscal year is the calendar year.

Allied World Switzerland's current registered office in Switzerland is Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor, 6300 Zug, Switzerland.

CORPORATE PURPOSE

Allied World Switzerland's business purpose is to acquire, hold, manage and sell equity participations in businesses in Switzerland and abroad, including in insurance and reinsurance companies as well as in other companies. Allied World Switzerland is the holding company of Allied World.

DURATION; DISSOLUTION; RIGHTS UPON LIQUIDATION

Allied World Switzerland's duration is unlimited. Allied World Switzerland may be dissolved at any time with the approval of shareholders holding $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the voting rights and a majority of the par value of the shares, each as represented at a shareholder meeting. Dissolution by court order is possible if Allied World Switzerland becomes bankrupt, or for cause at the request of shareholders holding at least 10% of Allied World Switzerland's share capital. Under Swiss law, any surplus arising out of liquidation, after the settlement of all claims of all creditors, will be distributed to shareholders in proportion to the paid-up par value of shares held, subject to Swiss withholding tax requirements.

UNCERTIFICATED SHARES

Allied World Switzerland is authorized to issue shares in certificated or uncertificated form. Allied World Switzerland currently issues shares in uncertificated, book-entry form.

STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING

Allied World Switzerland's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AWH."

NO SINKING FUND

The shares have no sinking fund provisions.

NO LIABILITY FOR FURTHER CALLS OR ASSESSMENTS

The shares that have been issued to date are duly and validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Table of Contents

NO REDEMPTION AND CONVERSION

The shares are not convertible into shares of any other class or series or subject to redemption either by Allied World Switzerland or the holder of the shares.

TRANSFER AND REGISTRATION OF OWNERSHIP OF SHARES

Allied World Switzerland's articles of association provide for certain restrictions applicable to the transferability of Allied World Switzerland shares. Until recognition of the transfer has been given to the acquirer by Allied World Switzerland, the acquirer can neither exercise the voting right connected with the share nor another right connected with the voting right, while the acquirer is not restricted in the exercise of all other rights as a shareholder. Acquirers of shares not yet recognized by Allied World Switzerland shall, after the transfer of rights, be entered into the share register as shareholders without voting rights. At the shareholder meeting, these shares are deemed not represented.

Allied World Switzerland's share register is kept by Continental Stock Trust & Transfer Company, which acts as transfer agent and registrar. The share register reflects only record owners of Allied World Switzerland shares. Swiss law does not recognize fractional share interests.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer debt securities through Allied World Bermuda. The following description sets forth the general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those debt securities. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement, on the other hand, the information in the prospectus supplement shall control.

Allied World Bermuda's senior debt securities are to be issued under a senior indenture between Allied World Bermuda and the trustee, a copy of which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with such offering of senior debt securities. Allied World Bermuda's subordinated debt securities are to be issued under a subordinated indenture between Allied World Bermuda and the trustee, a copy of which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with such offering of subordinated debt securities. Because the following summaries of the material terms and provisions of the indentures and the related debt securities are not complete, you should refer to the copies of the indentures and the debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the indentures, including the definitions of some of the terms used below, and the debt securities. Wherever we refer to particular defined terms of an indenture, those defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are sometimes referred to herein collectively as the "indentures" and each individually as an "indenture". The senior indentures and the subordinated indentures are expected to be substantially identical, except for provisions relating to subordination.

GENERAL

The indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities which Allied World Bermuda may issue thereunder and provide that Allied World Bermuda may issue the debt securities thereunder from time to time in one or more series. Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement regarding any debt securities, the indentures do not limit the amount of other indebtedness or the debt securities which Allied World Bermuda or our subsidiaries may issue.

Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, Allied World Bermuda's senior debt securities will be unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured obligations of Allied World Bermuda, subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness (which term includes the senior debt securities) as described below under "Certain Provisions Applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities Subordination of the Subordinated Debt Securities Issued by Allied World Bermuda" and in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Because Allied World Switzerland is a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of our debt securities) and shareholders to participate in distributions by certain of our subsidiaries upon that subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise would be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against that subsidiary or our creditors may have the benefit of a guaranty from our subsidiary. None of our creditors has the benefit of a guaranty from any of our subsidiaries. The rights of our creditors (including the holders of Allied World Bermuda's debt securities) to participate in the distribution of stock owned by us in certain of our subsidiaries, including our insurance subsidiaries, may also be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

The prospectus supplement relating to the particular debt securities offered thereby will describe the following terms of the offered debt securities:

the title of such debt securities and the series in which such debt securities will be included, which may include medium-term notes;

the aggregate principal amount of such debt securities and any limit upon such principal amount;

the date or dates, or the method or methods, if any, by which such date or dates will be determined, on which the principal of such debt securities will be payable;

the rate or rates at which such debt securities will bear interest, if any, which rate may be zero in the case of certain debt securities issued at an issue price representing a discount from the principal amount payable at maturity, or the method by which such rate or rates will be determined (including, if applicable, any remarketing option or similar method), and the date or dates from which such interest, if any, will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

dates applicable to the date or dates on which interest will be so payable;

the place or places where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities will be payable, any of such debt securities that are issued in registered form may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, and any such debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;

whether any of such debt securities are to be redeemable at the option of Allied World Bermuda and, if so, the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of Allied World Bermuda;

whether Allied World Bermuda will be obligated to redeem or purchase any of such debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at the option of any holder thereof and, if so, the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and any provisions for the remarketing of such debt securities so redeemed or purchased;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which any debt securities to be issued in registered form will be issuable and, if other than a denomination of \$5,000, the denominations in which any debt securities to be issued in bearer form will be issuable;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into common shares of Allied World Switzerland and/or exchangeable for other securities issued by Allied World, and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be so convertible or exchangeable;

if other than the principal amount, the portion of the principal amount (or the method by which such portion will be determined) of such debt securities that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency of payment, including composite currencies, of the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to any of such debt securities;

whether the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities will be payable, at Allied World Bermuda's election or the election of a

