

HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC  
Form N-2  
April 03, 2007  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 3, 2007

Securities Act File No. 333-

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# U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

(Check appropriate box or boxes)

Pre-Effective Amendment No.

Post-Effective Amendment No.

# HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in charter)

400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310

Palo Alto, CA 94301

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: (650) 289-3060

Manuel A. Henriquez

Chief Executive Officer

Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc.

400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310

Palo Alto, CA 94301

(Name and address of agent for service)

COPIES TO:

Steven B. Boehm

Cynthia M. Krus

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP

1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004

**APPROXIMATE DATE OF PROPOSED PUBLIC OFFERING:**

As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box. x

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box):

.. when declared effective pursuant to section 8(c).

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

<b>Title of Securities Being Registered</b>	<b>Amount Being Registered<sup>(1)(3)</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee<sup>(4)</sup></b>
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	12,467,901	\$171,620,657	\$5,083

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416, this registration statement also covers such additional shares of our common stock as may be issued by reason of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based upon the average of the high and low prices of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Market on March 29, 2007.
- (3) In reliance upon Rule 429 under the Securities Act of 1933, this amount is in addition to the securities previously registered by the Registrant under a registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-136918). All securities unsold by the selling shareholders under the prospectus contained in such prior Registration Statement (a total of 441,150 shares of common stock) are carried forward into this Registration Statement, and the prospectus contained as a part of this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be combined with the prospectus contained in the above-referenced registration statement, which has previously been filed.
- (4) In reliance upon Rule 429 under the Securities Act of 1933, all securities unsold by the selling shareholders under a registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-136918) (a total of 441,150 shares of common stock) are carried forward into this Registration Statement. A registration fee has been paid previously with respect to such securities. The registration fee of \$5,083 relates solely to the registration of 12,026,751 shares of common stock not previously registered.

**THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.**

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**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

Filed pursuant to Rule 497

Securities Act File No. 333-136918

**PROSPECTUS (SUBJECT TO COMPLETION)**

**, 2007**

**12,000,000 Shares Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to the offer, from time to time, of 12,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share by us and the resale of up to 467,901 shares of our common stock by certain current stockholders.

We may offer, from time to time, up to 12,000,000 shares of our common stock in one or more offerings. The shares of common stock may be offered at prices and terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering.

The shares of our common stock which are offered for resale by this prospectus are offered for the accounts of the current holders of such common stock, whom we refer to as the selling holders. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the shares of common stock sold by the selling holders. We have agreed to bear specific expenses in connection with the registration and sale of the common stock being offered by the selling holders.

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life sciences companies at all stages of development. We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. We source our investments through our principal office located in Silicon Valley, as well as additional offices in the Boston, Boulder and Chicago areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity.

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

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HTGC. On March 29, 2007 the last reported sale price of a share of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market was \$13.73.

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**An investment in our common stock involves risks and involves a heightened risk of total loss of investment. In addition, the companies in which we invest are subject to special risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 12 to read about risks that you should consider before investing in our common stock, including the risk of leverage.**

This prospectus contains important information you should know before investing in our common stock. Please read it before making an investment decision and keep it for future reference. Shares of closed-end investment companies have in the past frequently traded at a discount to their net asset value. If our shares trade at a discount to net asset value, it may increase the risk of loss for purchasers in this offering.

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**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.**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information is available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301 or by telephone calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at [www.herculestech.com](http://www.herculestech.com). The SEC also maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains such information.

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to provide you with different information or to make representations as to matters not stated in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any shares of common stock by any person in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful for that person to make such an offer or solicitation or to any person in any jurisdiction to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. The information in this prospectus is accurate only as of its date, and under no circumstances should the delivery of this prospectus or the sale of any common stock imply that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any later date or that the affairs of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. have not changed since the date hereof.

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**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the more detailed information and financial statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. In this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the Company, Hercules Technology Growth Capital, we, us and our refer to Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiaries Hercules Technology II, L.P., Hercules Technology SBIC Management, LLC., Hydra Management LLC and Hydra Management Co., Inc..*

**Our Company**

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life sciences companies at all stages of development. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

During the first quarter of 2007, we entered into approximately \$105.3 million of investment commitments and invested approximately \$80.2 million in 9 new portfolio companies and 11 existing portfolio companies.

We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may invest in select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. Our principal executive office is located in Silicon Valley, and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of ventures active in the technology and life science industries and to offer a full suite of capital products up and down the capital structure. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity. We use the term structured mezzanine debt investment to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We focus our investments in companies active in technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, Internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, health care services and information systems companies. We refer to all of these companies as technology-related companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our assets in such businesses.

Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value by investing in structured mezzanine debt and equity of venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our



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portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies is generally used for growth, and in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase, our investment activity in established companies, comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

Our management team, which includes Manuel A. Henriquez, our co-founder, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is currently comprised of 15 professionals who have, on average, more than 15 years of experience in venture capital, structured finance, commercial lending or acquisition finance with the types of technology-related companies that we are targeting. We believe that we can leverage the experience and relationships of our management team to successfully identify attractive investment opportunities, underwrite prospective portfolio companies and structure customized financing solutions.

### **Our Market Opportunity**

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

Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies;

Structured mezzanine debt products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds; and

Valuations currently assigned to technology-related companies in private financing rounds, while increasing in recent years, still provide a good opportunity for attractive capital returns.

***Technology-Related Companies Underserved by Traditional Lenders.*** We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies, in part because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending that has resulted in tightened credit standards in recent years. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with financial sponsor-backed emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies effectively.



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The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult

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to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

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

***Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies.*** Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing to emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity. In 2006, venture capital-backed companies received, in approximately 2,454 transactions, equity financing in an aggregate amount of approximately \$25.8 billion, representing an 8% increase over the preceding year, as reported by Dow Jones VentureOne. In addition, overall, the median round size in 2006 was \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million in 2005, and the highest annual median since 2000. For the second year in a row, equity investors are focusing more than a third of their investment activity on early-stage financings. Overall, seed- and first-round deals made up 36% of the deal flow in 2006, and about the same concentration of deal flow went to later-stage deals. As a result, we believe a range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion in annual equity investments to venture-backed companies will be sustainable for future years.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently unfulfilled, in part because historically the largest debt capital providers to technology-related companies exited the market during 2001 while at the same time lending requirements of traditional lenders have become more stringent. We therefore believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

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

***Lower Valuations for Private Technology-Related Companies.*** During the downturn in technology industries that began in 2000, the markets saw sharp and broad declines in valuations of venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies. According to Dow Jones VentureOne, median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2000 was \$25.0 million declining to a low of \$10.0 million in 2003. As of December 31, 2006 median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2006 was \$18.5 million compared to \$15.0 million in 2005. While pre-money valuations have been steadily increasing since 2003, we believe the valuations currently assigned to venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies in private financing rounds are still low and should allow us to continue to build a portfolio of equity-related securities at attractive valuation levels.

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### **Our Business Strategy**

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

***Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals.*** We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 15 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured mezzanine investments in over 200 technology-related companies, representing over \$1.0 billion in investments, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which should enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

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

***Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities.*** We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities, security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

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

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

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing

round or a liquidity event.

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

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

***Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database.*** We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based (SQL) database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of December 31, 2006, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

## **Asset Management**

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to funds that may be formed in the future. Such funds may focus on our lower yielding assets, such as senior debt, equipment based only financing or equity only funding. We may contribute assets currently in our portfolio to the extent that our management and Board of Directors deems it appropriate. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

## **Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

We have adopted an opt-out dividend reinvestment plan through which distributions are paid to stockholders in the form of additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#). Those stockholders whose shares are held by a broker or other financial intermediary may receive distributions in cash by notifying their broker or other financial intermediary of their election.

## **Taxation**

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company (a RIC) under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital

gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. We may be required, however, to pay

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corporate-level federal income taxes on gains built into our assets as of the effective date of our RIC election. See **Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Conversion to Regulated Investment Company Status**. To obtain and maintain the federal income tax benefits of RIC status, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually an amount equal to at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of assets legally available for distribution. See **Distributions**. There is no assurance that we will meet these tests and be eligible to make a RIC election. If we do not qualify or do not make a RIC election, we would be taxed as a C corporation.

### **Use of Proceeds**

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling shares of common stock for general corporate purposes, which includes investing in debt and equity securities, repayment of indebtedness and other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling holders.

### **Leverage**

We borrow funds to make additional investments, and we have granted, and may in the future grant, a security interest in our assets to a lender in connection with any such borrowings, including any borrowings by any of our subsidiaries. We use this practice, which is known as **leverage**, to attempt to increase returns to our common stockholders. However, leverage involves significant risks. See **Risk Factors**. With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. Our asset coverage as of December 31, 2006 was approximately 723%. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. As of December 31, 2006, we had outstanding \$41.0 million drawn under our securitization credit facility. See **Management's Discussion & Analysis of Financial Condition** **Borrowings**. Our subsidiary is licensed as a Small Business Investment Company under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and on January 30, 2007, our subsidiary received notification that its initial application for leverage had been approved allowing it to borrow up to \$50.0 million.

### **Distributions**

We intend to continue to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. The amount of our quarterly distributions will be determined by our Board of Directors out of assets legally available for distribution. We intend to elect to be treated as a RIC when we file our 2006 federal income tax return, and as such, to distribute with respect to 2006 (and annually thereafter) to our stockholders at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. In addition, prior to the end of our first tax year as a RIC, we will be required to make a distribution to our stockholders equal to the amount of any undistributed earnings and profits from the period prior to our RIC election. Currently, we intend to retain some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains in order to build our per share net asset value. As a result, we will elect as a RIC to make deemed distributions of such amounts to our stockholders. We may, in the future, make actual distributions to our stockholders of some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains. See **Distributions**.

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### **Principal Risk Factors**

Investing in us involves certain risks relating to our structure and our investment objective that you should consider before deciding whether to invest. In addition, we expect that our portfolio will continue to consist primarily of securities issued by privately-held technology-related companies, which generally require additional capital to become profitable. These investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk, and they are generally illiquid. Our portfolio companies typically will require additional outside capital beyond our investment in order to succeed or to fully repay the amounts owed to us. A large number of entities compete for the same kind of investment opportunities as we seek.

We borrow funds to make our investments in portfolio companies. As a result, we are exposed to the risks of leverage, which may be considered a speculative investment technique. Borrowings magnify the potential for gain and loss on amounts invested and, therefore increase the risks associated with investing in our common stock. Also, we are subject to certain risks associated with valuing our portfolio, changing interest rates, accessing additional capital, fluctuating quarterly results, and operating in a regulated environment. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page 12 for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding whether to invest in our common stock.

### **Certain Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutes and regulations, contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for our company. This could delay or prevent a transaction that could give our stockholders the opportunity to realize a premium over the price for their securities.

### **General Information**

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have offices in Boston, Massachusetts; Boulder, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois and the Columbus, Ohio areas. We maintain a website on the Internet at [www.herculestech.com](http://www.herculestech.com). Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as the Exchange Act. This information is available at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information about the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website, at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, who file documents electronically with the SEC.



**Table of Contents****FEES AND EXPENSES**

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

<b>Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price):</b>	
Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) <sup>(1)</sup>	%
Offering expenses	% <sup>(2)</sup>
Dividend reinvestment plan fees	% <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Annual Expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):<sup>(4)</sup></b>	
Operating expenses	5.1% <sup>(5)(6)</sup>
Interest payments on borrowed funds	2.8% <sup>(7)</sup>
Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds	0.3% <sup>(8)</sup>
Acquired fund fees and expenses	%
<b>Total annual expenses</b>	<b>8.2%<sup>(9)</sup></b>

- (1) In the event that the shares of common stock to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load. We will not pay any underwriting discount or commission, and we will not receive any of the proceeds from shares sold by the selling stockholders.
- (2) The percentage reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately \$150,000.
- (3) The expenses associated with the administration of our dividend reinvestment plan are included in Operating expenses. We pay all brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases, if any, made by the administrator under the plan. For more details about the plan, see Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (4) Average net assets attributable to common stock equals estimated weighted average net assets for 2007 which is approximately \$265.6 million.
- (5) Operating expenses represent our estimated expenses for the year ending December 31, 2007. This percentage for the year ended December 31, 2006, was approximately 8.4%.
- (6) We do not have an investment adviser and are internally managed by our executive officers under the supervision of our Board of Directors. As a result, we do not pay investment advisory fees, but instead we pay the operating costs associated with employing investment management professionals.
- (7) Interest payments on borrowed funds represents estimated annualized interest payments on borrowed funds for 2007. Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants and shares underlying the warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached. Since inception of the agreement, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$281,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. During 2006, we reduced our realized gain by \$221,000 and recorded a liability and reduced our unrealized gain by approximately \$35,000 for unrealized gains in our warrant and equity investments due Citigroup under our warrant participation agreement. Based on our average borrowings for the year ending December 31, 2006 and the amount of the reduction we recorded for our realized and unrealized gains for 2006, the additional cost of our borrowings as a result of the warrant participation agreement could be approximately 0.31%. There can be no assurances that the unrealized gains on the warrants will not be higher or lower in future periods due to fluctuations in the value of the warrants, thereby increasing or reducing the effect on the cost of borrowing. The value of their participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$377,000 at December 31, 2006 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by the us at December 31, 2006.
- (8) Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds represents estimated fees paid in connection with borrowed funds for 2007.
- (9) Total annual expenses is the sum of operating expenses, interest payments on borrowed funds and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds.



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

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 126.44	\$ 272.22	\$ 409.04	\$ 715.39

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

**Table of Contents****SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Senior Securities on page 70 and the consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere herein. The selected balance sheet data as of the end of fiscal 2006 and 2005 presented below, and the selected income statement data for fiscal 2006 and 2005 and the period from February 2, 2004 through the end of fiscal 2004, have been derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere herein, which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm.

	Year Ended December 31, 2006	Year Ended December 31, 2005	Period from February 2, 2004  (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004
<b>Investment income:</b>			
Interest	\$ 26,278,090	\$ 9,791,214	\$ 214,100
Fees	3,230,366	875,429	
Total investment income	29,508,456	10,666,643	214,100
<b>Operating expenses:</b>			
Interest	5,770,485	1,800,536	
Loan fees	809,907	1,098,507	
Compensation and benefits	5,778,862	3,705,784	1,164,504
General and administrative	5,408,785	2,285,038	411,418
Stock-based compensation	617,600	252,000	680,000
Total operating expenses	18,385,639	9,141,865	2,255,922
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax and investment gains and losses	11,122,817	1,524,778	(2,041,822)
Income tax expense	643,088	255,000	
Net investment income (loss)	10,479,729	1,269,778	(2,041,822)
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	(1,603,692)	481,694	
Net increase in unrealized appreciation on investments	2,507,561	353,093	
Net realized and unrealized gain	903,869	834,787	
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 11,383,598	\$ 2,104,565	\$ (2,041,822)
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.33	\$
	<b>2006</b>	<b>December 31, 2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Balance sheet data:</b>			
Investments, at value (cost of \$279,946,465 and \$176,004,865, respectively)	\$ 283,233,751	\$ 176,673,226	\$ 16,700,000
Cash and cash equivalents	16,404,214	15,362,447	8,678,329
Total assets	301,142,209	193,647,879	25,232,672

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Total net assets	255,412,822	114,352,330	154,539
<b>Other data:</b>			
Total debt investments, at value	266,723,504	166,646,172	25,078,133
Total warrant investments, at value	8,440,963	5,159,791	16,700,000
Total equity investments, at value	8,069,284	4,867,263	
Unfunded commitments	55,500,000	30,200,000	5,000,000
Net asset value per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 11.65	\$ 11.67	\$ 12.18

(1) Based on common shares outstanding at period end.

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The following tables set forth certain quarterly financial information for each of the eight quarters ended December 31, 2006. This information was derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. Results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year or for any further quarter.

	Quarter Ended			
	3/31/06	6/30/06	9/30/06	12/31/06
Total investment income	\$ 6,487,133	\$ 6,787,911	\$ 7,544,032	\$ 8,689,380
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax expense	2,045,885	2,467,508	3,117,155	3,492,269
Net investment income (loss)	2,504,996	3,366,372	1,572,639	3,939,591
Net investment income per common share (basic)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.23

	Quarter Ended			
	3/31/05	6/30/05	9/30/05	12/31/05
Total investment income	\$ 753,973	\$ 1,912,824	\$ 3,659,998	\$ 4,339,848
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax expense	32,370	(333,597)	884,834	941,171
Net investment income (loss)	32,370	709,795	1,561,924	(199,524)
Net investment income per common share (basic)	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.16	(0.02)

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**RISK FACTORS**

*Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before you invest in shares of our common stock, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risks, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, before you decide whether to make an investment in our common stock. The risks set forth below are not the only risks we face. If any of the following risks occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, our net asset value and the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.*

**Risks Related to our Business and Structure**

*We have a limited operating history as a business development company, which may affect our ability to manage our business and may impair your ability to assess our prospects.*

We were incorporated in December 2003 and commenced investment operations in September 2004. We are subject to all of the business risks and uncertainties associated with any new business enterprise, including the risk that we will not achieve our investment objective and that the value of our common stock could decline substantially. We have limited operating history as a business development company and as a RIC. As a result, we have limited operating results under these regulatory frameworks that can demonstrate to you either their effect on the business or our ability to manage the business within these frameworks. See Regulation and Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations. If we fail to maintain our status as a business development company or fail to qualify as a RIC, our operating flexibility and results of operations would be significantly affected.