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

holder, in a currency other than that in which such debt securities are stated to be payable and the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities;

whether such debt securities are to be issued in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depositary for such global security or securities;

whether such debt securities are the senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if the subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provisions applicable thereto;

in the case of the subordinated debt securities issued by Allied World Bermuda, the relative degree, if any, to which such subordinated debt securities of the series will be senior to or be subordinated to other series of the subordinated debt securities or other indebtedness of Allied World Bermuda in right of payment, whether such other series of the subordinated debt securities or other indebtedness are outstanding or not;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or covenants of Allied World Bermuda with respect to such debt securities;

whether the provisions described below under " Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance" will be applicable to such debt securities;

whether, under what circumstances and in which currency Allied World Bermuda will pay additional amounts on account of taxes, fees, assessments or governmental charges on the debt securities of a series and if so, whether Allied World Bermuda will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts;

whether any of such debt securities are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, and the time, manner and place for such debt securities to be authenticated and delivered; and

any other terms of such debt securities and any other deletions from or modifications or additions to the applicable indenture in respect of such debt securities.

Allied World Bermuda will have the ability under the indentures to "reopen" a previously issued series of the debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series. Allied World Bermuda is also permitted to issue debt securities with the same terms as previously issued debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, principal, premium, interest and additional amounts, if any, with respect to any debt securities will be payable at the office or agency maintained by Allied World Bermuda for such purposes (initially the corporate trust office of the trustee). In the case of debt securities issued in registered form, interest may be paid by check mailed to the persons entitled thereto at their addresses appearing on the security register or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States. Interest on debt securities issued in registered form will be payable on any interest payment date to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date with respect to such interest payment date. Interest on such debt securities which have a redemption date after a regular record date, and on or before the following interest payment date, will also be payable to the persons in whose names the debt securities are so registered. All paying agents initially designated by Allied World Bermuda for the debt securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement. Allied World Bermuda may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that

Table of Contents

Allied World Bermuda will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities are payable.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the debt securities may be presented for transfer (duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer, if so required by Allied World Bermuda or the security registrar) or exchanged for other debt securities of the same series (containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations, and of a like aggregate principal amount) at the office or agency maintained by Allied World Bermuda for such purposes (initially the corporate trust office of the trustee). Such transfer or exchange will be made without service charge, but Allied World Bermuda may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge and any other expenses then payable. Allied World Bermuda will not be required to (1) issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, the debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any such debt securities and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer of or exchange any debt security so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

Allied World Bermuda will appoint the trustee as security registrar. Any transfer agent (in addition to the security registrar) initially designated by Allied World Bermuda for any debt securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement. Allied World Bermuda may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that Allied World Bermuda will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities are payable.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The debt securities may be represented in whole or in part by one or more global debt securities registered in the name of a depository or its nominee and, if so represented, interests in such global debt security will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by the designated depository and its participants as described below. Where the debt securities of any series are issued in bearer form, the special restrictions and considerations, including special offering restrictions and special U.S. federal income tax considerations, applicable to such debt securities and to payment on and transfer and exchange of such debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

The debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities (bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates) to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount and may for various other reasons be considered to have original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, original issue discount is included in the income of holders on a yield-to-maturity basis. Accordingly, depending on the terms of the debt securities, holders may be required to include amounts in income prior to the receipt thereof. Special U.S. federal income tax and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

If the purchase price of any debt securities is payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units or if any debt securities are denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units or if the principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt securities is payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, the restrictions, elections, certain U.S. federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to such debt securities and such foreign currency or currency units will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Allied World Bermuda will comply with Section 14(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and any other tender offer rules under the Exchange Act which may then be applicable, in connection with any obligation of Allied World Bermuda to purchase debt securities at the option of the holders. Any such obligation applicable to a series of debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, the indentures do not contain any provisions that would limit the ability of Allied World to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in the credit quality of Allied World or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving Allied World. Accordingly, we could in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise affect our capital structure or credit rating.

You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the debt securities for information regarding any deletions from, modifications of, or additions to the Events of Defaults described below or Allied World Bermuda's covenants contained in the respective indenture, including any addition of a covenant or other provisions providing event risk or similar protection.

CONVERSION AND EXCHANGE

The terms, if any, on which debt securities of any series are convertible into or exchangeable for common shares of Allied World Switzerland, preference shares or other securities, whether issued by Allied World, property or cash, or a combination of any of the foregoing, will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the option of the holder, or at Allied World Bermuda's option, in which the securities, property or cash to be received by the holders of the debt securities would be calculated according to the factors and at such time as described in the related prospectus supplement. Any such conversion or exchange will comply with applicable law and our governing documents to which such securities relate.

CONSOLIDATION, AMALGAMATION, MERGER AND SALE OF ASSETS

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, each indenture provides that Allied World Bermuda may not (1) consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into any Person (whether or not affiliated with Allied World Bermuda) or convey, transfer or lease Allied World Bermuda's properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to any Person (whether or not affiliated with Allied World Bermuda), or (2) permit any Person (whether or not affiliated with Allied World Bermuda) to consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into Allied World Bermuda, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to Allied World Bermuda, unless (a) in the case of (1) above, such Person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof or the District of Columbia, Bermuda or any country which is, on the date of the indenture, a member of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and will expressly assume, by supplemental indenture satisfactory in form to the trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, any premium and interest on and any additional amounts with respect to all of the debt securities issued thereunder, and the performance of our obligations under such indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder, and provides for conversion or exchange rights in accordance with the provisions of the debt securities of any series that are convertible or exchangeable into common shares of Allied World Switzerland or other securities; (b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which after notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default, will have happened and be continuing; and (c) certain other conditions are met.

Table of Contents

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

Unless Allied World Bermuda provides other or substitute Events of Default in a prospectus supplement, the following events will constitute an Event of Default under the applicable indenture with respect to any series of debt securities issued thereunder (whatever the reason for such Event of Default and whether it will be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body):

- (1) default in the payment of any interest on any debt security of such series, or any additional amounts payable with respect thereto, when such interest becomes or such additional amounts become due and payable, and continuance of such default for a period of 60 days;
- (2) default in the payment of the principal of or any premium on any debt security of such series, or any additional amounts payable with respect thereto, when such principal, premium or such additional amounts become due and payable either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration of acceleration or otherwise;
- (3) failure to file timely periodic reports with the Commission that continues for 180 days after written notice;
- (4) default by Allied World Bermuda in the performance, or breach, of any other covenant or warranty of Allied World Bermuda contained in the applicable indenture for the benefit of such series or in the debt securities of such series, and the continuance of such default or breach for a period of 90 days after there has been given written notice as provided in such indenture;
- (5) certain events relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Allied World Bermuda; and
- (6) any other Event of Default provided in or pursuant to the indenture.

If an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series (other than an Event of Default described in clause (5) of the preceding paragraph) occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series by written notice as provided in the applicable indenture may declare the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of such series) of all outstanding debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately. At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of money has been obtained by the trustee, and subject to applicable law and certain other provisions of the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration. An Event of Default described in clause (5) of the preceding paragraph will cause the principal amount and accrued interest (or such lesser amount as provided for in the debt securities of such series) to become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder.

Each indenture provides that, within 90 days after the occurrence of any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee will transmit, in the manner set forth in such indenture and subject to the exceptions described below, notice of such default to the holders of the debt securities of such series unless such default has been cured or waived. However, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on, or additional amounts or any sinking fund with respect to, any debt security of such series, the trustee may withhold such notice if and so long as a trust committee of directors and/or responsible officers of the trustee in good faith determine that the withholding of such notice is in the best interest of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

In addition, in the case of any default of the character described in clause (3) or (4) of the second preceding paragraph, no such notice to holders will be given until at least 60 days after the default occurs.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee may in its discretion proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the holders of the debt securities of such series by all appropriate judicial proceedings. Each indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the trustee during any default to act with the required standard of care, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the debt securities, unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee, and subject to applicable law and certain other provisions of the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to debt securities of such series.

MODIFICATION AND WAIVER

Allied World Bermuda and the trustee may modify or amend any indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt security,

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate (or modify the calculation of such principal amount or rate) of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any debt security,

change Allied World Bermuda's obligation to pay additional amounts with respect to any debt security,

change the redemption provisions of any debt security or, following the occurrence of any event that would entitle a holder to require Allied World Bermuda to repay any debt security at the option of the holder, adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of such holder, of any affected debt security,

change the place of payment or the coin or currency in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt security is payable,

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of any debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of any holder, on or after the repayment date),

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take specific actions,

reduce the requirements for quorum or voting by holders of debt securities in the applicable section of each indenture,

modify any of the provisions in the applicable indenture regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of the debt securities except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that other provisions of such indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby,

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Table of Contents

make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any debt security into or for Allied World Switzerland common shares or other Allied World Bermuda debt securities or our other securities, cash or property in accordance with its terms,

modify any of the provisions of the subordinated indenture relating to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities in a manner adverse to holders of the subordinated debt securities, or

modify any of the above provisions.

In addition, no supplemental indenture may directly or indirectly modify or eliminate the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture in any manner which might terminate or impair the subordination of the subordinated debt securities to Senior Indebtedness without the prior written consent of the holders of the Senior Indebtedness.

Allied World Bermuda and the trustee may modify or amend any indenture and debt securities of any series without the consent of any holder in order to, among other things:

provide for Allied World Bermuda's successor pursuant to a consolidation, amalgamation, merger or sale of assets;

add to Allied World Bermuda's covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon Allied World Bermuda by the applicable indenture;

provide for a successor trustee with respect to debt securities of all or any series;

cure any ambiguity or correct or supplement any provision in any indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under any indenture which will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series issued thereunder in any material respect;

change the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities under any indenture;

add any additional Events of Default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;

provide for conversion or exchange rights of the holders of any series of debt securities; or

make any other change that does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of any debt securities then outstanding under the applicable indenture.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive compliance by Allied World Bermuda with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable indenture. The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive any past default and its consequences under the applicable indenture with respect to debt securities of that series, except a default (1) in the payment of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of that series or (2) in respect of a covenant or provision of the applicable indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each debt security of any series.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Under each indenture, Allied World Bermuda is required to furnish the trustee annually a statement as to its performance of certain of its obligations under that indenture and as to any default in such performance. Allied World Bermuda is also required to deliver to the trustee, within five days after occurrence thereof, written notice of any Event of Default or any event which after notice or lapse of time or both would constitute an Event of Default.