*We are dependent upon key management personnel for our future success, particularly Manuel A. Henriquez, and if we are not able to hire and retain qualified personnel, or if we lose any member of our senior management team, our ability to implement our business strategy could be significantly harmed.*

We depend upon the members of our senior management, particularly Mr. Henriquez, as well as other key personnel for the identification, final selection, structuring, closing and monitoring of our investments. These employees have critical industry experience and relationships on which we rely to implement our business plan. If we lose the services of Mr. Henriquez, or of any other senior management members, we may not be able to operate the business as we expect, and our ability to compete could be harmed, which could cause our operating results to suffer. We believe our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to identify, attract and retain sufficient numbers of highly skilled employees. If we do not succeed in identifying, attracting and retaining such personnel, we may not be able to operate our business as we expect.

*Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships with venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, and our inability to develop or maintain these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.*

We expect that members of our management team will maintain their relationships with venture capital and private equity firms, and we will rely to a significant extent upon these relationships to provide us with our deal flow. If we fail to maintain our existing relationships or to develop new relationships with other firms or sources of investment opportunities, then we will not be able to grow our investment portfolio. In addition, persons with whom members of our management team have relationships are not obligated to provide us with investment opportunities

and, therefore, there is no assurance that such relationships will lead to the origination of debt or other investments.



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***We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, and we may not be able to compete effectively.***

A large number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we plan to make in prospective portfolio companies. We compete with a large number of venture capital and private equity firms, as well as with other investment funds, investment banks and other sources of financing, including traditional financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and/or access to funding sources that are not available to us. This may enable some competitors to make commercial loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates that we typically offer. We may lose prospective portfolio companies if we do not match competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we do match competitors' pricing, terms or structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit losses. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments, establish more relationships and build their market shares. Furthermore, many potential competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a business development company or that the Code would impose on us as a RIC. If we are not able to compete effectively, our business, financial condition, and results of operations will be adversely affected. As a result of this competition, there can be no assurance that we will be able to identify and take advantage of attractive investment opportunities that we identify, or that we will be able to fully invest our available capital.

***Because we intend to distribute substantially all of our income to our stockholders if we are treated as a RIC, we will continue to need additional capital to finance our growth. If additional funds are unavailable or not available on favorable terms, our ability to grow will be impaired.***

In order to satisfy the tax requirements applicable to a RIC, to avoid payment of excise taxes and to minimize or avoid payment of income taxes, we intend as a RIC to distribute to our stockholders substantially all of our ordinary income and realized net capital gains except for certain realized net long-term capital gains, some or all of which we currently intend to retain, pay applicable income taxes with respect thereto and elect to treat as deemed distributions to our stockholders. As a business development company, we generally are required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which includes all of our borrowings and any preferred stock that we may issue in the future, of at least 200%. This requirement limits the amount that we may borrow. Because we will continue to need capital to grow our loan and investment portfolio, this limitation may prevent us from incurring debt and require us to raise additional equity at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. While we expect to be able to borrow and to issue additional debt and equity securities, we cannot assure you that debt and equity financing will be available to us on favorable terms, or at all, and debt financings may be restricted by the terms of any of our outstanding borrowings. In addition, as a business development company, we generally are not permitted to issue equity securities priced below net asset value without stockholder approval and approval of our independent directors. If additional funds are not available to us, we could be forced to curtail or cease new lending and investment activities, and our net asset value could decline.

***Because we borrow money, there could be increased risk in investing in our company.***

Lenders have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are superior to the claims of stockholders, and we have granted, and may in the future grant, lenders a security interest in our assets in connection with borrowings. In the case of a liquidation event, those lenders would receive proceeds before our stockholders. In addition, borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. Leverage is generally considered a speculative investment technique. If the value of our assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to increase more than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Conversely, if the value of our assets decreases, leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to decline more than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any increase in our



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revenue in excess of interest expense on our borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would without the leverage. Any decrease in our revenue would cause our net income to decline more than it would have had we not borrowed funds and could negatively affect our ability to make distributions on common stock. Our ability to service any debt that we incur will depend largely on our financial performance and will be subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. We and, indirectly our stockholders will bear the cost associated with our leverage activity. Our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. and which we refer to as the Citigroup facility contains financial and operating covenants that could restrict our business activities, including our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions.

As of December 31, 2006, we had outstanding indebtedness of \$41 million pursuant to our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Market Realty Corp., and which we refer to as the Citigroup Facility. We expect, in the future, to borrow from, and issue senior debt securities to, banks, insurance companies and other lenders, including additional borrowings pursuant to the Citigroup Facility. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition - Borrowings. In addition, we expect to continue to pursue financing from the Small Business Administration under its Small Business Investment Company program. See Regulation - Small Business Administration Regulations.

As a business development company, we generally are required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which include all of our borrowings and any preferred stock that we may issue in the future, of at least 200%. If this ratio declines below 200%, we may not be able to incur additional debt and may need to sell a portion of our investments to repay some debt when it is disadvantageous to do so, and we may not be able to make distributions.

*Illustration.* The following table illustrates the effect of leverage on returns from an investment in our common stock assuming various annual returns, net of expenses. The calculations in the table below are hypothetical and actual returns may be higher or lower than those appearing in the table below.

	Assumed Return on Our Portfolio (Net of Expenses)				
	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%
Corresponding return to stockholder <sup>(1)</sup>	(15.48)%	(9.58)%	(3.68)%	2.23%	8.13%

(1) Assumes \$301 million in total assets, \$150 million in debt outstanding, \$255 million in stockholders' equity, and an average cost of funds of 6.25%, which is the approximate cost of funds of the warehouse facility. Actual interest payments may be different.

***Because most of our investments typically are not in publicly-traded securities, there is uncertainty regarding the value of our investments, which could adversely affect the determination of our net asset value.***

At December 31, 2006, approximately 94% of our total assets represented investments in portfolio companies of which, 99% are valued at fair value by the Board of Directors. We expect our investments to continue to consist primarily of securities issued by privately-held companies, the fair value of which is not readily determinable. In addition, we are not permitted to maintain a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we are required by the 1940 Act to specifically value each investment and record an unrealized gain or loss for any asset that we believe has increased or decreased in value. There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. We value these securities at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of our Board of Directors' Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee utilizes its best judgment in arriving at the fair value of these securities. As a result, determining fair value requires that judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment while employing a consistently applied valuation process for the types of investments we make. However, the Board of Directors retains ultimate authority as to the appropriate valuation of each investment. Because such valuations are inherently uncertain and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would be assessed if a ready market for these securities existed. We adjust quarterly the valuation of our portfolio to reflect the Board of Directors' determination of the fair value of each investment in



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our portfolio. Any changes in fair value are recorded in our statement of operations as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of our investments were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon the disposal of such securities.

*Our financial results could be negatively affected if a significant portfolio investment fails to perform as expected.*

Our total investment in companies may be significant individually or in the aggregate. As a result, if a significant investment in one or more companies fails to perform as expected, our financial results could be more negatively affected and the magnitude of the loss could be more significant than if we had made smaller investments in more companies. The following table shows the fair value of investments held at December 31, 2006 that are greater than 5% of net assets:

	December 31, 2006	
	Fair Value	Percentage of Net Assets
QuatRx Pharmaceuticals Company	\$ 18,014,443	7.1%
Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	15,008,082	5.9%
Luminus Devices, Inc.	15,010,086	5.9%
Wageworks, Inc.	15,295,434	6.0%

Our financial results could be negatively affected if these portfolio companies or any of our other significant portfolio companies encounter financial difficulty and fail to repay their obligations or to perform as expected.

*Regulations governing our operations as a business development company affect our ability to, and the manner in which, we raise additional capital, which may expose us to risks.*

Our business will require a substantial amount of capital. We may acquire additional capital from the issuance of senior securities, including borrowings, securitization transactions or other indebtedness, or the issuance of additional shares of our common stock. However, we may not be able to raise additional capital in the future on favorable terms or at all. We may issue debt securities, other evidences of indebtedness or preferred stock, and we may borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, which we refer to collectively as senior securities, up to the maximum amount permitted by the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act permits us to issue senior securities in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. Our ability to pay dividends or issue additional senior securities would be restricted if our asset coverage ratio were not at least 200%. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test. If that happens, we may be required to liquidate a portion of our investments and repay a portion of our indebtedness at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous. As a result of issuing senior securities, we would also be exposed to typical risks associated with leverage, including an increased risk of loss. If we issue preferred stock, the preferred stock would rank senior to common stock in our capital structure, preferred stockholders would have separate voting rights and might have rights, preferences, or privileges more favorable than those of our common stockholders and the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a transaction or a change of control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in your best interest.

To the extent that we are constrained in our ability to issue debt or other senior securities, we will depend on issuances of common stock to finance operations. Other than in certain limited situations such as rights offerings, as a business development company, we are generally not able to issue our common stock at a price below net asset value without first obtaining required approvals from our stockholders and our independent directors. If we raise additional funds by issuing more common stock or senior securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, our common stock, then the percentage ownership of our stockholders at that time will decrease, and you might



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experience dilution. In addition to issuing securities to raise capital as described above, we anticipate that, in the future, we may securitize our loans to generate cash for funding new investments. An inability to successfully securitize our loan portfolio could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy.

*When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we may not be in a position to control the entity, and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.*

We make both debt and minority equity investments; therefore, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company may make business decisions with which we disagree, and the stockholders and management of such company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests. As a result, a portfolio company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

*If we do not invest a sufficient portion of our assets in qualifying assets, we could fail to qualify as a business development company or be precluded from investing according to our current business strategy.*

As a business development company, we may not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such acquisition, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets. See Regulation.

We believe that most of the senior and mezzanine loans investments will constitute qualifying assets. However, we may be precluded from investing in what we believe are attractive investments if such investments are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 1940 Act. If we do not invest a sufficient portion of our assets in qualifying assets, we could lose our status as a business development company, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Similarly, these rules could prevent us from making follow-on investments in existing portfolio companies (which could result in the dilution of our position) or could require us to dispose of investments at inappropriate times in order to comply with the 1940 Act. If we need to dispose of such investments quickly, it would be difficult to dispose of such investments on favorable terms. For example, we may have difficulty in finding a buyer and, even if we do find a buyer, we may have to sell the investments at a substantial loss.

*We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.*

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and tax requirements, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as contracted payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to a loan balance and due at the end of such loan's term. In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, certain loans may also include any of the following: end-of-term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees or prepayment fees. The increases in loan balances as a result of contracted payment-in-kind arrangements are included in income for the period in which such payment-in-kind interest was received, which is often in advance of receiving cash payment, and are separately identified on our statements of cash flows. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash.

Any warrants that we receive in connection with our debt investments will generally be valued as part of the negotiation process with the particular portfolio company. As a result, a portion of the aggregate purchase price for the debt investments and warrants will be allocated to the warrants that we receive. This will generally result in original issue discount for tax purposes, which we must recognize as ordinary income, increasing the amount that we are required to distribute to qualify for the federal income tax benefits applicable to RICs. Because these warrants

would not produce distributable cash for us at the same time as we are required to make distributions in respect of the related original issue discount, we would need to obtain cash from other sources to satisfy such distribution requirements. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources to satisfy such distribution requirements, we may fail to qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs and, thus, become subject to a corporate-level income tax on all our income.



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Other features of the debt instruments that we hold may also cause such instruments to generate an original issue discount, resulting in a dividend distribution requirement in excess of current cash interest received. Since in certain cases we may recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the RIC tax requirement to distribute at least 90% of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. If we are unable to meet these distribution requirements, we will not qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to a RIC. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our assets, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. See **Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company**.

*There is a risk that you may not receive distributions or that our distributions may not grow over time.*

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a business development company, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. Also, our credit facility limits our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions.

*If we are unable to manage our future growth effectively, we may be unable to achieve our investment objective, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and cause the value of your investment to decline.*

Our ability to achieve our investment objective will depend on our ability to sustain growth. Sustaining growth will depend, in turn, on our senior management team's ability to identify, evaluate, finance and invest in suitable companies that meet our investment criteria. Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of our marketing capabilities, our management of the investment process, our ability to provide efficient services and our access to financing sources on acceptable terms. Failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

*Our quarterly and annual operating results are subject to fluctuation as a result of the nature of our business, and if we fail to achieve our investment objective, the net asset value of our common stock may decline.*

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly and annual operating results due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including, but not limited to, the interest rate payable on the debt securities that we acquire, the default rate on such securities, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

In addition, any of these factors could negatively impact our ability to achieve our investment objectives, which may cause our net asset value of our common stock to decline.

*Fluctuations in interest rates may adversely affect our profitability.*

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A portion of our income will depend upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the interest rate on the debt securities in which we invest. Because we will borrow money to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the rate at which we invest these funds. Typically, we anticipate that our interest-earning investments will accrue and pay interest at fixed rates, and that our interest-bearing liabilities will accrue interest at variable rates. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income. We anticipate using a combination of equity and long-term and short-term borrowings to finance our investment activities.

A significant increase in market interest rates could harm our ability to attract new portfolio companies and originate new loans and investments. We expect that most of our initial investments in debt securities will be at

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fixed rates. However, in the event that we make investments in debt securities at variable rates, a significant increase in market interest rates could also result in an increase in our non-performing assets and a decrease in the value of our portfolio because our floating-rate loan portfolio companies may be unable to meet higher payment obligations. In periods of rising interest rates, our cost of funds would increase, resulting in a decrease in our net investment income. In addition, a decrease in interest rates may reduce net income, because new investments may be made at lower rates despite the increased demand for our capital that the decrease in interest rates may produce. We may, but will not be required to, hedge against the risk of adverse movement in interest rates in our short-term and long-term borrowings relative to our portfolio of assets. If we engage in hedging activities, it may limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to the hedged portfolio. Adverse developments resulting from changes in interest rates or hedging transactions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

***If we are unable to continue to borrow money in order to leverage our equity capital, then our ability to make new investments and to execute our business plan will be impaired.***

As of December 31, 2006, we had outstanding borrowings of \$41.0 million pursuant to the Citigroup Facility. We expect to incur additional indebtedness under our subsidiary's small business investment company license from the Small Business Administration. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in obtaining any additional debt capital on terms acceptable to us or at all. If we are unable to obtain debt capital, then our equity investors will not benefit from the potential for increased returns on equity resulting from leverage to the extent that our investment strategy is successful.

In addition, the terms of available financing may place limits on our financial and operating flexibility. If we are unable to obtain sufficient capital in the future, we may:

be forced to reduce our operations;

not be able to expand or acquire complementary businesses; and

not be able to develop new services or otherwise respond to changing business conditions or competitive pressures.

***It is likely that the terms of any long-term or revolving credit or warehouse facility we may enter into in the future could constrain our ability to grow our business.***

As of December 31, 2006, the Company, through Hercules Funding Trust I, an affiliated statutory trust, has a \$150 million securitized credit facility with Citigroup. We expect to enter into additional revolving credit or warehouse facilities in the future. While there can be no assurance that we will be able to borrow from banks or other financial institutions, we expect that we will, at some time in the future, obtain a long-term or revolving credit facility or a warehouse facility. The current lenders have, and any future lender or lenders will have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are senior to the claims of our stockholders and, thus, will have a preference over our stockholders with respect to our assets. In addition, we may grant a security interest in our assets in connection with any such borrowing. We expect such a facility to contain customary default provisions such as a minimum net worth amount, a profitability test, and a restriction on changing our business and loan quality standards. An event of default under any credit facility would likely result, among other things, in termination of the availability of further funds under that facility and an accelerated maturity date for all amounts outstanding under the facility, which would likely disrupt our business and, potentially, the business of the portfolio companies whose loans that we financed through the facility. This could reduce our revenues and, by delaying any cash payment allowed to us under our facility until the lender has been paid in full, reduce our liquidity and cash flow and impair our ability to grow our business and maintain our status as a RIC.

*Our cost of borrowing is increased by the warrant participation agreement we have with one of our lenders. In addition, our realized gains are reduced by amounts paid pursuant to the warrant participation agreement.*

Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to

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10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit ). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, we reduced our realized gain by approximately \$221,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and we recorded an additional liability and reduced our unrealized gain by approximately \$35,000 for Citigroup's participation in unrealized gains in the warrant portfolio. Since inception of the agreement, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$281,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. In addition, our realized gains will be reduced by the amounts owed to Citigroup under the warrant participation agreement. The value of Citigroup's participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$377,000 at December 31, 2006 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by us at December 31, 2006. Citigroup's rights under the warrant participation agreement increase our cost of borrowing and reduce our realized gains.

***If we are unable to satisfy Code requirements for qualification as a RIC, then we will be subject to corporate-level income tax, which would adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.***

We will elect to be treated as a RIC for federal income tax purposes with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. We will not qualify for the tax treatment allowable to RICs if we are unable to comply with the source of income, diversification and distribution requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code, or if we fail to maintain our election to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. If we fail to qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs for any reason and remain or become subject to a corporate-level income tax, the resulting taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution to our stockholders and the actual amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us, the net asset value of our common stock and the total return, if any, obtainable from your investment in our common stock. Any net operating losses that we incur in periods during which we qualify as a RIC will not offset net capital gains (i.e., net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses) that we are otherwise required to distribute, and we cannot pass such net operating losses through to our stockholders. In addition, net operating losses that we carry over to a taxable year in which we qualify as a RIC normally cannot offset ordinary income or capital gains.

***One of our wholly-owned subsidiaries is licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and as a result, we will be subject to SBA regulations.***

Our wholly-owned subsidiary HTII, is licensed to operate as a SBIC and is regulated by the U.S. Small Business Administration ( SBA ). The SBA regulations require that a licensed SBIC be periodically examined and audited by the SBA to determine its compliance with the relevant SBA regulations. If HTII fails to comply with applicable SBA regulations, the SBA could, depending on the severity of the violation, limit or prohibit the HTII's use of debentures, declare outstanding debentures immediately due and payable, and/or limit the HTII from making new investments. The SBA also imposes a limit on the maximum amount that may be borrowed by any single SBIC. The SBA prohibits, without prior SBA approval, a change of control of a SBIC or transfers that would result in any person (or a group of persons acting in concert) owning 10% or more of a class of capital stock of a licensed SBIC.

***Interpretations of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the appropriateness of the consolidation of certain of our subsidiaries may have an impact on our financial statements.***

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The staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Staff ) is reviewing the appropriateness of the consolidation of certain types of subsidiaries on an industry-wide basis under generally accepted accounting

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principles ( GAAP ) and Rule 6-03 of Regulation S-X. In connection with such review, the Staff is in the process of reviewing the appropriateness of our consolidation of certain of our subsidiaries (the Subsidiaries ). In the event that the Staff disagrees with our position with respect to the appropriateness of consolidation of any of the Subsidiaries, then we will make such additional disclosures and prospective changes in accounting methods as the Staff requires on a prospective basis which will be discussed and reviewed with us.

Although we believe that our consolidation of the Subsidiaries conforms with GAAP, there can be no assurance that the Staff will ultimately concur with our position. Such events could have a material impact on our future reported results.

### ***Changes in laws or regulations governing our business could negatively affect the profitability of our operations.***

Changes in the laws or regulations, or the interpretations of the laws and regulations, which govern business development companies, small business investment companies, RICs or non-depository commercial lenders could significantly affect our operations and our cost of doing business. We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations and are subject to judicial and administrative decisions that affect our operations, including our loan originations, maximum interest rates, fees and other charges, disclosures to portfolio companies, the terms of secured transactions, collection and foreclosure procedures, and other trade practices. If these laws, regulations or decisions change, or if we expand our business into jurisdictions that have adopted more stringent requirements than those in which we currently conduct business, then we may have to incur significant expenses in order to comply or we may have to restrict our operations. In addition, if we do not comply with applicable laws, regulations and decisions, then we may lose licenses needed for the conduct of our business and be subject to civil fines and criminal penalties, any of which could have a material adverse effect upon our business results of operations or financial condition.

## **Risks Related to Our Investments**

***Our investments are concentrated in a limited number of technology-related companies, which subjects us to the risk of significant loss if any of these companies default on their obligations under any of their debt securities that we hold, or if any of the technology-related industry sectors experience a downturn.***

We have invested and intend to continue investing in a limited number of technology-related companies. A consequence of this limited number of investments is that the aggregate returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of investments perform poorly or if we need to write down the value of any one investment. Beyond the asset diversification requirements to which we will be subject as a RIC, we do not have fixed guidelines for diversification or limitations on the size of our investments in any one portfolio company and our investments could be concentrated in relatively few issuers. In addition, we have invested in and intend to continue investing, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of our total assets (including the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in technology-related and life-science companies. As a result, a downturn in technology-related and life-science industry sectors could materially adversely affect us.

***Our investments may be concentrated in emerging-growth or expansion-stage portfolio companies, which may have limited operating histories and financial resources.***

We expect that our portfolio will continue to consist primarily of investments in emerging-growth and expansion-stage privately-owned businesses, which may have relatively limited operating histories. Compared to larger established or publicly-owned firms, these companies may

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be particularly vulnerable to economic downturns, may have more limited access to capital and higher funding costs, may have a weaker financial position and may need more capital to expand or compete. These businesses also may experience substantial variations in operating



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results. They may face intense competition, including from companies with greater financial, technical and marketing resources. Furthermore, some of these companies do business in regulated industries and could be affected by changes in government regulation. Accordingly, these factors could impair their cash flow or result in other events, such as bankruptcy, which could limit their ability to repay their obligations to us, and may adversely affect the return on, or the recovery of, our investment in these companies. We cannot assure you that any of our investments in our portfolio companies will be successful. Our portfolio companies compete with larger, established companies with greater access to, and resources for, further development in these new technologies. We may lose our entire investment in any or all of our portfolio companies.

***Our investment strategy focuses on technology-related and life-science companies, which are subject to many risks, including volatility, intense competition, shortened product life cycles and periodic downturns, and you could lose all or part of your investment.***

We have invested and will continue investing primarily in technology-related and life-science companies, many of which may have narrow product lines and small market shares, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions, as well as to general economic downturns. The revenues, income (or losses), and valuations of technology-related and life-science companies can and often do fluctuate suddenly and dramatically. In addition, technology-related markets are generally characterized by abrupt business cycles and intense competition. Beginning in mid-2000, there was substantial excess production capacity and a significant slowdown in many technology-related industries. This overcapacity, together with a cyclical economic downturn, resulted in substantial decreases in the market capitalization of many technology-related and life-science companies. While such valuations have recovered to some extent, such decreases in market capitalization may occur again, and any future decreases in technology-related and life-science company valuations may be substantial and may not be temporary in nature. Therefore, our portfolio companies may face considerably more risk of loss than do companies in other industry sectors.

Because of rapid technological change, the average selling prices of products and some services provided by technology-related and life-science companies have historically decreased over their productive lives. As a result, the average selling prices of products and services offered by technology-related and life-science companies may decrease over time, which could adversely affect their operating results, their ability to meet obligations under their debt securities and the value of their equity securities. This could, in turn, materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We have invested in and may continue investing in technology-related and life-science companies that do not have venture capital or private equity firms as equity investors, and these companies may entail a higher risk of loss than do companies with institutional equity investors, which could increase the risk of loss of your investment.***

Our portfolio companies will often require substantial additional equity financing to satisfy their continuing working capital and other cash requirements and, in most instances, to service the interest and principal payments on our investment. Portfolio companies that do not have venture capital or private equity investors may be unable to raise any additional capital to satisfy their obligations or to raise sufficient additional capital to reach the next stage of development. Portfolio companies that do not have venture capital or private equity investors may be less financially sophisticated and may not have access to independent members to serve on their boards, which means that they may be less successful than portfolio companies sponsored by venture capital or private equity firms. Accordingly, financing these types of companies may entail a higher risk of loss than would financing companies that are sponsored by venture capital or private equity firms.

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***Economic recessions or downturns could impair the ability of our portfolio companies to repay loans, which, in turn, could increase our non-performing assets, decrease the value of our portfolio, reduce our volume of new loans and harm our operating results, which might have an adverse effect on our results of operations.***

Many of our portfolio companies may be susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to repay our loans during such periods. Therefore, our non-performing assets are likely to increase and the value of our portfolio is likely to decrease during such periods. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us.

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, termination of the portfolio company's loans and foreclosure on its secured assets, which could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize the portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt securities that we hold. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting portfolio company. In addition, if a portfolio company goes bankrupt, even though we may have structured our investment as senior debt or secured debt, depending on the facts and circumstances, including the extent to which we actually provided significant managerial assistance, if any, to that portfolio company, a bankruptcy court might re-characterize our debt holding and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. These events could harm our financial condition and operating results.

We do not control our portfolio companies. These portfolio companies may face intense competition, including competition from companies with greater financial resources, more extensive research and development, manufacturing, marketing and service capabilities and greater number of qualified and experienced managerial and technical personnel. They may need additional financing which they are unable to secure and which we are unable or unwilling to provide, or they may be subject to adverse developments unrelated to the technologies they acquire.

***The inability of our portfolio companies to commercialize their technologies or create or develop commercially viable products or businesses would have a negative impact on our investment returns.***

The possibility that our portfolio companies will not be able to commercialize their technology, products or business concepts presents significant risks to the value of our investment. Additionally, although some of our portfolio companies may already have a commercially successful product or product line when we invest, technology-related and life-science products and services often have a more limited market- or life-span than have products in other industries. Thus, the ultimate success of these companies often depends on their ability to continually innovate, or raise additional capital, in increasingly competitive markets. Their inability to do so could affect our investment return. In addition, the intellectual property held by our portfolio companies often represents a substantial portion of the collateral, if any, securing our investments. We cannot assure you that any of our portfolio companies will successfully acquire or develop any new technologies, or that the intellectual property the companies currently hold will remain viable. Even if our portfolio companies are able to develop commercially viable products, the market for new products and services is highly competitive and rapidly changing. Neither our portfolio companies nor we have any control over the pace of technology development. Commercial success is difficult to predict, and the marketing efforts of our portfolio companies may not be successful.

***An investment strategy focused primarily on privately-held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies, a dependence on the talents and efforts of only a few key portfolio company personnel and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.***

We invest primarily in privately-held companies. Generally, very little public information exists about these companies, and we are required to rely on the ability of our management team to obtain adequate information to

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evaluate the potential returns from investing in these companies. If we are unable to uncover all material information about these companies, then we may not make a fully informed investment decision, and we may not receive the expected return on our investment or lose some or all of the money invested in these companies. Also, privately-held companies frequently have less diverse product lines and a smaller market presence than do larger competitors. Privately-held companies are, thus, generally more vulnerable to economic downturns and may experience more substantial variations in operating results than do larger competitors. These factors could affect our investment returns.

In addition, our success depends, in large part, upon the abilities of the key management personnel of our portfolio companies, who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of our portfolio companies. Competition for qualified personnel is intense at any stage of a company's development, and high turnover of personnel is common in technology-related companies. The loss of one or more key managers can hinder or delay a company's implementation of its business plan and harm its financial condition. Our portfolio companies may not be able to attract and retain qualified managers and personnel. Any inability to do so may negatively impact our investment returns.

***If our portfolio companies are unable to protect their intellectual property rights, then our business and prospects could be harmed. If our portfolio companies are required to devote significant resources to protecting their intellectual property rights, then the value of our investment could be reduced.***

Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon the ability of our portfolio companies to obtain and maintain proprietary technology used in their products and services, which will often represent a significant portion of the collateral, if any, securing our investment. The portfolio companies will rely, in part, on patent, trade secret and trademark law to protect that technology, but competitors may misappropriate their intellectual property, and disputes as to ownership of intellectual property may arise. Portfolio companies may, from time to time, be required to institute litigation in order to enforce their patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights, to protect their trade secrets, to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others or to defend against claims of infringement. Such litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources. Similarly, if a portfolio company is found to infringe upon or misappropriate a third party's patent or other proprietary rights, that portfolio company could be required to pay damages to such third party, alter its own products or processes, obtain a license from the third party and/or cease activities utilizing such proprietary rights, including making or selling products utilizing such proprietary rights. Any of the foregoing events could negatively affect both the portfolio company's ability to service our debt investment and the value of any related debt and equity securities that we own, as well as any collateral securing our investment.

***We may not be able to realize our entire investment on equipment-based loans in the case of default.***

We may from time-to-time provide loans that will be collateralized only by equipment of the portfolio company. If the portfolio company defaults on the loan we would take possession of the underlying equipment to satisfy the outstanding debt. The residual value of the equipment at the time we would take possession may not be sufficient to satisfy the outstanding debt and we could experience a loss on the disposition of the equipment.

***Some of our portfolio companies may need additional capital, which may not be readily available.***

Our portfolio companies will often require substantial additional equity financing to satisfy their continuing working capital and other requirements, and in most instances to service the interest and principal payments on our investment. Each round of venture financing is typically intended to provide a company with only enough capital to reach the next stage of development. We cannot predict the circumstances or market conditions under which our portfolio companies will seek additional capital. It is possible that one or more of our portfolio companies will not be able to raise additional financing or may be able to do so only at a price or on terms unfavorable to us, either of which would

negatively impact our investment returns. Some of these companies may be unable to obtain sufficient financing from private investors, public capital markets or traditional lenders.

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Accordingly, financing these types of companies may entail a higher risk of loss than would financing companies that are able to utilize traditional credit sources.

*We may be unable or decide not to make additional cash investments in our portfolio companies which could result in our losing our initial investment if the portfolio company fails.*

We may have to make additional cash investments in our portfolio companies to protect our overall investment value in the particular company. We retain the discretion to make any additional investments as our management determines. The failure to make such additional investments may jeopardize the continued viability of a portfolio company, and our initial (and subsequent) investments. Moreover, additional investments may limit the number of companies in which we can make initial investments. In determining whether to make an additional investment our management will exercise its business judgment and apply criteria similar to those used when making the initial investment. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient funds to make any necessary additional investments, which could adversely affect our success and result in the loss of a substantial portion or all of our investment in a portfolio company.

*If our investments do not meet our performance expectations, you may not receive distributions.*

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders. We may not be able to achieve operating results that will allow us to make distributions at a specific level or to increase the amount of these distributions from time to time. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a business development company, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. See Regulation. Also, restrictions and provisions in any future credit facilities may limit our ability to make distributions. If and when we qualify to be treated as a RIC, if we do not distribute a certain percentage of our income annually, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including failure to obtain, or possible loss of, the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company. We cannot assure you that you will receive distributions at a particular level or at all.

*Any unrealized depreciation that we experience on our loan portfolio may be an indication of future realized losses, which could reduce our income available for distribution.*

As a business development company, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at the fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors in accordance with procedures approved by our Board of Directors. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments will be recorded as unrealized depreciation. Any unrealized depreciation in our loan portfolio could be an indication of a portfolio company's inability to meet its repayment obligations to us with respect to the affected loans. This could result in realized losses in the future and ultimately in reductions of our income available for distribution in future periods.

*The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business and, if we need to sell any of our investments, we may not be able to do so at a favorable price. As a result, we may suffer losses.*

We generally invest in debt securities with terms of up to seven years and hold such investments until maturity, and we do not expect that our related holdings of equity securities will provide us with liquidity opportunities in the near-term. We invest and expect to continue investing in companies whose securities have no established trading market and whose securities are and will be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or whose securities are and will be less liquid than are publicly-traded securities. The illiquidity of these investments may make it difficult

for us to sell these investments when desired. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we had previously recorded these investments. As a result, we do not expect to achieve liquidity in our investments in the near-term. However, to maintain our qualification as a business development company and as a RIC, we may have to dispose of investments if we do not satisfy one or more of the applicable criteria under the

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respective regulatory frameworks. Our investments are usually subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale, or are otherwise illiquid, because there is usually no established trading market for such investments. The illiquidity of most of our investments may make it difficult for us to dispose of the investments at a favorable price and, as a result, we may suffer losses.

*If the assets securing the loans that we make decrease in value, then we may lack sufficient collateral to cover losses.*

We believe that our portfolio companies generally will be able to repay our loans from their available capital, from future capital-raising transactions, or from cash flow from operations. However, to attempt to mitigate credit risks, we will typically take a security interest in the available assets of these portfolio companies, including the equity interests of their subsidiaries and, in some cases, the equity interests of our portfolio companies held by their stockholders. In many cases, our loans will include a period of interest-only payments. There is a risk that the collateral securing our loans may decrease in value over time, may be difficult to sell in a timely manner, may be difficult to appraise and may fluctuate in value based upon the success of the business and market conditions, including as a result of the inability of a portfolio company to raise additional capital. In some circumstances, our lien could be subordinated to claims of other creditors. Additionally, a deterioration in a portfolio company's financial condition and prospects, including its inability to raise additional capital, may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of the collateral for the loan. Moreover, in the case of some of our structured mezzanine debt, we may not have a first lien position on the collateral. Consequently, the fact that a loan is secured does not guarantee that we will receive principal and interest payments according to the loan's terms, or that we will be able to collect on the loan should we be forced to enforce our remedies. In addition, because we invest in technology-related companies, a substantial portion of the assets securing our investment may be in the form of intellectual property, if any, inventory and equipment and, to a lesser extent, cash and accounts receivable. Intellectual property, if any, that is securing our loan could lose value if, among other things, the company's rights to the intellectual property are challenged or if the company's license to the intellectual property is revoked or expires. Inventory may not be adequate to secure our loan if our valuation of the inventory at the time that we made the loan was not accurate or if there is a reduction in the demand for the inventory. Similarly, any equipment securing our loan may not provide us with the anticipated security if there are changes in technology or advances in new equipment that render the particular equipment obsolete or of limited value, or if the company fails to adequately maintain or repair the equipment. Any one or more of the preceding factors could materially impair our ability to recover principal in a foreclosure.