Table of Contents

DISCHARGE, DEFEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

Allied World Bermuda may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities that have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and that either have become due and payable or will become due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by depositing with the trustee, in trust, funds in U.S. dollars or in the Foreign Currency (as defined below) in which such debt securities are payable in an amount or Government Obligations (as defined below), or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient (without reinvestment) to pay the entire indebtedness on such debt securities with respect to principal and any premium, interest and additional amounts to the date of such deposit (if such debt securities have become due and payable) or with respect to principal, any premium and interest to the maturity or redemption date thereof, as the case may be.

Each indenture provides that, unless certain provisions thereof are made inapplicable to debt securities of or within any series pursuant to the terms of the indenture, Allied World Bermuda may elect either (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities (except for, among other things, the obligation to pay additional amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of certain events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on such debt securities, if the debt securities of a series provide for the payment of such additional amounts, and other obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency with respect to such debt securities and to hold monies for payment in trust) ("defeasance") or (2) to be released from its obligations with respect to such debt securities under certain covenants as described in the related prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an Event of Default with respect to such debt securities ("covenant defeasance"). Defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, will be conditioned upon the irrevocable deposit by Allied World Bermuda with the trustee, in trust, of an amount in U.S. dollars or in the Foreign Currency in which such debt securities are payable at stated maturity, or Government Obligations, or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient (without reinvestment), in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the trustee, to pay the principal of, any premium and interest on such debt securities on the scheduled due dates or any prior redemption date.

Such a trust may only be established if, among other things:

the applicable defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under or any material agreement or instrument to which Allied World Bermuda is a party or by which Allied World Bermuda is bound;

no Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities to be defeased will have occurred and be continuing on the date of establishment of such a trust after giving effect to such establishment and, with respect to defeasance only, no bankruptcy proceeding will have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after such date;

with respect to registered securities, Allied World Bermuda has delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in each indenture) to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred, and such opinion of counsel, in the case of

Table of Contents

defeasance, must refer to and be based upon a letter ruling of the Internal Revenue Service received by Allied World Bermuda, a Revenue Ruling published by the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law occurring after the date of the applicable indenture; and

with respect to defeasance, Allied World Bermuda has delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate as to solvency and the absence of intent of preferring holders over other creditors.

"Foreign Currency" means any currency, currency unit or composite currency, including, without limitation, the euro, issued by the government of one or more countries other than the United States of America or by any recognized confederation or association of such governments.

"Government Obligations" means debt securities which are (1) direct obligations of the United States of America or the other government or governments or confederation or association of governments which issued the Foreign Currency in which the debt securities of a particular series are payable, in each case where the payment or payments thereunder are supported by the full faith and credit of such government or governments or confederation or association of governments or (2) obligations of a Person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America or such other government or governments or confederation or association of governments which issued the Foreign Currency in which the debt securities of such series are payable, in each case, where the timely payment or payments thereunder are unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States of America or such other government or governments or confederation or association of governments, and which, in the case of clauses (1) or (2), are not callable or redeemable at our option, and will also include a depository receipt issued by a bank or trust company as custodian with respect to any such Government Obligation or a specific payment of interest on or principal of or other amount with respect to any such Government Obligation held by such custodian for the account of the holder of such depository receipt, provided that (except as required by law) such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt from any amount received by the custodian with respect to the Government Obligation or the specific payment of interest on or principal of or other amount with respect to the Government Obligation evidenced by such depository receipt.

If after Allied World Bermuda has deposited funds and/or Government Obligations to effect defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to debt securities of any series, (1) the holder of a debt security of that series is entitled to, and does, elect pursuant to the applicable indenture or the terms of such debt security to receive payment in a currency other than that in which such deposit has been made in respect of such debt security, or (2) a Conversion Event (as defined below) occurs in respect of the Foreign Currency in which such deposit has been made, the indebtedness represented by such debt security will be deemed to have been, and will be, fully discharged and satisfied through the payment of the principal of, any premium and interest on, if any, and any additional amounts, if any, with respect to, such debt security as such debt security becomes due out of the proceeds yielded by converting the amount or other properties so deposited in respect of such debt security into the currency in which such debt security becomes payable as a result of such election or such Conversion Event based on (a) in the case of payments made pursuant to clause (1) above, the applicable market exchange rate for such currency in effect on the second business day prior to such payment date, or (b) with respect to a Conversion Event, the applicable market exchange rate for such Foreign Currency in effect (as nearly as feasible) at the time of the Conversion Event.

"Conversion Event" means the cessation of use of (1) a Foreign Currency both by the government of the country or countries which issued such Foreign Currency and for the settlement of transactions by a central bank or other public institutions of or within the international banking community or (2) any currency unit or composite currency for the purposes for which it was established.

Table of Contents

In the event Allied World Bermuda effects covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default other than an Event of Default with respect to any covenant as to which there has been covenant defeasance, the amount in such Foreign Currency in which such debt securities are payable, and Government Obligations on deposit with the trustee, will be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the stated maturity or redemption date but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, Allied World Bermuda would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

REDEMPTION

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, Allied World Bermuda may, at its option, redeem any series of debt securities, in whole or in part, at any time at the redemption price. Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, debt securities will not be subject to sinking fund or other mandatory redemption or to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders upon a change of control, a change in management, an asset sale or any other specified event. Allied World Bermuda does not currently have any debt securities outstanding that are subject to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders. Allied World Bermuda will include appropriate risk factor disclosure in any prospectus supplement prepared in connection with the issuance of debt securities that are subject to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders.

In the case where debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts, Allied World Bermuda may redeem such debt securities at its option, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest and additional amounts, if any, to the date fixed for redemption, if at any time, we receive an opinion of counsel stating that as a result of any change to the laws of any relevant taxing jurisdiction, any action taken by the relevant taxing jurisdiction which action is applied with respect to Allied World Bermuda or a decision rendered by a court of such relevant taxing jurisdiction, there is a substantial probability that Allied World Bermuda will be required to pay additional amounts as of the next interest payment date and such requirements cannot be avoided by the use or reasonable measures then available. Any such redemption will be subject to the redemption provisions in each indenture.