*Our portfolio companies may incur debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.*

We invest primarily in debt securities issued by our portfolio companies. In some cases, portfolio companies will be permitted to have other debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, the debt securities in which we invest. Such debt instruments may provide that the holders thereof are entitled to receive payment of interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of the debt securities in which we invest. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of debt instruments ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company would typically be entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution in respect of our investment. After repaying such senior creditors, such portfolio company might not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of debt ranking equally with debt securities in which we invest, we would have to share on a pari passu basis any distributions with other creditors holding such debt in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy. In addition, we would not be in a position to control any portfolio company by investing in its debt securities. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we invest may make business decisions with which we disagree and the management of such companies, as representatives of the holders of their common equity, may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not best serve our interests as debt investors.



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*Our equity investments are highly speculative, and we may not realize gains from these investments. If our equity investments do not generate gains, then the return on our invested capital will be lower than it would otherwise be, which could result in a decline in the value of shares of our common stock.*

When we invest in debt securities, we generally expect to acquire warrants or other equity securities as well. Our goal is ultimately to dispose of these equity interests and realize gains upon disposition of such interests. Over time, the gains that we realize on these equity interests may offset, to some extent, losses that we experience on defaults under debt securities that we hold. However, the equity interests that we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses that we experience.

*We do not control any of our portfolio companies and therefore our portfolio companies may make decisions with which we disagree.*

We do not control any of our portfolio companies, even though we may have board observation rights and our debt agreements may contain certain restrictive covenants. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we invest may make business decisions with which we disagree and the management of such company, as representatives of the holders of their common equity, may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests as debt investors.

*Prepayments of our debt investments by our portfolio companies could adversely impact our results of operations and reduce our return on equity.*

We are subject to the risk that the investments we make in our portfolio companies may be repaid prior to maturity. When this occurs, we will generally reinvest these proceeds in temporary investments, pending their future investment in new portfolio companies. These temporary investments will typically have substantially lower yields than the debt being prepaid and we could experience significant delays in reinvesting these amounts. Any future investment in a new portfolio company may also be at lower yields than the debt that was repaid. As a result, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our portfolio companies elects to prepay amounts owed to us. Additionally, prepayments could negatively impact our return on equity, which could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock.

*We may not realize gains from our equity investments.*

When we invest in debt securities, we generally expect to acquire warrants or other equity securities as well. However, the equity interests we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses we experience.

## **Risks Related to an Offering of Our Shares**

*Our common stock price may be volatile and may decrease substantially.*

The trading price of our common stock following an offering may fluctuate substantially. The price of the common stock that will prevail in the market after an offering may be higher or lower than the price you paid and the liquidity of our common stock may be limited, in each case depending on many factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;

significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of RICs, business development companies or other financial services companies;

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any inability to deploy or invest our capital;

fluctuations in interest rates;

any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;

operating performance of companies comparable to us;

changes in regulatory policies or tax guidelines with respect to RICs or business development companies;

losing RIC status;

actual or anticipated changes in our earnings or fluctuations in our operating results, or changes in the expectations of securities analysts;

changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;

realized losses in investments in our portfolio companies;

general economic conditions and trends;

loss of a major funded source; or

departures of key personnel.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been brought against that company. Due to the potential volatility of our stock price, we may be the target of securities litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and could divert management's attention and resources from our business.

***We may be unable to invest the net proceeds raised from an offering on acceptable terms, which would harm our financial condition and operating results.***

Until we identify investments for our portfolio, we intend to invest the net proceeds from an offering in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities. We cannot assure you that we will be able to complete investments that meet our investment criteria or that any investment we complete using the proceeds from an offering will produce a sufficient return. Moreover, because we may not have identified all investments at the time of an offering, we will have broad authority to invest the net proceeds of an offering. We will not receive any proceeds from an offering by the selling holders.

*Investing in shares of our common stock may involve an above average degree of risk.*

The investments we make in accordance with our investment objective may result in a higher amount of risk, volatility or loss of principal than alternative investment options. Our investments in portfolio companies may be highly speculative and aggressive, and therefore, an investment in our common stock may not be suitable for investors with lower risk tolerance.

*We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not decline.*

We cannot predict the price at which our common stock will trade. Shares of closed-end investment companies have in the past frequently traded at discounts to their net asset values and our stock may also be discounted in the market. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether shares of our common stock will trade above, at or below our net asset value. The risk of loss associated with this characteristic of closed-end investment companies may be greater for investors expecting to sell shares of common stock purchased in this

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offer soon after the offer. In addition, if our common stock trades below its net asset value, we will generally not be able to issue additional shares of our common stock at its market price without first obtaining the approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors.

*Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, and of our charter and bylaws, could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.*

The Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying, or making difficult a change in control of our company or the removal of our incumbent directors. We will be covered by the Business Combination Act of the Maryland General Corporation Law to the extent that such statute is not superseded by applicable requirements of the 1940 Act. However, our Board of Directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and any person to the extent that such business combination receives the prior approval of our board, including a majority of our directors who are not interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act. Our Board of Directors has already adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management, LLC and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C., and we have agreed with such investment funds that we will not alter or repeal such board resolution prior to the date that is two years after such investment funds cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock in a manner that would make the Business Combination Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds without the written consent of such investment funds. In addition, our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Control Share Acquisition Act any and all acquisitions by any person of shares of our stock. We have agreed with certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management, LLC and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. that we will not repeal or amend such provision of our bylaws in a manner that would make the Control Share Acquisition Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds without the written consent of such investment funds prior to the date that is two years after such investment funds cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock. If the applicable board resolution is repealed following such period of time or if our board does not otherwise approve a business combination, the Business Combination Act and the Control Share Acquisition Act (if we amend our bylaws to be subject to that Act) may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

Under our charter, our Board of Directors is divided into three classes serving staggered terms, which will make it more difficult for a hostile bidder to acquire control of us. In addition, our Board of Directors may, without stockholder action, authorize the issuance of shares of stock in one or more classes or series, including preferred stock. See Description of Capital Stock. Subject to compliance with the 1940 Act, our Board of Directors may, without stockholder action, amend our charter to increase the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. The existence of these provisions, among others, may have a negative impact on the price of our common stock and may discourage third party bids for ownership of our company. These provisions may prevent any premiums being offered to you for shares of our common stock.

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS; MARKET DATA**

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

our future operating results;

our business prospects and the prospects of our prospective portfolio companies;

the impact of investments that we expect to make;

our informal relationships with third parties;

the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our regulatory structure and tax status;

our ability to operate as a business development company and a regulated investment company;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital; and

the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies.

For a discussion of factors that could cause our actual results to differ from forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, please see the discussion under Risk Factors. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus.

This prospectus contains third-party estimates and data regarding valuations of venture capital-backed companies. These data were reported by Dow Jones, VentureOne, an independent venture capital industry research company which we refer to as VentureOne. VentureOne is commonly relied upon as an information source in the venture capital industry. Although we have not independently verified any such data, we believe that the industry information contained in such releases and data tables and included in this prospectus is reliable.

Certain industry estimates presented in this prospectus have been compiled by us from internally generated information and data, which, while believed by us to be reliable, have not been verified by any independent sources. These estimates are based on a number of assumptions, including increasing investment in venture capital and private equity-backed companies. Actual results may differ from projections and estimates, and this market may not grow at the rates projected, or at all. The failure of this market to grow at projected rates could have a material adverse effect on our business and the market price of our common stock.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling shares of common stock for general corporate purposes, which include investing in debt and equity securities, repayment of indebtedness and other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling holders.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from any offering of our shares of common stock will be used as described above within twelve months, but in no event longer than two years. Pending such uses and investments, we will invest the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment.



**Table of Contents****PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HTGC. We completed the initial public offer of our common stock in June 2005 at a price of \$13.00 per share. Prior to such date, there was no public market for our common stock.

The following table sets forth the range of high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Market and the dividends declared by us for each fiscal quarter since our initial public offer. The stock quotations are interdealer quotations and do not include markups, markdowns or commissions.

	Price Range			Premium/ Discount of High Sales	Premium/ Discount of Low Sales	Cash Dividend
	NAV <sup>(1)</sup>	High	Low	Price to NAV	Price to NAV	per Share <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>2005</b>						
Second quarter (June 9, 2005 through June 30, 2005)	\$ 11.55	\$ 13.19	\$ 12.45	114.2%	107.8%	
Third quarter	\$ 11.71	\$ 14.41	\$ 11.90	123.1%	101.6%	\$ 0.025
Fourth quarter	\$ 11.67	\$ 12.68	\$ 9.71	108.7%	83.2%	\$ 0.300
<b>2006</b>						
First quarter	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.99	\$ 10.50	103.1%	90.3%	\$ 0.300
Second quarter	\$ 11.24	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.88	111.5%	96.8%	\$ 0.300
Third quarter	11.06	\$ 12.90	\$ 11.11	116.6%	100.5%	\$ 0.300
Fourth quarter	11.65	\$ 14.25	\$ 12.50	122.3%	107.3%	\$ 0.300
<b>2007</b>						
First quarter (through March 29, 2007)	*	14.50	12.98	*	*	

(1) Net asset value per share is generally determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.

(2) Represents the dividend declared in the specified quarter. As of the date of this prospectus, no dividend has been declared for the first quarter of 2007.

\* Net asset value has not yet been calculated for this period.

The last reported price for our common stock on March 29, 2007 was \$13.73 per share.

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

**Dividends**

The following table summarizes our dividends declared and paid on all shares, including restricted stock, to date:

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<b>Date Declared</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>Payment Date</b>	<b>Amount Per Share</b>
October 27, 2005	November 1, 2005	November 17, 2005	\$ 0.025
December 9, 2005	January 6, 2006	January 27, 2006	0.300
April 3, 2006	April 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	0.300
July 19, 2006	July 31, 2006	August 28, 2006	0.300
October 16, 2006	November 6, 2006	December 1, 2006	0.300
February 7, 2007	February 19, 2007	March 19, 2007	0.300
			\$ 1.525

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We intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. In order to avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we currently intend to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98% of our capital gains in excess of capital losses for the one year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any ordinary income and net capital gains for the preceding year that were not distributed during such year. We will not be subject to excise taxes on amounts on which we are required to pay corporate income tax (such as retained net capital gains). In order to obtain the tax benefits applicable to RICs, we will be required to distribute to our stockholders with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses. We currently intend to retain for investment some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses.

We generally intend as a RIC to make deemed distributions to our stockholders of any retained net capital gains. If this happens, you will be treated as if you received an actual distribution of the capital gains we retain and then reinvested the net after-tax proceeds in our common stock. You also may be eligible to claim a tax credit (or, in certain circumstances, a tax refund) equal to your allocable share of the tax we paid on the capital gains deemed distributed to you. Please refer to [Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations](#) for further information regarding the consequences of our retention of net capital gains. We may, in the future, make actual distributions to our stockholders of some or all realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses. We can offer no assurance that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions and, if we issue senior securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions if doing so causes us to fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios stipulated by the 1940 Act or if distributions are limited by the terms of any of our borrowings. See [Regulation](#).

We maintain an [opt-out dividend reinvestment plan](#) for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a dividend, cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock unless the stockholder specifically [opts out](#) of the dividend reinvestment plan and chooses to receive cash dividends. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#).

Our ability to make distributions will be limited by the asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act. For a more detailed discussion, see [Regulation](#).

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

*The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and other financial information appearing elsewhere in this report. In addition to historical information, the following discussion and other parts of this report contain forward-looking information that involves risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by such forward-looking information due to the factors discussed under Risk Factors, Forward-Looking Statements; Market Data appearing elsewhere herein.*

**Overview**

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development. We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain publicly-traded companies. Our principal office is located in the Silicon Valley and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity investments. We use the term structured mezzanine debt investment to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We are an internally managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. As a business development company, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in qualifying assets, including securities of private U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less.

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code as of January 1, 2006. To qualify for the benefits allowable to a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification and income distribution requirements. If we qualify for RIC tax benefits, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders. However, qualification to be treated as a RIC requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. For example, a RIC must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements, in order to obtain RIC tax treatment. The income source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase our investment activity in established companies, comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.



**Table of Contents****Asset Management**

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to funds that may be formed in the future. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

We have adopted an investment conflict policy to address any potential conflicts arising out of our role as an asset manager. Pursuant to the policy, the investment committee will also consider the investment criteria and objectives (including but not limited to, the stage of the borrower's development, the length of the term of the loan, the type of collateral to secure the loan, and the purpose for which the proceeds of the loan will be used by the borrower) in order to make a fair determination as to which investment vehicle would be appropriate to make the investment.

With respect to equity investments in which the opportunity does not arise pursuant to a pre-existing contractual right granted to a particular investment vehicle, the investment committee shall determine in its reasonable judgment which investment vehicle is best suited to make the investment, provided that the investment committee may determine that allocating the opportunity between investment vehicles is reasonable. Notwithstanding this policy, we may nevertheless face conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities. As a result, it is possible that we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain investments made by investment funds managed by us.

**Portfolio and Investment Activity**

The total value of our investment portfolio was \$283.2 million at December 31, 2006, as compared to \$176.7 million at December 31, 2005. During the year ended December 31, 2006, we made debt commitments to 32 portfolio companies totaling \$239.5 million and funded \$193.0 million to 35 companies. We also made equity investments in five portfolio companies totaling \$3.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2006, bringing total equity investments at fair value to approximately \$8.1 million at December 31, 2006. The fair value of our warrant portfolio at December 31, 2006 and 2005, was \$8.4 million and \$5.2 million respectively. At December 31, 2006, we had unfunded contractual commitments of \$55.5 million to 16 portfolio companies.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, we received normal principal repayments of \$45.7 million, a total of eight companies made early repayments totaling \$41.9 million, and we received pay downs of \$3.7 million on one working line of credit. Total portfolio investment activity (exclusive of unearned income) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2006 was as follows:

(\$ in millions)	December 31, 2006
Beginning Portfolio	\$ 176.7
Purchase of investments	193.0
Equity Investments	3.0
Sale of Equity Investments	(0.3)
Principal payments received on investments	(45.7)
Early pay-offs and recoveries	(41.9)
Accretion of loan discounts	1.7
Net realized and unrealized change in investments	(3.3)

Ending Portfolio

\$ 283.2

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The following table shows the fair value of our portfolio of investments by asset class as of December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 (excluding unearned income):

(\$ in millions)	December 31, 2006		December 31, 2005	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
Senior debt with warrants	\$ 273.2	96.5%	\$ 168.4	95.3%
Subordinated debt	1.9	0.7%	3.4	1.9%
Preferred stock	8.1	2.8%	3.5	2.0%
Common stock		0.0%	1.4	0.8%
	\$ 283.2	100.0%	\$ 176.7	100.0%

A summary of the company's investment portfolio at value by geographic location is as follows:

(\$ in millions)	December 31, 2006		December 31, 2005	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
United States	\$ 269.0	95.0%	\$ 155.9	88.2%
Canada	10.5	3.7%	16.8	9.5%
Israel	3.7	1.3%	4.0	2.3%
	\$ 283.2	100.0%	\$ 176.7	100.0%

Our portfolio companies are primarily small and medium sized companies in the biopharmaceutical, communications and networking, consumer and business products, electronics and computers, medical device, semiconductor and software industry sectors. These sectors are characterized by high margins, high growth rates, consolidation and product and market extension opportunities. Value is often vested in intangible assets and intellectual property.

The largest companies vary from year to year as new loans are recorded and loans pay off. Loan revenue, consisting of interest, fees, and recognition of gains on equity interests, can fluctuate dramatically when a loan is paid off or a related equity interest is sold. Revenue recognition in any given year can be highly concentrated among several portfolio companies. For years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, our ten largest portfolio companies represented approximately 43.4% and approximately 58.7% of the total fair value of our investments. We had four investments that represent 5% or more of the fair value of its investments at December 31, 2006. At December 31, 2006, we had eleven equity investments which represented 100% of the total fair value of its equity investments and each represents 5% or more of the total fair value of such investments.