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, 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 debt securities to be redeemed at its registered address. Unless Allied World Bermuda defaults in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities or portions thereof called for redemption.

GLOBAL SECURITIES

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global debt securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to a series of the debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depositary for such global security or its nominee will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by such global security. Such accounts will be designated by the underwriters or agents with respect to such debt securities or by Allied World Bermuda if such debt securities are offered and sold directly by Allied World Bermuda. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global

Table of Contents

security will be limited to persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in such global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary or its nominee (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons other than participants). 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 transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depositary for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such global security, such depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the debt securities of the series represented by such global security registered in their names and will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities of that series in definitive form.

Principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, the debt securities registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security representing such debt securities. None of the trustee, any paying agent, the security registrar, or Allied World Bermuda will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of the global security for such debt securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for a series of the debt securities or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment with respect to such debt securities, will credit immediately participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interest in the principal amount of the global security for such debt securities as shown on the records of such depositary or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in "street name", and will be the responsibility of such participants.

The indentures provide that if:

the depositary for a series of the debt securities notifies Allied World Bermuda that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or if such depositary ceases to be eligible under the applicable indenture and a successor depositary is not appointed by us within 90 days of written notice;

Allied World Bermuda determines that the debt securities of a particular series will no longer be represented by global securities and executes and delivers to the trustee a company order to such effect;

an Event of Default with respect to a series of the debt securities has occurred and is continuing; or

the global securities will be exchanged for the debt securities of such series in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount, in authorized denominations;

then such definitive debt securities will be registered in such name or names as the depositary shall instruct the trustee. It is expected that such instructions may be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in global securities.

Table of Contents

PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS

If the debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts on account of taxes, fees, assessments or governmental charges as will be described in the related prospectus supplement, Allied World Bermuda will pay to the holder of the debt securities of such series the additional amounts as described herein and therein.

Allied World Bermuda will make all payments of principal of and premium, if any, interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the debt securities of any series without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of any jurisdiction in which we are organized (a "taxing jurisdiction") or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, unless such taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges are required to be withheld or deducted by (x) the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or (y) an official position regarding the application, administration, interpretation or enforcement of any such laws, regulations or rulings (including, without limitation, a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a taxing authority in a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof). If a withholding or deduction at source is required, Allied World Bermuda will, subject to certain limitations and exceptions described below, pay to the holder of any such debt security such additional amounts as may be necessary so that every net payment of principal, premium, if any, interest or any other amount made to such holder, after the withholding or deduction, will not be less than the amount provided for in such debt security and the applicable indenture to be then due and payable.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Allied World Bermuda will not be required to pay any additional amounts for or on account of:

- (1) any tax, fee, duty, assessment or governmental charge of whatever nature which would not have been imposed but for the fact that such holder (a) was a resident, domiciliary or national of, or engaged in business or maintained a permanent establishment or was physically present in, the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof or otherwise had some connection with the relevant taxing jurisdiction other than by reason of the mere ownership of, or receipt of payment under, such debt security, (b) presented such debt security for payment in the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof, unless such debt security could not have been presented for payment elsewhere, or (c) presented such debt security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which the payment in respect of such debt security became due and payable or provided for, whichever is later, except to the extent that the holder would have been entitled to such additional amounts if it had presented such debt security for payment on any day within that 30-day period;
- (2) any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- (3) any tax, assessment or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the failure by the holder or the beneficial owner of such debt security to comply with any reasonable request by us addressed to the holder within 90 days of such request (a) to provide information concerning the nationality, residence or identity of the holder or such beneficial owner or (b) to make any declaration or other similar claim or satisfy any information or reporting requirement, which is required or imposed by statute, treaty, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof as a precondition to exemption from all or part of such tax, assessment or other governmental charge; or
- (4) any combination of items (1), (2), and (3).

Table of Contents

In addition, Allied World Bermuda will not pay additional amounts with respect to any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, interest or any other amounts on, any such debt security to any holder who is a fiduciary or partnership or other than the sole beneficial owner of such debt security to the extent such payment would be required by the laws of the relevant taxing jurisdiction (or any political subdivision or relevant taxing authority thereof or therein) to be included in the income for tax purposes of a beneficiary or partner or settlor with respect to such fiduciary or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner who would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had it been the holder of the debt security.

As further described above under "Redemption", in certain cases where debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts, Allied World Bermuda may redeem such debt securities at its option, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest and additional amounts, if any, to the date fixed for redemption.

NEW YORK LAW TO GOVERN

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made or instruments entered into and, in each case, performed in that state. Allied World Bermuda and the holders consent to New York jurisdiction in any judicial proceeding arising under any indenture under which Allied World Bermuda issues debt securities.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

SUBORDINATION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED BY ALLIED WORLD BERMUDA.

Allied World Bermuda's subordinated debt securities will, to the extent set forth in the applicable subordinated indenture, be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness. In the event of:

- (1) any insolvency or bankruptcy case or proceeding, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization or other similar case or proceeding in connection therewith, relative to us or to our creditors, as such, or to our assets; or
- (2) any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or other winding up of ours, whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy; or
- (3) any assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of assets and liabilities of ours,

then and in any such event the holders of our Senior Indebtedness will be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due or to become due on or in respect of all such Senior Indebtedness, or provision will be made for such payment in cash, before the holders of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive or retain any payment on account of principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, subordinated debt securities, and to that end the holders of our Senior Indebtedness will be entitled to receive, for application to the payment thereof, any payment or distribution of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, including any such payment or distribution which may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other Indebtedness of ours being subordinated to the payment of our subordinated debt securities, which may be payable or deliverable in respect of our subordinated debt securities in any such case, proceeding, dissolution, liquidation or other winding up event.

By reason of such subordination, in the event of our liquidation or insolvency, holders of our Senior Indebtedness and holders of other obligations of ours that are not subordinated to our Senior Indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of our subordinated debt securities.

Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of ours, the rights of the holders of our subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of ours applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until the principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, our subordinated debt securities have been paid in full.

No payment of principal (including redemption and sinking fund payments) of or any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to Allied World Bermuda's subordinated debt securities, or payments to acquire such securities (other than pursuant to their conversion), may be made (1) if any Senior Indebtedness of ours is not paid when due and any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended and such default has not been cured or waived or ceased to exist, or (2) if the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness of ours has been accelerated because of a default.

Allied World Bermuda's subordinated indenture does not limit or prohibit Allied World Bermuda from incurring additional Senior Indebtedness, which may include Indebtedness that is senior to Allied World Bermuda's subordinated debt securities, but subordinate to Allied World Bermuda's other obligations. The senior debt securities issued by Allied World Bermuda will constitute Senior Indebtedness under Allied World Bermuda's subordinated indenture.

Table of Contents

For purposes of this section, the term "Senior Indebtedness" means all Indebtedness of Allied World Bermuda outstanding at any time, except:

- (1) the subordinated debt securities;
- (2) Indebtedness as to which, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing the same, it is provided that such Indebtedness is subordinated to or ranks equally with our subordinated debt securities;
- (3) Indebtedness of Allied World Bermuda to an Affiliate of Allied World Bermuda;
- (4) interest accruing after the filing of a petition initiating any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar proceeding unless such interest is an allowed claim enforceable against us in a proceeding under federal or state bankruptcy laws; and
- (5) trade accounts payable.

Such Senior Indebtedness will continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Allied World Bermuda's subordinated indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions, insofar as they relate to any particular issue of our subordinated debt securities, may be changed prior to such issuance. Any such change would be described in the related prospectus supplement.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE

The trustee for any offering of debt securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Allied World may from time to time borrow from, maintain deposit accounts with and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Under each indenture, the trustee is required to transmit annual reports to all holders regarding its eligibility and qualifications as trustee under the applicable indenture and related matters.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES GUARANTEES

Concurrently with any issuance by Allied World Bermuda of senior debt securities, Allied World Switzerland may execute and deliver a senior debt securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders from time to time of such senior debt securities. The trustee will act as guarantee trustee under the senior debt securities guarantee for the purposes of compliance with the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"). The senior debt securities guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

The following summary sets forth the material terms and provisions of Allied World Switzerland's guarantee of the senior debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, a copy of which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with such offering of the guarantee of senior debt securities. Because the following summary of certain provisions of the guarantees is not complete, you should refer to the copy of the guarantee of the senior debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of such guarantee.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the guarantee and the Trust Indenture Act also contains information regarding the provisions of the guarantees. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement, on the other hand, the information in the prospectus supplement shall control.

The indenture trustee, as guarantee trustee under each guarantee, will hold the applicable guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the related debt securities.

GENERAL

Allied World Switzerland may fully and unconditionally guarantee all obligations of Allied World Bermuda under the applicable indenture and the related debt securities.

Because Allied World Switzerland is a holding company, its rights and the rights of its creditors (including the holders of its debt securities and the holders of the Allied World Bermuda debt securities who are creditors of Allied World Switzerland by virtue of its guarantee of the debt securities issued by Allied World Bermuda) and shareholders to participate in distributions by certain of our subsidiaries upon that subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise would be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that Allied World Switzerland may itself be a creditor with recognized claims against that subsidiary or its creditor may have the benefit of a guaranty from Allied World Switzerland's subsidiary. None of Allied World Switzerland's creditors has the benefit of a guaranty from any of its subsidiaries. The rights of Allied World Switzerland's creditors (including the holders of its debt securities and the holders of the Allied World Bermuda debt securities who are creditors of Allied World Switzerland by virtue of its guarantee of the debt securities issued by Allied World Bermuda, as the case may be) to participate in the distribution of stock owned by Allied World Switzerland in certain of its subsidiaries, including its insurance subsidiaries, may be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries.

Except to the extent otherwise provided in the applicable guarantee, Allied World Switzerland may make all payments of principal of and interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the debt securities of any series.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES

The following statements with respect to the common share warrants are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a share warrant agreement to be entered into by us and a share warrant agent to be selected at the time of issue, a copy of which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with such offering of common share warrants. Because the following summary of certain provisions of the common share warrants is not complete, you should refer to the copy of the share warrant agreement for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of such common share warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the warrants offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those warrants. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement, on the other hand, the information in the prospectus supplement shall control.

GENERAL

The share warrants, evidenced by share warrant certificates, may be issued under the share warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities. If share warrants are offered, the related prospectus supplement will describe the designation and terms of the share warrants, including, without limitation, the following:

the offering price, if any;

the designation and terms of the common shares purchasable upon exercise of the share warrants;

if applicable, the date on and after which the share warrants and the related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the number of common shares purchasable upon exercise of one share warrant and the initial price at which such shares may be purchased upon exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise the share warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;

a discussion of potential Swiss tax considerations;

the call provisions, if any;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and exercise price are payable;

the antidilution provisions of the share warrants; and

any other terms of the share warrants.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

The common shares issuable upon exercise of the share warrants will, when issued in accordance with the share warrant agreement, be fully paid and nonassessable.