The following table shows the fair value of our portfolio by industry sector at December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 (excluding unearned income):

(\$ in millions)	December 31, 2006	December 31, 2005
	Investments at Fair Value	Investments at Fair Value



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		Percentage of Total Portfolio		Percentage of Total Portfolio
Biopharmaceuticals	\$ 115.4	40.7%	\$ 43.6	24.7%
Software	40.5	14.3%	29.0	16.4%
Electronics & computer hardware	30.6	10.8%	17.8	10.1%
Consumer & business products	22.0	7.8%	19.8	11.2%
Communications & networking	19.5	6.9%	32.5	18.4%
Medical devices & equipment	19.4	6.9%	14.8	8.4%
Semiconductors	15.9	5.6%	10.5	5.9%
Internet consumer & business services	11.7	4.1%	8.7	4.9%
Energy	8.2	2.9%		0.0%
	\$ 283.2	100.0%	\$ 176.7	100.0%

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We use an investment grading system, which grades each debt investment on a scale of 1 to 5, to characterize and monitor our expected level of returns on the debt investments in our portfolio with 1 being the highest quality. See Business Investment Process Loan and Compliance Administration. The following table shows the distribution of our outstanding debt investments on the 1 to 5 investment grading scale at fair value as of December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005:

(\$ in millions)	December 31, 2006		December 31, 2005	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
<b>Investment Grading</b>				
1	\$ 9.2	3.5%	\$ 9.9	5.8%
2	220.4	82.6	150.3	87.5
3	29.3	11.0	5.8	3.4
4	7.8	2.9	4.5	2.6
5			1.3	0.7
	\$ 266.7	100.0%	\$ 171.8	100.00%

As of December 31, 2006, our investments had a weighted average investment grading of 2.14 as compared to 2.05 at December 31, 2005. Our policy is to reduce the grading on our portfolio companies as they approach the point in time when they will require additional equity capital. Additionally, we may downgrade our portfolio companies if they are not meeting our financing criteria and their respective business plans. Various companies in our portfolio will require additional funding in the near term or have not met their business plans and have therefore been downgraded until the funding is complete or their operations improve. At December 31, 2006, eight portfolio companies have been graded at 3 and three portfolio companies have been graded 4 as compared to four and one portfolio companies, respectively, at December 31, 2005.

At December 31, 2006, the weighted average yield to maturity of our loan obligations was approximately 12.64%, down slightly compared to 12.87% at December 31, 2005, attributed to expansion to both early stage companies and asset based financing offered to more mature companies seeking revolver type financing solutions. Yields to maturity are computed using interest rates as of December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 and include amortization of loan facility fees, commitment fees and market premiums or discounts over the expected life of the debt investments, weighted by their respective costs when averaged and are based on the assumption that all contractual loan commitments have been fully funded.

We generate revenue in the form of interest income, primarily from our investments in debt securities, and commitment and facility fees. Fees generated in connection with our debt investments are recognized over the life of the loan or, in some cases, recognized as earned. In addition, we generate revenue in the form of capital gains, if any, on warrants or other equity-related securities that we acquire from our portfolio companies. Our investments generally range from \$1.0 million to \$25.0 million, with an average initial principal balance of between \$3.0 million and \$7.0 million. Our debt investments have a term of between two and seven years and typically bear interest at a rate ranging from 8.0% to 14.0% (based on current interest rate conditions). In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, our loans may also include any of the following: end-of-term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees, prepayment fees, and diligence fees, which may be required to be included in income prior to receipt. In some cases, we collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases, we may obtain a negative pledge covering a company's intellectual property. Interest on debt securities is generally payable monthly, with amortization of principal typically occurring over the term of the security for emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies. In addition, certain loans may include an interest-only period ranging from three to twelve months. In limited instances in which we choose to defer amortization of the loan for a period of time from the date of the initial investment, the principal amount of the debt securities

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and any accrued but unpaid interest become due at the maturity date. Our mezzanine debt investments also generally have equity enhancement features, typically in the form of warrants or other equity-related securities designed to provide us with an opportunity for capital appreciation.

### **Results of Operations**

#### **Comparison of periods ended December 31, 2006 and 2005**

##### ***Operating Income***

Interest income totaled approximately \$26.3 million and \$9.8 million for 2006 and 2005, respectively. In 2006 and 2005, interest income included approximately \$713,000 and \$351,000 of income from accrued exit fees. Income from commitment and facility fees totaled approximately \$3.2 million and \$875,000 for 2006 and 2005, respectively. The increase in both interest and fee income was directly related to increases in origination activity as net investments at fair value grew by \$106.5 million during 2006. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, we had approximately \$3.4 million and \$2.7 million of deferred income related to commitment and facility fees.

##### ***Operating Expenses***

Operating expenses totaled approximately \$18.4 million and \$9.1 million during 2006 and 2005, respectively. Operating expenses for 2006 and 2005 included interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility and the Citigroup Facility of approximately \$6.6 million and \$2.9 million, respectively. The increase in interest expense was due to a higher average debt balance of \$70.7 million in 2006 as compared to \$20.3 million in 2005. Employee compensation and benefits were approximately \$5.8 million and \$3.7 million during 2006 and 2005, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and benefits is due to increased number of employees from 19 to 26 and bonuses of approximately \$2.2 million accrued in 2006. General and administrative expenses increased to \$5.4 million in 2006 from \$2.3 million in 2005 primarily due to increased Board of Directors costs, legal expenses, professional service costs related to our status as a public company and the creation of our SBIC subsidiaries as well as increased expenses associated with operating a business development company. In addition, we incurred approximately \$618,000 of stock-based compensation expense in 2006 as compared to \$252,000 in 2005. The increase in stock-based compensation expense was due to the additional stock option grants made in 2006. We anticipate that operating expenses will increase over the next twelve months as we continue to incur higher interest expense on higher average outstanding debt balances, increase the number of our employees to support our growth and incur additional expenses related to being a public company, including expenses related to continued compliance requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

##### ***Net Investment Income (Loss) Before Income Tax Expense and Investment Gains and Losses***

Net investment income before income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2006 totaled \$11.1 million as compared with a net investment income before income tax expense in 2005 of approximately \$1.5 million. This change is made up of the items described above.

##### ***Net Investment Gains***

In 2006, we generated realized gains totaling approximately \$3.3 million from the sale of common stock of one communications and networking company, one internet consumer and business services company and two biopharmaceutical companies. We recognized realized losses in 2006 of approximately \$4.9 million on the disposition of loans to two portfolio companies. We recognized a realized gain of approximately \$482,000 during the year ended December 31, 2005 from the sale of common stock of one biopharmaceutical portfolio company. During 2006, we reversed approximately \$162,000 of net unrealized gains to realized gains.

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For the year ended December 31, 2006, net unrealized investment appreciation totaled approximately \$2.5 million. The net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments is based on portfolio asset valuations determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Valuation Committee. For the year ended December 31, 2006, we recognized approximately \$4.9 million of gross unrealized appreciation on 11 of our portfolio companies and approximately \$1.6 million of gross unrealized depreciation on 41 of our portfolio companies. As of December 31, 2006, the net unrealized investment gains recognized by the company were reduced by approximately \$377,000 for a warrant participation agreement with Citigroup. For a more detailed discussion, see Borrowings.

### ***Income Taxes***

Through December 31, 2005, we were taxed under Subchapter C of the Code and recorded a tax expense of \$255,000 for 2005. We will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our 2006 federal income tax return, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. Provided we continue to qualify for RIC tax treatment, our income generally will not be subject to federal income or excise tax to the extent we make the requisite distributions to stockholders. We have distributed and currently intend to distribute sufficient dividends to eliminate our investment company taxable income for 2006. As such, no provision for Federal or state income taxes related to operations in 2006 was required.

At December 31, 2005, the Company had a deferred tax asset of approximately \$1,454,000 which was adjusted through operations during the first quarter of 2006. Upon the determination that we would qualify as a RIC, any remaining deferred tax asset was reversed. We elected to recognize all of our net built-in gains at the time of the conversion to a RIC and paid tax on the built-in gains with the filing of our 2005 tax return. In making this election, our portfolio was marked to market at the time of the RIC election and we paid approximately \$294,000 in federal and state tax on the resulting taxable gain. In addition, upon completion of the 2005 tax returns, we recorded an additional tax benefit of approximately \$345,000.

To qualify as a RIC we were required by December 31, 2006 to distribute our earnings and profits while we were taxable as a C corporation. During 2006, we distributed \$1.20 per share to our shareholders, of which approximately \$0.09 was deemed to be a distribution of these accumulated earnings and profits, \$0.97 was deemed to be a distribution of 2006 income and \$0.14 was a return of capital. The distribution of our income and our accumulated earnings and profits is considered ordinary income to our shareholders in 2006.

### ***Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations and Earnings Per Share***

For the year ended December 31, 2006 net income totaled approximately \$11.4 million compared to net income of approximately \$2.1 million for the period ended December 31, 2005. These changes are made up of the items previously described.

Basic net income per share was \$0.85 and fully diluted net income per share was \$0.84 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to basic and diluted net income per share of \$0.30 per share for the period ended December 31, 2005. The net income per share for 2006 was affected by an increase in the weighted average shares outstanding of approximately 6.4 million shares and 6.5 million shares on a basic and diluted basis, respectively, in 2006 as compared to 2005.

### **Comparison of periods ended December 31, 2005 and 2004**

*Operating Income*

Interest income totaled approximately \$9.8 million and \$214,000 for 2005 and 2004, respectively. In 2005, interest income included approximately \$351,000 of revenue from accrued exit fees. Income from commitment

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and facility fees totaled approximately \$875,000 and \$0 for 2005 and 2004, respectively. The increases are the result of origination activity and yield from investments. At December 31, 2005, we had approximately \$2.7 million of deferred revenue related to commitment and facility fees. We expect to generate additional interest income and loan commitment fees as we continue to originate additional investments.

### ***Operating Expenses***

Operating expenses totaled approximately \$9.1 million and \$2.3 million during 2005 and 2004, respectively. Operating expenses for 2005 included interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility and the Citigroup Facility of approximately \$2.9 million. There were no interest or loan fees in 2004. Employee compensation and benefits were approximately \$3.7 million and \$1.2 million during 2005 and 2004, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and benefits is due to increased number of employees from 11 to 19 and bonuses of approximately \$1.3 million paid in 2005. General and administrative expenses increased to \$2.3 million from \$411,000 in 2004 primarily due to increased legal expenses, professional service costs related to our status as a public company and the creation of our SBIC subsidiaries as well as increased business development expenses. In addition, we incurred approximately \$252,000 of stock-based compensation expense in 2005 as compared to \$680,000 in 2004. The decrease in stock-based compensation expense was due to the immediate vesting of certain options granted in 2004. We anticipate that operating expenses will increase over the next twelve months as we continue to incur higher interest expense on higher average outstanding debt balances, increase the number of our employees to support our growth and incur additional expenses related to being a public company, including expenses related to the implementation of the requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

### ***Net Investment Income (Loss) Before Income Tax Expense and Investment Gains and Losses***

Net investment income before income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2005 totaled \$1.5 million as compared with a net investment loss before income tax expense in 2004 of approximately \$2.0 million. This change is made up of the items described above.

### ***Net Investment Gains***

For the period ended December 31, 2005, net unrealized investment appreciation totaled approximately \$353,000. The net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments is based on portfolio asset valuations determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Valuation Committee of our Board of Directors. For the year ended December 31, 2005, we recognized approximately \$4.1 million of gross unrealized appreciation on 14 of our portfolio investment companies and approximately \$3.4 million of gross unrealized depreciation on 15 of our portfolio investment companies. Approximately \$3.3 million of the unrealized depreciation was due to a reduction in the fair value of a loan to one portfolio company. The net unrealized investment gains recognized by the company were reduced by approximately \$342,000 for a warrant participation agreement with Citigroup. We generated a net realized gain totaling approximately \$482,000 from the sale of common stock of one biopharmaceutical portfolio company. We did not recognize any realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period ended December 31, 2004.

### ***Income Taxes***

We account for income taxes in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, which requires that deferred income taxes be determined based upon the estimated future tax effects of differences between the financial

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statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities given the provisions of the enacted tax law. Valuation allowances are used to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount likely to be realized.

We will be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code for 2006. However, such an election and qualification to be treated as a RIC requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M



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of the Code. For example, in order to obtain RIC tax treatment a RIC must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements. The income source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

As such, we reported our financial position and results of operations under Subchapter C of the Code prior to 2006. As a C corporation, we accrued income tax expense on a quarterly basis until we were able to reasonably determine that we qualified as a RIC under requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. During 2006, we were able to reasonably determine that we could qualify as a RIC, and we accordingly reversed the income tax expense recorded during 2006 and adjusted through operations the \$1.4 million deferred tax asset on our balance sheet at December 31, 2005. If we had been able to make the determination as of December 31, 2005, the impact of charging the deferred tax to operations would have reduced our NAV by approximately \$0.15 per share.

### ***Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations and Earnings Per Share***

For the year ended December 31, 2005 net income totaled approximately \$2.1 million compared to a net loss of approximately \$2.0 million for the period ended December 31, 2004. These changes are made up of the items previously described.

Basic and diluted net income per share for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$0.30 as compared to a basic loss per share of \$1.72 and diluted loss per share of \$1.58 for the period ended December 31, 2004. The net income per share for 2005 was affected by an increase in the number of average shares outstanding in 2005 as compared to 2004 of approximately 5.9 million shares and 5.7 million shares on a basic and diluted basis, respectively.

### **Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources**

At December 31, 2006, we had approximately \$16.4 million in cash and cash equivalents and available borrowing capacity approximately \$109.0 million under our Citigroup Facility, subject to existing terms and advance rates. We primarily invest cash on hand in interest bearing deposit accounts.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, net cash used in operating activities totaled approximately \$91.3 million as compared to \$156.1 million in 2005. This decrease was due primarily due to proceeds of \$87.5 million in principal repayments offset by \$196.0 million used for investments in our portfolio companies as compared to \$18.8 million in principal repayments offset by \$177.8 million used for investments in 2005. Cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2006 totaled \$1.5 million and was used for the purchase of capital equipment and other long-term assets. Net cash provided by financing activities totaled \$93.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. In 2006, we received approximately \$143.0 million in net proceeds from the sale of common stock, and made cash dividend payments of \$14.2 million. During the year ended December 31, 2006, we fully repaid \$25.0 million under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility to an affiliate of Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. and repaid a net \$10.0 million under our Citigroup Facility.

As of December 31, 2006, net assets totaled \$255.4 million, with a net asset value per share of \$11.65. We intend to generate additional cash primarily from equity capital, future borrowings as well as cash flows from operations, including income earned from investments in our portfolio companies and, to a lesser extent, from the temporary investment of cash in U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt

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investments that mature in one year or less. Our primary use of funds will be investments in portfolio companies and cash distributions to holders of our common stock. After we have used our current capital resources, we expect to raise additional capital to support our future growth through future equity offerings, issuances of senior securities and/or future borrowings, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

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As required by the 1940 Act, our asset coverage must be at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. Our asset coverage as of December 31, 2006 was approximately 723%.

We anticipate that we will continue to fund our investment activities through a combination of debt and additional equity capital over the next year. As of December 31, 2006, we had \$41.0 million outstanding under the Citigroup Facility. Advances under the Facility bear interest at one-month LIBOR plus 165 basis points. As of December 31, 2006, based on \$164.9 million of eligible loans in the collateral pool and existing advance rates, we have access to approximately \$49.6 million of borrowing capacity available under our existing \$150.0 million securitized credit facility from Citigroup. As additional new loans are funded and pledged as collateral, we will be able to increase our borrowing capacity under the Citigroup Facility beyond the current \$49.6 million. In addition, Citigroup has an equity participation right of 10% of the realized gains on warrants collateralized under the Citigroup Facility. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of the participation right. We anticipate that portfolio fundings entered into in succeeding periods will allow us to utilize the full borrowing capacity of the Citigroup Facility.

On September 27, 2006, HTII received a license to operate as a Small Business Investment Company under the SBIC program and will be able to borrow funds from the SBA against eligible previously approved investments and additional contributions to regulatory capital. On January 30, 2007, HTII received notification that its initial application for leverage under its SBC license was approved allowing HTII to commence drawing up to \$50.0 million of leverage under its first tranche of capital from the SBA. At December 31, 2006, we had a net investment of \$10.4 million in HTII, and there are 4 outstanding investments in the amount of \$11.1 million and we have not drawn any leverage. HTM is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. The Company is the sole limited partner of HTII and HTM is the general partner.

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the Company raised approximately \$104.1 million, net of estimated issuance costs, in a public offering of 8.2 million shares of common stock. The net proceeds from the sale of the shares in the offering were used to reduce credit borrowings, originate investments and for general corporate purposes. We believe these funding sources combined with cash on hand at December 31, 2006, cash provided from operations and financing activities will allow us to continue investing activities for 5 to 9 months.