EXERCISE OF SHARE WARRANTS

Share warrants may be exercised by surrendering to the share warrant agent the share warrant certificate with the form of election to purchase on the reverse thereof duly completed and signed by the warrant holder, or its duly authorized agent (such signature to be guaranteed by a bank or trust)

Table of Contents

company, by a broker or dealer which is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or by a member of a national securities exchange), indicating the warrant holder's election to exercise all or a portion of the share warrants evidenced by the certificate. Surrendered share warrant certificates shall be accompanied by payment of the aggregate exercise price of the share warrants to be exercised, as set forth in the related prospectus supplement, in lawful money of the United States, unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement. Upon receipt thereof by the share warrant agent, the share warrant agent will requisition from the transfer agent for the common shares for issuance and delivery to or upon the written order of the exercising warrant holder, a certificate representing the number of common shares purchased. If less than all of the share warrants evidenced by any share warrant certificate are exercised, the share warrant agent shall deliver to the exercising warrant holder a new share warrant certificate representing the unexercised share warrants.

ANTIDILUTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

The exercise price payable and the number of common shares purchasable upon the exercise of each share warrant and the number of share warrants outstanding will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common shares or a combination, subdivision or reclassification of common shares. In lieu of adjusting the number of common shares purchasable upon exercise of each share warrant, we may elect to adjust the number of share warrants. No adjustment in the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of the share warrants may be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% thereof. We may, at our option, reduce the exercise price at any time. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of share warrants, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in case of our consolidation, merger, or sale or conveyance of our property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, the holder of each outstanding share warrant shall have the right to the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property (including cash) receivable by a holder of the number of common shares into which such share warrants were exercisable immediately prior thereto.

NO RIGHTS AS SHAREHOLDERS

Holders of share warrants will not be entitled, by virtue of being such holders, to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice as shareholders with respect to any shareholder meeting for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as our shareholders.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT SECURITIES

The following statements with respect to the debt warrants are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a debt warrant agreement to be entered into by us and a debt warrant agent to be selected at the time of issue, a copy of which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with such offering of debt warrants. Because the following summary of certain provisions of the debt warrants is not complete, you should refer to the copy of the debt warrant agreement for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of such debt warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt warrants offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those debt warrants. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement, on the other hand, the information in the prospectus supplement shall control.

GENERAL

The debt warrants, evidenced by debt warrant certificates, may be issued under the debt warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities. If debt warrants are offered, the related prospectus supplement will describe the designation and terms of the debt warrants, including, without limitation, the following:

the offering price, if any;

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;

if applicable, the date on and after which the debt warrants and the related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one debt warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;

a discussion of potential Bermuda tax considerations;

whether the warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and exercise price are payable;

the antidilution provisions of the debt warrants; and

any other terms of the debt warrants.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 424B5

Warrantholders will not have any of the rights of holders of debt securities, including the right to receive the payment of principal of, any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, the debt securities or to enforce any of the covenants of the debt securities or the applicable indenture except as otherwise provided in the applicable indenture.

Table of Contents

EXERCISE OF DEBT WARRANTS

Debt warrants may be exercised by surrendering the debt warrant certificate at the office of the debt warrant agent, with the form of election to purchase on the reverse side of the debt warrant certificate properly completed and executed (with signature(s) guaranteed by a bank or trust company, by a broker or dealer which is a member of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or by a member of a national securities exchange), and by payment in full of the exercise price, as set forth in the related prospectus supplement. Upon the exercise of debt warrants, we will issue the debt securities in authorized denominations in accordance with the instructions of the exercising warrant holder. If less than all of the debt warrants evidenced by the debt warrant certificate are exercised, a new debt warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining number of debt warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Allied World Switzerland and Allied World Bermuda may issue units consisting of one or more warrants, debt securities, common shares of Allied World Switzerland or any combination of such securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

- (1) the terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;
- (2) a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and
- (3) a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The issuers may sell offered securities in any one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- (1) through agents;
- (2) to or through underwriters;
- (3) through dealers; or
- (4) directly to purchasers.

In addition, the issuers may enter into derivative or other hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with such a transaction the third parties may, pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, and subject to receiving the prior written consent of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, if applicable, sell securities covered by this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplement. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. Subject to receiving the prior written consent of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, if applicable, we may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the offered securities will set forth the terms of the offering of the offered securities, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents; the purchase price of the offered securities and the proceeds to the respective issuers from such sale; any underwriting discounts and commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation; any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchange on which such offered securities may be listed. Any initial public offering price, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

The distribution of the offered securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Offers to purchase offered securities may be solicited by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in such prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a reasonable best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), of the offered securities so offered and sold.

If offered securities are sold by means of an underwritten offering, the issuer will execute an underwriting agreement with an underwriter or underwriters, and the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriters, and the terms of the transaction, including commissions, discounts and any other compensation of the underwriters and dealers, if any, will be set forth in the prospectus supplement which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the offered securities. If underwriters are utilized in the sale of the offered securities, the offered securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale.

Table of Contents

Each underwriter, dealer and agent participating in the distribution of any offered securities which are issuable in bearer form will agree that it will not offer, sell, resell or deliver, directly or indirectly, offered securities in bearer form in the U.S. or to U.S. persons except as otherwise permitted by Treasury Regulations Section 1.163-5(c)(2)(i)(D).

Offered securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by the managing underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of the offered securities, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the underwriting agreement will provide that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters with respect to a sale of offered securities will be obligated to purchase all such offered securities of a series if any are purchased.