## **Off Balance Sheet Arrangements**

In the normal course of business, we are party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk. These consist primarily of unfunded commitments to extend credit, in the form of loans, to our portfolio companies. Unfunded commitments to provide funds to portfolio companies will not be reflected on our balance sheet. Our unfunded commitments may be significant from time to time. As of December 31, 2006, we had unfunded commitments of approximately \$55.5 million. These commitments will be subject to the same underwriting and ongoing portfolio maintenance as are the on-balance sheet financial instruments that we hold. Since these commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amount does not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

## **Contractual Obligations**

Future commitments under the credit facility and operating leases were as follows at December 31, 2006:

### **Payments due by period**

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Contractual Obligations <sup>(1)</sup>	(dollars in thousands)				After 5 years
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	
Borrowings <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 41,000	\$ 41,000	\$	\$	\$
Operating Lease Obligations	3,268	482	1,374	986	426
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,268</b>	<b>\$ 41,482</b>	<b>\$ 1,374</b>	<b>\$ 986</b>	<b>\$ 426</b>

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- (1) Excludes commitments to extend credit to our portfolio companies.
- (2) Borrowings under our Citigroup credit facility are listed based on the contractual maturity of the credit facility. Actual repayments could differ significantly due to prepayments by our existing portfolio companies, modifications of our current agreements with our existing portfolio companies and modification of the credit facility. See Borrowings.

### **Borrowings**

In April 2005, we entered into a bridge loan credit facility with Alcmene, a special purpose vehicle that is an affiliate of Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C., a shareholder of Hercules, which we refer to as the Bridge Loan Credit Facility. The Bridge Loan Credit Facility was a \$25 million secured term loan, which provided for \$25 million of available borrowings, all of which was drawn down on April 12, 2005.

On August 1, 2005, we amended our Bridge Loan Credit Facility with Alcmene Funding, LLC. The amended agreement extended the term of the loan to April 12, 2006, eliminated the loan extension fee, revised the interest rate effective August 1, 2005 to LIBOR plus 5.6% through December 31, 2005 and thereafter to 13.5% per annum, and amended certain collateral rights and financial covenants. At December 31, 2005, the interest rate under the Bridge Loan Credit Facility was 9.76% per year. We had \$25.0 million of outstanding borrowings under the Bridge Loan Credit Facility at December 31, 2005. On March 6, 2006, we repaid \$10 million of the Bridge Loan Credit Facility, and the interest rate was reduced to 10.86%. On May 10, 2006, we repaid the remaining \$15.0 million of the Bridge Loan Credit Facility and paid a \$500,000 loan fee due on maturity and all accrued and unpaid interest through the date of repayment. At December 31, 2006, the Bridge Loan Credit Facility was no longer outstanding.

On August 1, 2005, we, through Hercules Funding Trust I, our affiliated statutory trust, executed a \$100 million securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp., which we refer to as the Citigroup Facility. Our ability to make draws on the Citigroup Facility expires on July 31, 2007 as the result of an extension for an additional one year period under the existing terms and conditions. The Citigroup Facility is collateralized by loans and warrants from our portfolio companies, and includes an advance rate of approximately 55% of eligible loans. Interest on borrowings under the Citigroup Facility will be paid monthly and will be charged at one-month LIBOR plus a spread of 1.65%. We also paid a loan origination fee equal to 0.25% of the Citigroup Facility and will be subject to an unused commitment fee of 0.25%. On March 6, 2006, the Company amended the Citigroup Facility with an agreement that increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$125.0 million. On December 6, 2006, the Company amended the Citigroup Facility with an agreement that increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$150.0 million. On March 30, 2007, the agreement was amended extending the \$150.0 million borrowing capacity to July 31, 2007 and the interest charged on the facility was reduced to LIBOR plus 1.20%.

The Citigroup Facility contains covenants that, among other things, require the Company to maintain a minimum net worth and to restrict the loans securing the Citigroup Facility to certain dollar amounts, to concentrations in certain geographic regions and industries, to certain loan grade classifications, to certain security interests, and to certain interest payment terms. Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants collateralized under the Citigroup Facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, the Company granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup Facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached. During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company reduced its realized gain by approximately \$221,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and recorded an additional liability and reduced its unrealized gains by a net amount of approximately \$35,000 for Citigroup's participation. The value of their participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$377,000 at December 31, 2006 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by the Company at December 31, 2006. Since inception of the agreement, the Company has paid Citigroup approximately \$281,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains.



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We plan to aggregate pools of funded loans using the Citigroup Facility or other conduits that we may seek until a sufficiently large pool of funded loans is created which can then be securitized. We expect that any loans included in a securitization facility will be securitized on a non-recourse basis with respect to the credit losses on the loans. There can be no assurance that we will be able to complete this securitization strategy, or that it will be successful.

**Dividends**

The following table summarizes our dividends declared and paid on all shares to date:

<b>Date Declared</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>Payment Date</b>	<b>Amount Per Share</b>
October 27, 2005	November 1, 2005	November 17, 2005	\$ 0.025
December 9, 2005	January 6, 2006	January 27, 2006	0.300
April 3, 2006	April 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	0.300
July 19, 2006	July 31, 2006	August 28, 2006	0.300
October 16, 2006	November 6, 2006	December 1, 2006	0.300
February 7, 2007	February 19, 2007	March 19, 2007	0.300
			\$ 1.525

During 2006, we distributed \$1.20 per share to our shareholders of which approximately \$0.09 was deemed to be a distribution of these accumulated earnings and profits, \$0.97 was deemed to be a distribution of 2006 income and \$0.14 was a return of capital.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and revenues and expenses during the period reported. On an ongoing basis, our management evaluates its estimates and assumptions, which are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Changes in our estimates and assumptions could materially impact our results of operations and financial condition.

**Valuation of Portfolio Investments.** The most significant estimate inherent in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements is the valuation of investments and the related amounts of unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments recorded.

As a BDC, we invest primarily in illiquid securities, including debt and equity-related securities of private companies. Our investments are generally subject to some restrictions on resale and generally have no established trading market. Because of the type of investments that we make and the nature of our business, our valuation process requires an analysis of various factors. Our valuation methodology includes the examination of, among other things, the underlying investment performance, financial condition and market changing events that impact valuation.

At December 31, 2006, approximately 94% of our total assets represented investments in portfolio companies of which greater than 99% are valued at fair value by the Board of Directors. Value, as defined in Section 2(a) (41) of the 1940 Act, is (i) the market price for those securities for which a market quotation is readily available and (ii) for all other securities and assets, fair value is as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors. Since there is typically no readily available market value for the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board pursuant to a valuation policy and a consistent valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty in determining the fair value



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of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments determined in good faith by our board may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. As a result, determining fair value requires that judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment. Unlike banks, we are not permitted to provide a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we must determine the fair value of each individual investment on a quarterly basis. We will record unrealized depreciation on investments when we believe that an investment has decreased in value, including where collection of a loan or realization of an equity security is doubtful. Conversely, where appropriate, we will record unrealized appreciation if we believe that the underlying portfolio company has appreciated in value and, therefore, that our investment has also appreciated in value.

With respect to private debt and equity securities, each investment is valued using industry valuation benchmarks, and, where appropriate, the value is assigned a discount reflecting the illiquid nature of the investment, and our minority, non-control position. When a qualifying external event such as a significant purchase transaction, public offering, or subsequent debt or equity sale occurs, the pricing indicated by the external event will be used to corroborate our private debt or equity valuation.

**Interest Income.** Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis to the extent that such amounts are expected to be collected. Original issue discounts are amortized into interest income as adjustments to the related loan's yield over the contractual life of the loan. We stop accruing interest on our investments when it is determined that interest may no longer collectible.

**Fee Income.** Fee income includes loan commitment and facility fees for due diligence and structuring, as well as fees for transaction services and management services rendered by us to portfolio companies and other third parties. Loan and commitment fees are amortized into income over the contractual life of the loan. Management fees are generally recognized as income when the services are rendered.

**Stock-Based Compensation.** We have issued and may, from time to time, issue additional stock options to employees under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan. We follow Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payments* ( FAS 123R ), to account for stock options granted. Under FAS 123R, compensation expense associated with stock-based compensation is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized.

## **Recent Developments**

On January 3, 2007, in connection with our December 12, 2006 secondary offering, the underwriters exercised their over-allotment option and purchased an additional 840,000 shares of our common stock for additional gross proceeds to the company of approximately \$11.0 million.

On January 30, 2007, HTII received notification that its initial application for leverage under its SBC license was approved allowing HTII to commence drawing up to \$50.0 million of leverage under its first tranche of capital from the SBA.

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On March 7, 2007, the Board of Directors increased our authorized shares by 30 million to 60 million.

During February 2007, Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. and its related affiliates and Manuel Henriquez, the Company's CEO, exercised warrants to purchase 132,480 and 75,075 shares of our common stock. The exercise price of the warrants was \$10.57 per share resulting in net proceeds to us of approximately \$2.2 million.

On March 30, 2007, our borrowing capacity of \$150.0 million under the Citigroup facility was extended through July 31, 2007 and the interest rate charged on the facility was reduced to LIBOR plus 1.20%.

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**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

On July 13, 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) released FASB Interpretation No. 48 *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* ( FIN 48 ). FIN 48 provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, presented and disclosed in the financial statements. FIN 48 requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing The Company's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more-likely-than-not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold would be recorded as a tax benefit or expense in the current year. Adoption of FIN 48 is required for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006 and is to be applied to all open tax years as of the effective date. At this time, management is evaluating the implications of FIN 48 and its impact in the financial statements has not yet been determined.

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement on Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* ( FAS 157 ). This standard clarifies the definition of fair value for financial reporting, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires additional disclosures about the use of fair value measurements. FAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. As of December 31, 2006, the Company does not believe the adoption of FAS 157 will impact the amounts reported in the financial statements, however, additional disclosures will be required about the inputs used to develop the measurements of fair value and the effect of certain of the measurements reported in the statement of operations for a fiscal period.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates. As of December 31, 2006, 36 loans in our portfolio were at fixed rates and 14 loans were at variable rates. Over time additional investments may be at variable rates. We may, in the future, hedge against interest rate fluctuations by using standard hedging instruments such as futures, options, and forward contracts. While hedging activities may insulate us against changes in interest rates, they may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our borrowed funds and higher interest rates with respect to our portfolio of investments. Interest rates on our borrowings are based on LIBOR. At December 31, 2006, the borrowing rate under the Citigroup Facility was LIBOR plus 1.65%.

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### **BUSINESS**

#### **General**

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life-sciences companies at all stages of development. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. Our principal executive office is located in Silicon Valley, and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder and Chicago areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of ventures active in the technology and life science industries and to offer a full suite of growth capital products up and down the capital structure. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity. We use the term "structured mezzanine debt investment" to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We focus our investments in companies active in the technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, Internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, health care services and information systems companies. We refer to all of these companies as "technology-related" companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our assets in such businesses.

Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value by investing in structured mezzanine debt and equity of venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies is generally used for growth, and in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase our investment activity in established companies comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

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We commenced investment operations in September 2004 and have built our investment portfolio on disciplined underwriting as well as on-going portfolio management. At December 31, 2006, we had outstanding

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structured mezzanine debt investments representing approximately \$266.7 million, warrant investments of \$8.4 million and equity investments of \$8.1 million for a total investment portfolio at fair value of \$283.2 million. In addition, at December 31, 2006, we had unfunded contractual commitments of \$55.5 million.

At December 31, 2006, the weighted average yield to maturity of our loan obligations was approximately 12.64%. Yields to maturity are computed using interest rates at inception of the loan and include amortization of loan facility fees, original issue discounts, commitment fees and market premiums or discounts over the expected life of the debt investments, weighted by their respective costs when averaged and are based on the assumption that all contractual loan commitments have been fully funded.

During the first quarter of 2007, we entered into approximately \$105.3 million of investment commitments and invested approximately \$80.2 million in 9 new portfolio companies and 11 existing portfolio companies. In addition, during the first quarter of 2007, one of our portfolio companies was acquired and our loan of \$1.3 million was repaid in full.

## **Corporate History and Offices**

We are a Maryland corporation formed in December 2003 that began investment operations in September 2004. We are an internally managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. As a business development company, we are required to meet various regulatory tests. A business development company is required to invest at least 70% of its total assets in private or thinly traded public U.S.-based companies. A business development company also must meet a coverage ratio of total net assets to total senior securities, which include all of our borrowings (including accrued interest payable) and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200%.

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under the Code with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election, when actually made, will be effective as of January 1, 2006. To obtain and maintain the federal income tax benefits of RIC status, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually an amount equal to at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of assets legally available for distribution. If we satisfy these requirements, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders.

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301 and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago and Columbus areas. We maintain a website on the Internet at [www.herculestech.com](http://www.herculestech.com). Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report, and you should not consider that information as part of this Annual Report. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments to those reports, are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them with, or furnish them to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## **Our Market Opportunity**

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

Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

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Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies;

Structured mezzanine debt products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds;  
and

Valuations currently assigned to technology-related companies in private financing rounds, while increasing in recent years, still provide a good opportunity for attractive capital returns.

***Technology-Related Companies Underserved by Traditional Lenders.*** We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies, in part because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending that has resulted in tightened credit standards in recent years. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with financial sponsor-backed emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies effectively.

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

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

***Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies.*** Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing to emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity. In 2006, venture capital-backed companies received, in approximately 2,454 transactions, equity financing in an aggregate amount of approximately \$25.8 billion, representing an 8% increase over the preceding year, as reported by Dow Jones VentureOne. In addition, overall, the median round size in 2006 was \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million in 2005, and the highest annual median since 2000. For the second year in a row, equity investors are focusing more than a third of their investment activity on early-stage financings. Overall, seed- and first-round deals made up 36% of the deal flow in 2006, and about the same concentration of deal flow went to later-stage deals. As a result, we believe a range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion in annual equity investments to venture-backed companies will be sustainable for future years.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently unfulfilled, in part because historically the largest debt capital providers to technology-related companies exited the market during 2001 while at the same time lending requirements of traditional lenders have become more stringent. We therefore believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

***Structured Mezzanine Debt Products Complement Equity Financing From Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds.*** We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured mezzanine debt products



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provide access to growth capital that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we

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believe emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have recently been more mature prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period prior to liquidity events.

***Lower Valuations for Private Technology-Related Companies.*** During the downturn in technology industries that began in 2000, the markets saw sharp and broad declines in valuations of venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies. According to Dow Jones VentureOne, median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2000 was \$25.0 million declining to a low of \$10.0 million in 2003. As of December 31, 2006 median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2006 was \$18.5 million compared to \$15.0 million in 2005. While pre-money valuations have been steadily increasing since 2003, we believe the valuations currently assigned to venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies in private financing rounds are still low and should allow us to continue to build a portfolio of equity-related securities at attractive valuation levels.

## **Our Business Strategy**

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

***Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals.*** We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 15 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured mezzanine investments in over 200 technology-related companies, representing over \$1.0 billion in investments, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which should enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

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

***Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities.*** We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities, security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

In addition, historically our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In addition, we expect, in some cases, to receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. We believe these equity interests will create the

potential for meaningful long-term capital gains in connection with the future liquidity events of these technology-related companies.

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

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing round or a liquidity event.

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

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

***Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database.*** We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based (SQL) database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of December 31, 2006, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

## **Our Investments and Operations**

We invest in debt securities and, to a lesser extent, equity securities, with a particular emphasis on structured mezzanine debt.

We generally seek to invest in companies that have been operating for at least six to 12 months prior to the date of our investment. We expect that such entities will, at the time of investment, be generating revenues or will have a business plan that anticipates generation of revenues within 24 to 36 months. Further, we anticipate that on the date of our investment we will obtain a lien on available assets, which may or may not include intellectual property, and these companies will have sufficient cash on their balance sheet to amortize their debt for at least six to 15 months following our investment. We generally require that a prospective portfolio company, in addition to having sufficient capital to support

leverage, demonstrate an operating plan capable of generating cash flows or raising the additional capital necessary to cover its operating expenses and service its debt.

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We expect that our investments will generally range from \$1.0 million to \$25.0 million. Our debt investments generally have an average initial principal balance of between \$3.0 million and \$7.0 million and have maturities of two to seven years, with an expected average term of three years. We typically structure our debt securities to provide for amortization of principal over the life of the loan, but may include an interest-only period, and our loans will be collateralized by a security interest in the borrower's assets, although we may not have the first claim on these assets and the assets may not include intellectual property. Our debt investments carry fixed or variable contractual interest rates typically ranging from 8% to 14%. In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, certain loans may also include any of the following: end of term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees or prepayment fees, which we may be required to include in income prior to receipt. We also generate revenue in the form of commitment and facility fees, and to a lesser extent, due diligence fees.

In addition, historically our structured mezzanine debt investments generally have equity enhancement features, typically in the form of warrants or other equity-related securities designed to provide us with an opportunity for capital appreciation. The warrants typically will be immediately exercisable upon issuance and generally will remain exercisable for the lesser of seven years or three years after an initial public offering. The exercise prices for the warrants varies from nominal exercise prices to exercise prices that are at or above the current fair market value of the equity for which we receive warrants. We may structure warrants to provide minority rights provisions and put rights upon the occurrence of certain events. We generally target a total annualized return (including interest, fees and value of warrants) of 12% to 25% for our debt investments.