We may grant to the underwriters options to purchase additional offered securities, to cover over-allotments, if any, at the public offering price (with additional underwriting discounts or commissions), as may be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. If we grant any over-allotment option, the terms of such over-allotment option will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such offered securities.

If a dealer is utilized in the sales of offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such offered securities to the dealer as principal. The dealer may then resell such offered securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, of the offered securities so offered and sold. The name of the dealer and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

Offers to purchase offered securities may be solicited directly by us and the sale thereof may be made by us directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Offered securities may also be offered and sold, 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 otherwise, by one or more firms ("remarketing firms"), acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreements, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, in connection with the offered securities remarketed thereby.

We may sell equity securities in an offering "at the market" as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act. A post-effective amendment to this registration statement will be filed to identify the underwriter(s) at the time of the take-down for "at the market" offerings.

Underwriters and purchasers that are deemed underwriters under the Securities Act may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities, including the entry of stabilizing bids or syndicate covering transactions or the imposition of penalty bids. Such purchasers will be subject to the applicable provisions of the Securities Act and Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Rule 10b-5 and Regulation M. Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the securities to engage in market-making activities with respect to those securities. In addition, the anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of the securities in the market. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the securities and the ability of any person to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

Agents, underwriters, dealers, remarketing firms and other third parties described above may be entitled under relevant underwriting and other agreements entered into with us to indemnification by

Table of Contents

us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act that may arise from any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or any omission or alleged omission to state a material fact in this prospectus, any supplement or amendment hereto, or in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents, underwriters or dealers may be required to make.

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

Disclosure in the prospectus supplement of our use of delayed delivery contracts will include the commission that underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of the securities under delayed contracts will be entitled to receive in addition to the date 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 described in the prospectus supplement.

Each series of offered securities will be a new issue and, other than the common shares, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common shares, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will not be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the offered securities.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act relating to the common shares of Allied World Switzerland, debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, guarantees of debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, warrants to purchase common shares of Allied World Switzerland, warrants to purchase debt securities of Allied World Bermuda and units described in this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains additional information and exhibits.

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other reports with the Commission. You can read and copy the registration statement and the reports that we file with the Commission at the Commission's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such material can also be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates.

Our filings with the Commission are also available from the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. and on our website at <http://www.awac.com>. Please call the Commission's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 if you need further information about the operation of the Commission's Public Reference Room. Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AWH" and our reports can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

Allied World Switzerland files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. The Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Any statement contained in a document which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus, or information that we later file with the Commission, modifies or replaces this information. All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the initial filing of this registration statement and after the date of this prospectus and until we sell all the securities shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following previously filed documents (other than information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of a Current Report on Form 8-K):

- (1) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on February 20, March 2, March 31, April 1, May 6 and May 11, 2015;
- (2) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 filed with the Commission on April 22, 2015;
- (3) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the Commission on February 17, 2015;
- (4) Our definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Commission on March 13, 2015, as supplemented on April 8, April 17 and April 22, 2015.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this Prospectus (other than exhibits) call or write us at the following address: Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor, 6300 Zug, Switzerland, attention: Wayne H. Datz, Corporate Secretary, or via e-mail to secretary@awac.com.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters with respect to the United States of America, New York and Delaware law with respect to the validity of the offered securities will be passed upon for us by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters with respect to Swiss law will be passed upon for us by Baker & McKenzie Zurich. Certain legal matters with respect to Bermuda law will be passed upon for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman Limited, Hamilton, Bermuda. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us or any underwriters, dealers or agents by counsel which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and related financial statement schedules of Allied World incorporated herein by reference from Allied World's Annual Report on Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of Allied World's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte Ltd., an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so included in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

**ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER
UNITED STATES FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

Allied World Switzerland. Switzerland and the United States do not have a treaty providing for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. The recognition and enforcement of a judgment of the courts of the United States in Switzerland is governed by the principles set forth in the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law. This statute provides in principle that a judgment rendered by a non-Swiss court may be enforced in Switzerland only if:

the foreign court had jurisdiction pursuant to the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law;

the judgment of such foreign court has become final and non-appealable;

no reason for refusal in the sense of Article 27 of the Swiss Federal Act on Private International Law is given (in particular, but not limited to, the decision does not contravene Swiss public policy); and

the court procedures and the service of documents leading to the judgment were in accordance with the due process of law, legal precedent and similar requirements.

Allied World Bermuda. Allied World Bermuda has been advised by its Bermuda counsel, Conyers Dill & Pearman Limited, that a judgment for the payment of money rendered by a court in the United States of America based on civil liability would not be automatically enforceable in Bermuda. There is no treaty between Bermuda and the United States of America providing for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments. Allied World Bermuda has also been advised by Conyers Dill & Pearman Limited that the courts of Bermuda would recognize as a valid judgment, a final and conclusive judgment *in personam* obtained in a court in the United States of America against Allied World Bermuda under which a sum of money is payable (other than a sum of money payable in respect of multiple damages, taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty) and would give a judgment based thereon provided that (a) such courts had proper jurisdiction over the parties subject to such judgment, (b) such courts did not contravene the rules of natural justice of Bermuda, (c) such judgment was not obtained by fraud, (d) the enforcement of the judgment would not be contrary to the public policy of Bermuda, (e) no new admissible evidence relevant to the action is submitted prior to

Table of Contents

the rendering of the judgment by the courts of Bermuda, and (f) there is due compliance with the correct procedures under the laws of Bermuda.

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT. WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE ELSE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. WE ARE OFFERING THESE SECURITIES ONLY IN STATES WHERE THE OFFER IS PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE ON THE FRONT OF THOSE DOCUMENTS. OUR BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PROSPECTS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THAT DATE.

Table of Contents