Typically, our debt and equity investments take one of the following forms:

*Structured Mezzanine Debt.* We seek to invest a majority of our assets in structured mezzanine debt of prospective portfolio companies. Traditional mezzanine debt is a layer of high-coupon financing between debt and equity that most commonly takes the form of subordinated debt coupled with warrants, combining the cash flow and risk characteristics of both senior debt and equity. However, our structured mezzanine investments may be the only debt capital on the balance sheet of our portfolio companies, and in many cases we have a first priority security interest in all of our portfolio company's assets. Our structured mezzanine debt investments typically have maturities of between two and seven years, with full amortization for emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies and little or no amortization for select established companies. Our structured mezzanine debt investments carry a contractual interest rate between 8% and 14% and may include an additional end-of-term payment, are in an amount between \$3 million and \$25 million with an average initial principal balance of between \$3 million and \$7 million (although this investment size may vary proportionately as the size of our capital base changes) and have an average term of three years. In some cases we collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases we may prohibit a company from pledging or otherwise encumbering their intellectual property. We may structure our mezzanine debt investments with restrictive affirmative and negative covenants, default penalties, prepayment penalties, lien protection, equity calls, take control provisions and board observation rights.

*Senior Debt.* We seek to invest a limited portion of our assets in senior debt of prospective portfolio companies. Senior debt has a senior position with respect to a borrower's scheduled interest and principal payments and holds a first priority security interest in the assets pledged as collateral. Senior debt also may impose covenants on a borrower with regard to cash flows and changes in capital structure, among other items. Our senior debt investments carry a contractual interest rate between 8% and 12%, are in an amount between \$1 million and \$7 million with an average initial principal balance of \$3 million, and have an average term of under three years. We generally collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases we may obtain a negative pledge covering a company's intellectual property. Our senior loans, in certain instances, may be tied to the financing of specific assets. In connection with a senior debt investment, we may also provide the borrower with a working capital line-of-credit that will carry an interest rate ranging

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from the prime rate to 12%, generally maturing in one year, and will be secured by accounts receivable and / or inventory. In connection with a senior debt investment, we may also provide the borrower with a working capital line-of-credit at fixed rates or variable rates based on the prime rate or LIBOR plus a margin, generally maturing in one year, and will be secured by accounts receivable and / or inventory.

*Equipment Loans.* We intend to seek to invest a limited portion of our assets in equipment-based loans to early-stage prospective portfolio companies. Equipment-based loans are secured by a first priority security interest in the assets financed. We anticipate that these loans will generally be for amounts up to \$2.5 million, will carry a contractual interest rate between prime and prime plus 400 basis points, and have an average term between three and four years.

*Equity-Related Securities.* The equity-related securities we hold consist primarily of warrants or other equity interests generally obtained in connection with our structured mezzanine debt investments. In addition to the warrants received as a part of a structured mezzanine debt financing, we typically receive the right to make equity investments in a portfolio company in connection with the next equity financing round for that company. This right will provide us with the opportunity to further enhance our returns over time through opportunistic equity investments in our portfolio companies. Equity-related investments are typically in the form of preferred or common equity and may be structured with a dividend yield, providing us with a current return, and with customary anti-dilution protection and preemptive rights. In the future, we may achieve liquidity through a merger or acquisition of a portfolio company, a public offering of a portfolio company's stock or by exercising our right, if any, to require a portfolio company to buy back the equity-related securities we hold. We may also make direct equity investments into portfolio companies.

A comparison of the typical features of our various investment alternatives is set forth in the chart below.

	<b>Senior Debt</b>	<b>Structured Mezzanine Debt</b>	<b>Equipment Loans</b>	<b>Equity Securities</b>
<b>Typical Structure</b>	Term or revolving debt	Term debt with warrants	Term debt with warrants	Preferred stock or common stock
<b>Investment Horizon</b>	Usually 3 years	Long term, ranging from 2 to 7 years, with an average of 3 years	Ranging from 3 to 4 years	Long term
<b>Ranking/Security</b>	Senior/First lien	Senior or junior lien	Secured by underlying equipment	None/unsecured
<b>Covenants</b>	Generally comprehensive	Less restrictive; Mostly financial; Maintenance-based	None	None
<b>Risk Tolerance</b>	Low	Medium	High	High
<b>Coupon/Dividend</b>	Cash pay Floating or fixed rate	Cash Pay fixed rate; Payment-in-kind in limited cases	Cash pay floating or fixed rate	Payment-in-kind in limited cases
<b>Customization or Flexibility</b>	Standard	More flexible	Standard	Flexible

**Equity Dilution**

None to low

Low

Low

High

**Investment Criteria**

We have identified several criteria that we believe are important in achieving our investment objective with respect to prospective portfolio companies. These criteria, while not inclusive, provide general guidelines for our investment decisions.



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**Portfolio Composition.** While we generally focus our investments in venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies, we seek to diversify across various financial sponsors as well as across various stages of companies' development and various technology industry sub-sectors and geographies.

**Continuing Support from One or More Financial Sponsors.** We generally invest in companies in which one or more established financial sponsors have previously invested and continue to make a contribution to the management of the business. We believe that having established financial sponsors with meaningful commitments to the business is a key characteristic of a prospective portfolio company. In addition, we look for representatives of one or more financial sponsors to maintain seats on the Board of Directors of a prospective portfolio company as an indication of such commitment.

**Company Stage of Development.** While we invest in companies at various stages of development, we generally require that prospective portfolio companies be beyond the seed stage of development and generally have received or have commitments for their first institutional round of equity financing. We expect a prospective portfolio company to demonstrate its ability to commence revenue generation or increase its revenues and operating cash flow over time. The anticipated growth rate of a prospective portfolio company is a key factor in determining the value that we ascribe to any warrants or other equity securities that we may acquire in connection with an investment in debt securities.

**Operating Plan.** We generally require that a prospective portfolio company, in addition to having sufficient access to capital to support leverage, demonstrate an operating plan capable of generating cash flows or the ability to raise the additional capital necessary to cover its operating expenses and service its debt. Specifically, we require that a prospective portfolio company demonstrate at the time of our proposed investment that it has cash on its balance sheet, or is in the process of completing a financing so that it will have cash on its balance sheet, sufficient to support its operations for a minimum of 6 to 15 months.

**Security Interest.** In many instances we generally seek a first priority security interest in all of the portfolio company's tangible and intangible assets as collateral for our debt investment, subject in some cases to permitted exceptions. In other cases we may prohibit a company from pledging or otherwise encumbering their intellectual property. Although we do not intend to operate as an asset-based lender, the estimated liquidation value of the assets, if any, collateralizing the debt securities that we hold is an important factor in our credit analysis. We evaluate both tangible assets, such as accounts receivable, inventory and equipment, and intangible assets, such as intellectual property, customer lists, networks and databases.

**Covenants.** Our investments typically include one or more of the following covenants; cross-default and material adverse change provisions, require the portfolio company to provide periodic financial reports and operating metrics and will typically limit the portfolio company's ability to incur additional debt, sell assets, engage in transactions with affiliates and consummate an extraordinary transaction, such as a merger or recapitalization without our consent. In addition, we may require other performance or financial based covenants, as we deem appropriate.

**Exit Strategy.** Prior to making a debt investment that is accompanied by an equity-related security in a prospective portfolio company, we analyze the potential for that company to increase the liquidity of its equity through a future event that would enable us to realize appreciation in the value of our equity interest. Liquidity events may include an initial public offering, a private sale of our equity interest to a third party, a merger or an acquisition of the company or a purchase of our equity position by the company or one of its stockholders.

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**Investment Process**

We have organized our management team around the four key elements of our investment process:

Origination;

Underwriting;

Documentation; and

Loan and Compliance Administration.

Our investment process is summarized in the following chart:

**Origination**

The origination process for our investments includes sourcing, screening, preliminary due diligence and deal structuring and negotiation, all leading to an executed non-binding term sheet. Our investment origination team, which consists of 15 senior investment professionals is headed by our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Henriquez, and is responsible for sourcing potential investment opportunities. The origination team uses their extensive relationships with various leading financial sponsors, management contacts within technology-related companies, trade sources, technology conferences and various publications to source prospective portfolio companies.

In addition, we have developed a proprietary and comprehensive SQL-based database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of December 31, 2006, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows our origination team to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing our origination team with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

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If a prospective portfolio company generally meets certain underwriting criteria, we perform preliminary due diligence, which may include high level company and technology assessments, evaluation of its financial sponsors' support, market analysis, competitive analysis, evaluation of select management, risk analysis and transaction size, pricing, return analysis and structure analysis. If the preliminary due diligence is satisfactory, and the origination team recommends moving forward, we then structure, negotiate and execute a non-binding term sheet with the potential portfolio company. Upon execution of a term sheet, the investment opportunity moves to the underwriting process to complete formal due diligence review and approval.

## **Underwriting**

The underwriting review includes formal due diligence and approval of the proposed investment in the portfolio company.

*Due Diligence.* Our due diligence on a prospective investment is typically completed by two or more investment professionals which we define as the underwriting team. The underwriting team for a proposed investment consists of the deal sponsor who possesses specific industry knowledge and is responsible for originating and managing the transaction, other investment professional(s) who perform due diligence, credit and corporate financial analyses and, as needed, our Chief Legal Officer. To ensure consistent underwriting, we generally use our standardized due diligence methodologies, which include due diligence on financial performance and credit risk as well as an analysis of the operations, accounting policies and the legal and applicable regulatory framework of a prospective portfolio company. The members of the underwriting team work together to conduct due diligence and understand the relationships among the prospective portfolio company's business plan, operations and financial performance.

As part of our evaluation of a proposed investment, the underwriting team prepares an investment memorandum for presentation to the investment committee. In preparing the investment memorandum, the underwriting team typically meets with select key management of the company and select financial sponsors and assembles information necessary to the investment decision. If and when appropriate, the investment professionals may also contact industry experts and customers, vendors or, in some cases, competitors of the company.

*Approval Process.* The sponsoring managing director or principal presents the investment memorandum to our investment committee for consideration. The unanimous approval of our investment committee is required before we proceed with any investment. The members of our investment committee are our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Legal Officer and our Chief Financial Officer. The investment committee generally meets weekly and more frequently on an as-needed basis.

## **Documentation**

Our documentation group, headed by our Chief Legal Officer, administers the front-end documentation process for our loans. This group is responsible for documenting the term sheet approved by the investment committee to memorialize the transaction with a portfolio company. This group negotiates loan documentation and, subject to the approval of the Chief Legal Officer, final documents are prepared for execution by all parties. The documentation group generally uses the services of external law firms to complete the necessary documentation.

## **Loan and Compliance Administration**

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Our loan and compliance administration group, headed by our Chief Financial Officer, administers loans and tracks covenant compliance on our investments and oversees periodic reviews of our critical functions to ensure adherence with our internal policies and procedures. After funding of a loan in accordance with the investment committee's approval, the loan is recorded in our SQL-based database system. The loan and

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compliance administration group is also responsible for ensuring timely interest and principal payments and collateral management and advises the investment committee on the financial performance and trends of each portfolio company, including any covenant violations that occur, to aid us in assessing the appropriate course of action for each portfolio company and evaluating overall portfolio quality. In addition, the loan and compliance administration group advises the Valuation Committee of the board regarding the credit and investment grading for each portfolio company as well as changes in the value of collateral that may occur.

The loan and compliance administration group monitors our portfolio companies in order to determine whether the companies are meeting our financing criteria and their respective business plans and also monitors the financial trends of each portfolio company from its monthly or quarterly financial statements to assess the appropriate course of action for each company and to evaluate overall portfolio quality. In addition, our management team closely monitors the status and performance of each individual company through our SQL-based database system and periodic contact with our portfolio companies' management teams and their respective financial sponsors.

*Credit and Investment Grading System.* Our loan and compliance administration group uses an investment grading system to characterize and monitor our outstanding loans. Our loan and compliance administration group monitors and, when appropriate, recommends changes to investment grading. Our investment committee reviews the recommendations and/or changes to the investment grading, which are submitted on a quarterly basis to the Valuation Committee and our Board of Directors for approval. We use the following investment grading system as amended January 2006 and approved by our Board of Directors:

- Grade 1. Loans involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The borrower is performing above expectations, and the trends and risk profile is generally favorable.
- Grade 2. The borrower is performing as expected and the risk profile is neutral to favorable. All new loans are initially graded 2.
- Grade 3. The borrower may be performing below expectations, and the loan's risk has increased materially since origination. We increase procedures to monitor a borrower that may have limited amounts of cash remaining on the balance sheet, is approaching its next equity capital raise within the next three to year, or if the estimated fair value of the enterprise may be lower than when the loan was originated. We will generally lower the loan grade to a level 3 even if the company is performing in accordance to plan as it approaches the need to raise additional cash to fund its operations. Once the borrower closes its new equity capital raise, we may increase the loan grade back to grade 2.
- Grade 4. The borrower is performing materially below expectations, and the loan risk has substantially increased since origination. Loans graded 4 may experience some partial loss or full return of principal but are expected to realize some loss of interest which is not anticipated to be repaid in full, which, to the extent not already reflected, may require the fair value of the loan to be reduced to the amount we anticipate will be recovered. Grade 4 investments are closely monitored.
- Grade 5. The borrower is in workout, materially performing below expectations and a significant risk of principal loss is probable. Loans graded 5 will experience some partial principal loss or full loss of remaining principal outstanding is expected. Grade 5 loans will require the fair value of the loans be reduced to the amount, if any, we anticipate will be recovered.

At December 31, 2006, our investments had a weighted average investment grading of 2.14.

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### **Managerial Assistance**

As a business development company, we offer, and provide upon request, managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. This assistance could involve, among other things, monitoring the operations of our portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. We may receive fees for these services.

### **Asset Management**

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to funds that may be formed in the future. Such funds may focus on our lower yielding assets, such as senior debt, equipment based only financing or equity only funding. We may contribute assets currently in our portfolio to the extent that our management and Board of Directors deems it appropriate. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

### **Competition**

Our primary competitors provide financing to prospective portfolio companies and include non-bank financial institutions, federally or state chartered banks, venture debt funds, financial institutions, venture capital funds, private equity funds, investment funds and investment banks. Many of these entities have greater financial and managerial resources than we have, and the 1940 Act imposes certain regulatory restrictions on us as a business development company to which many of our competitors are not subject. However, we believe that few of our competitors possess the expertise to properly structure and price debt investments to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies. We believe that our specialization in financing technology-related companies will enable us to assess the value of intellectual property assets, evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of prospective portfolio companies and, as a result, identify investment opportunities that produce attractive risk-adjusted returns. For additional information concerning the competitive risks we face, see **Risk Factors** **Risks Related to our Business and Structure**. We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, and we may not be able to compete effectively.

### **Corporate Structure**

We are a Maryland corporation and an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. Hercules Technology II, L.P. ( **HTII** ), our wholly-owned subsidiary, is licensed under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 as a Small Business Investment Company. Hercules Technology SBIC Management, LLC ( **HTM** ), another wholly-owned subsidiary, functions as the general partner of our subsidiary HTII. Hercules Funding I LLC, our wholly owned subsidiary, and Hercules Funding Trust I function as vehicles to collateralize loans under our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. In December 2006, we established Hydra Management LLC and Hydra Management Co., Inc. an investment manager and an investment management company, respectively.

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301. We also have offices in Boston, Massachusetts, Boulder, Colorado, Chicago, Illinois and Columbus, Ohio.



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**Brokerage Allocations and Other Practices**

Because we generally acquire and dispose of our investments in privately negotiated transactions, we rarely use brokers in the normal course of business. In those cases where we do use a broker, we do not execute transactions through any particular broker or dealer, but will seek to obtain the best net results for Hercules, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of order, difficulty of execution, and operational facilities of the firm and the firm's risk and skill in positioning blocks of securities. While we generally seek reasonably competitive execution costs, we may not necessarily pay the lowest spread or commission available. Subject to applicable legal requirements, we may select a broker based partly upon brokerage or research services provided to us. In return for such services, we may pay a higher commission than other brokers would charge if we determine in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided. For the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 we paid \$12,100, \$4,000 and \$0 in brokerage commissions, respectively.

**Employees**

As of December 31, 2006, we had 26 employees, including 15 investment and portfolio management professionals all of whom have extensive prior experience working on financing transactions for technology-related companies. We intend to expand our management team, financial analyst group and operational personnel to support our growing portfolio of companies. We may also hire additional managing directors if our business indicates the need to expand the team to take advantage of growing market opportunities.



**Table of Contents****PORTFOLIO COMPANIES**

The following tables set forth certain information as of December 31, 2006 regarding each portfolio company in which we had a debt or equity investment. The general terms of our loans and other investments are described in Business Our Investments. We offer to make available significant managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. In addition, we may receive rights to observe the Board of Directors meetings of our portfolio companies.

<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Accelaron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (1.74%)* <sup>(4)</sup> 24 Emily Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures June 2009		\$ 3,987,624	\$ 3,987,624
		Interest rate 10.25%			
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.67%	69,106	417,115
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.65%	34,996	34,393
		Preferred Series A Stock	1.71%	1,000,000	1,111,112
Total Accelaron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (5.88%) <sup>(4)</sup> 75 Sidney Street 4th Floor Cambridge, MA 02139	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures September 2009		5,091,726	5,550,244
		Interest rate 10.75%		14,849,099	14,849,099
		Preferred Stock Warrants	10.18%	144,056	115,212
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.39%	46,288	43,771
Total Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (3.92%) One Kendall Square Building 1000 Fifth Floor Cambridge, MA 02139	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures June 2010		15,039,443	15,008,082
		Interest rate Prime + 2.45%		9,857,610	9,857,610
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.47%	74,755	73,334
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.47%	74,755	73,334
Total Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc. EpiCept Corporation (3.84%) 777 Old Saw Mill River Road Tarrytown, NY 10591	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures August 2009		10,007,120	10,004,278
		Interest rate 11.70%		9,312,750	9,312,750
		Common Stock Warrants	3.25%	794,633	507,592
Total EpiCept Corporation Guava Technologies, Inc. (2.26%) <sup>(4)</sup> 25801 Industrial Boulevard Hayward, CA 94545-2991	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures July 2009		10,107,383	9,820,342
		Interest rate Prime + 3.25%		5,193,710	5,193,710
		Revolving Line of Credit Matures December 2007			
		Interest rate Prime + 2.00%		500,000	500,000
		Preferred Stock Warrants	8.24%	105,399	83,940

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Total Guava Technologies, Inc. Labopharm USA, Inc. (2.58%)(4)(5) 480 Armand-Frappier Blvd.	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures July 2008		5,799,109	5,777,650
Laval, Canada H7V 4B4		Interest rate 11.95%		6,598,870	6,598,870
Total Labopharm USA, Inc. Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (2.61%)(4) 101 Binney Street	Biopharmaceuticals	Convertible Senior Debt Matures October 2008		6,598,870	6,598,870
Cambridge, MA 02142		Interest rate 11.15%		5,967,550	6,254,550
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.60%	155,456	409,159
Total Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (2.62%)(4) 75 Kneeland Street	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures June 2008		6,123,006	6,663,709
Boston, MA 02111		Interest rate 11.10%		6,586,705	6,586,705
		Preferred Stock Warrants	18.53%	137,396	110,553
Total Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (4.41%)(4) 270 E Grand Ave	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures September 2010		6,724,101	6,697,258
South San Francisco, CA 94080		Interest rate Prime + 1.75%		11,145,804	11,145,804
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.43%	113,668	107,489

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<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Total Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Quatrx Pharmaceuticals Company (7.05%)( <sup>4</sup> ) 777 East Eisenhower Pkwy Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48108	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures January 2010		\$ 11,259,472	\$ 11,253,293
		Interest rate Prime + 3.00%		17,834,735	17,834,735
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.89%	220,354	179,708
Total Quatrx Pharmaceuticals Company Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (3.91%)( <sup>4</sup> ) 790 Memorial Drive Cambridge, MA 02139	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures April 2011		18,055,089	18,014,443
		Interest rate 10.60%		9,924,495	9,924,495
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.22%	88,829	70,986
Total Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. TransOral Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (3.92%)( <sup>4</sup> ) 300 Tamal Plaza Suite 220 Corte Madera, CA 94925	Biopharmaceuticals	Senior Debt Matures October 2009		10,013,324	9,995,481
		Interest rate 10.69%		9,921,976	9,921,976
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.85%	35,630	28,265
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.27%	51,067	50,548
Total TransOral Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				10,008,673	10,000,789
<b>Total Biopharmaceuticals (45.18%)</b>				114,827,316	115,384,439
Atrenta, Inc. (2.03%)( <sup>4</sup> ) 2077 Gateway Place Suite 300 San Jose, CA 95110	Software	Senior Debt Matures June 2009		4,929,298	4,929,298
		Interest rate 11.50%		102,396	200,285
		Preferred Stock Warrants	5.40%	33,760	65,719
Atrenta, Inc. (0.10%)		Preferred Series C Stock	1.54%	250,000	250,000
Total Atrenta, Inc. Blurb, Inc. (0.10%) 580 California St Suite 300 San Francisco, CA 94104	Software	Senior Debt Matures December 2009		5,315,454	5,445,302
		Interest rate 9.55%		237,454	237,454
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.62%	12,904	12,653
Total Blurb, Inc. Compete, Inc. (1.52%)( <sup>4</sup> ) 4 Copley Place Suite 700 Boston, MA	Software	Senior Debt Matures March 2009		250,358	250,107
		Interest rate Prime + 3.50%		3,839,045	3,839,045
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.67%	62,067	49,247
Total Compete, Inc. Forescout Technologies, Inc. (0.78%) 10001 De Anza Blvd., Suite 220 Cupertino, CA 95014	Software	Senior Debt Matures August 2009		3,901,112	3,888,292
		Interest rate 11.15%		1,950,584	1,950,584
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.06%	55,593	50,800

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Total Forescout Technologies, Inc. GameLogic, Inc. (1.17%)(4) 139 Main Street 5th Floor	Software	Senior Debt Matures December 2009		2,006,177 2,957,416	2,001,384 2,957,416
Boston, MA 02142		Interest rate Prime + 4.125% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.54%	52,604	41,860
Total GameLogic, Inc. Gomez, Inc. (0.48%)(4) 610 Lincoln Street	Software	Senior Debt Matures December 2007		3,010,020	2,999,276
Waltham, MA 02451		Interest rate 12.25% Preferred Stock Warrants	4.35%	1,201,811 35,000	1,201,811 18,832
Total Gomez, Inc. HighRoads, Inc. (0.77%)(4) 150 Presidential Way	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2009		1,236,811	1,220,643
Woburn, MA 01801		Interest rate 11.65% Preferred Stock Warrants	3.18%	1,923,844 44,466	1,923,844 35,484
Total HighRoads, Inc.				1,968,310	1,959,328

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<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Intelliden, Inc. (1.17%) 90 South Cascade Avenue  Colorado Springs, CO 80903	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2010  Interest rate 13.20% Preferred Stock Warrants	0.94%	\$ 2,984,169 17,542	\$ 2,984,169 16,688
Total Intelliden, Inc. Inxight Software, Inc. (1.60%)(4) 500 Macara Avenue  Sunnyvale, CA 94085	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2008  Interest rate 10.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.20%	3,001,711 4,051,059 55,963	3,000,857 4,051,059 29,800
Total Inxight Software, Inc. Oatsystems, Inc. (2.36%)(4) 265 Winter St.  Waltham, MA 02451	Software	Senior Debt Matures September 2009  Interest rate 11.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	5.45%	4,107,022 5,973,007 33,742	4,080,859 5,973,007 26,881
Total Oatsystems, Inc. Proficiency, Inc. (1.43%)(5) 880 Winter Street, Suite 320  Waltham, MA 02415	Software	Senior Debt Matures July 2008  Interest rate 12.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	9.27%	6,006,749 3,951,815 96,370	5,999,888 3,548,185 115,977
Total Proficiency, Inc. Savvion, Inc. (1.58%)(4) 5104 Old Ironsides Drive, Suite 205  Santa Clara, CA 95054	Software	Senior Debt Matures March 2009  Interest rate Prime + 3.45% Revolving Line of Credit Matures March 2007		4,048,185 1,000,000	3,664,162 1,000,000
Total Savvion, Inc. Sportvision, Inc. (0.01%) 4619 N. Ravenswood  Chicago, IL 60640	Software	Preferred Stock Warrants  Interest rate Prime + 2.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.89%	2,991,311 52,135	2,991,311 41,743
Total Sportvision, Inc. Talisma Corp. (0.74%)(4) 10900 N.E. 4th Street, Suite 1510 Bellevue, WA 98004-5841	Software	Subordinated Debt Matures December 2007  Interest rate 11.25% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.47%	39,339 1,858,802 49,000	29,667 1,858,802 25,259
Total Talisma Corp.				1,907,802	1,884,061

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<b>Total Software (15.84%)</b>				40,842,496	40,456,880
BabyUniverse, Inc. (1.90%)(4)	Consumer & Business Products	Senior Debt			
150 South US Highway One, Ste 500 Jupiter, FL 33477		Matures July 2009			
		Interest rate Prime + 2.35%		4,728,980	4,728,980
		Common Stock Warrants	1.59%	325,224	146,299
Total BabyUniverse, Inc. Market Force Information, Inc. (0.70%)(4)	Consumer & Business Products	Senior Debt		5,054,204	4,875,279
1877 Broadway, Suite 200		Matures May 2009			
Boulder, CO 80302		Interest rate 10.45%		1,759,510	1,759,510
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.21%	23,823	19,197
Total Market Force Information, Inc. Wageworks, Inc. (5.89%)(4)	Consumer & Business Products	Senior Debt		1,783,333	1,778,707
1100 Park Place 4th Floor		Matures November 2008			
San Mateo, CA 94403		Interest rate Prime + 4.00%		13,904,441	13,904,441
		Preferred Stock Warrants	6.72%	251,964	1,140,998
Wageworks, Inc. (0.10%)		Preferred Series C Stock	1.64%	249,995	249,995
Total Wageworks, Inc.				14,406,400	15,295,434
<b>Total Consumer &amp; Business Products (8.59%)</b>				21,243,937	21,949,420

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<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
IKANO Communications, Inc. (0.03%) 265 East 100 South, Ste 245 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	Communications & Networking	Preferred Stock Warrants	0.04%	\$ 45,460	\$ 33,391
Total IKANO Communications, Inc. Interwise, Inc. (0.83%) <sup>(4)</sup> 25 First Street Suite 412 Cambridge, MA 02141	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures August 2008 Interest rate 17.50% Preferred Stock Warrants	7.84%	117,804 1,869,542 268,401	88,921 1,869,542 244,653
Total Interwise, Inc. Pathfire, Inc. (1.84%) <sup>(4)</sup> 245 Hembree Park Drive Roswell, GA 30076	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures December 2008 Interest rate Prime + 3.65% Preferred Stock Warrants	4.74%	2,137,943 4,672,795 63,276	2,114,195 4,672,795 16,918
Total Pathfire, Inc. Ping Identity Corporation (1.05%) <sup>(4)</sup> 1099 18th Street Suite 2950 Denver, CO 80202	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures June 2009 Interest rate 11.50% Preferred Stock Warrants	3.35%	4,736,071 2,530,953 51,801	4,689,713 2,530,953 160,500
Total Ping Identity Corporation Rivulet Communications, Inc. (1.37%) <sup>(4)</sup> 75 Rochester Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures September 2009 Interest rate 10.60% Preferred Stock Warrants	2.59%	2,582,754 3,459,966 50,710	2,691,453 3,459,966 40,352
Rivulet Communications, Inc. (0.10%) Total Rivulet Communications, Inc. Simpler Networks Corp. (2.20%) <sup>(4)</sup> 90 Washington Valley Road Bedminster, NJ 07921	Communications & Networking	Preferred Series A Stock Senior Debt Matures July 2009 Interest rate 11.75% Preferred Stock Warrants	2.31%	250,000 3,760,676 4,886,659 160,241	250,000 3,750,318 4,886,659 742,688
Simpler Networks Corp. (0.20%) Total Simpler Networks Corp.		Preferred Series C Stock	1.96%	500,000 5,546,900	500,000 6,129,347
<b>Total Communications &amp; Networking (7.62%)</b>				<b>18,882,148</b>	<b>19,463,947</b>

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Adiana, Inc. (0.53%)(4)	Medical	Senior Debt			
2684 Middlefield Road Suite A	Devices &	Matures June 2008			
Redwood City, CA 94063	Equipment	Interest rate Prime + 6.00%		1,312,938	1,312,938
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.99%	67,225	52,427
Adiana, Inc. (0.20%)		Preferred Series D Stock	2.38%	500,000	500,000
Total Adiana, Inc.				1,880,163	1,865,365
BARRX Medical, Inc. (0.59%)	Medical				
1334 Bordeaux Drive	Devices &				
Sunnyvale, CA 94089	Equipment	Preferred Stock	5.39%	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total BARRX Medical, Inc.				1,500,000	1,500,000
Gynesonics, Inc. (0.80%)	Medical	Senior Debt			
604 5th Ave Suite D	Devices &	Matures October 2009			
Redwood City, CA 94063	Equipment	Interest rate 9.50%		1,986,209	1,986,209
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.48%	17,552	54,735
Total Gynesonics, Inc.				2,003,761	2,040,944
Novasys Medical, Inc. (3.13%)(4)	Medical	Senior Debt			
39684 Eureka Drive	Devices &	Matures January 2010			
Newark, CA 94560	Equipment	Interest rate 9.70%		8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Novasys Medical, Inc.				8,000,000	8,000,000
Optiscan Biomedical, Corp. (0.40%)(4)	Medical	Senior Debt			
1105 Atlantic Ave, Suite 101	Devices &	Matures March 2008			
Alameda, CA 94501	Equipment	Interest rate 15.00%		967,314	967,314
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.50%	80,486	64,478
Optiscan Biomedical, Corp. (0.39%)		Preferred Series B Stock	2.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Optiscan Biomedical, Corp.				2,047,800	2,031,792



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<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Power Medical Interventions, Inc. (0.01%) 2021 Cabot Blvd West  Langhorne, PA 19047	Medical  Devices & Equipment	Common Stock Warrants	0.39%	\$ 20,687	\$ 30,200
Total Power Medical Interventions, Inc. Xillix Technologies Corp. (1.53%)(4)(5)(6) 100-13775 Commerce Parkway  Richmond, British Columbia,  Canada V6V 2V4	Medical  Devices & Equipment	Senior Debt Matures December 2008  Interest rate 12.40%  Common Stock Warrants		20,687  3,775,493  313,108	30,200  3,775,493  122,206
Total Xillix Technologies Corp.				4,088,601	3,897,699
<b>Total Medical Devices &amp; Equipment (7.58%)</b>				19,541,012	19,366,000
Hedgestreet, Inc. (1.67%)(4)  1825 S. Grant, Suite 500  San Mateo, CA 94402	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Senior Debt  Matures March 2009  Interest rate 11.30% Preferred Stock Warrants		4,226,674 54,956	4,226,674 44,836
Total Hedgestreet, Inc. Invoke Solutions, Inc. (0.97%)(4)  375 Totten Pond Road Suite 400  Waltham, MA 02451	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Senior Debt  Matures December 2008  Interest rate 11.25% Preferred Stock Warrants		4,281,630  2,438,574 43,826	4,271,510  2,438,574 35,741
Total Invoke Solutions, Inc. RazorGator Interactive Group, Inc. (1.25%)(4)  11150 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 500  Los Angeles, CA 90025	Internet Consumer & Business Services	Senior Debt  Matures January 2008  Interest rate 9.95% Preferred Stock Warrants		2,482,400  2,633,276 13,050	2,474,315  2,633,276 570,026
RazorGator Interactive Group, Inc. (0.67%)		Preferred Series A Stock	3.74%	1,000,000	1,708,178
Total RazorGator Interactive Group, Inc.				3,646,326	4,911,480
<b>Total Internet Consumer &amp; Business Services (4.56%)</b>				10,410,356	11,657,305
Agami Systems, Inc. (2.75%)(4) 1269 Innsbruck Drive  Sunnyvale, CA 94089	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures August 2009  Interest rate 11.00% Preferred Stock Warrants		6,924,288 85,601	6,924,288 79,040

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Total Agami Systems, Inc. Cornice, Inc. (1.44%)(4) 1951 S. Fordham Street Suite 105 Longmont, CO 80503	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures November 2008  Interest rate Prime + 4.50%		7,009,889	7,003,328
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.15%	101,597	80,181
		Preferred Stock Warrants	9.08%	35,353	27,571
		Preferred Stock Warrants	12.11%	135,403	106,862
Total Cornice, Inc. Luminus Devices, Inc. (5.88%)(4) 175 New Boston Street Suite A Woburn, MA 01801	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures August 2009  Interest rate 12.50%		3,732,108	3,674,369
		Preferred Stock Warrants	.43%	183,290	161,106
		Preferred Stock Warrants	.21%	83,529	83,466
Total Luminus Devices, Inc. NeoScale Systems, Inc. (1.17%)(4) 1655 McCarthy Blvd. Milpitas, CA 95035-7415	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures October 2009  Interest rate 10.75%		15,032,333	15,010,086
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.38%	23,593	22,525
Total NeoScale Systems, Inc. Sling Media, Inc. (0.56%)(4) 901 Mariners Island Blvd, Suite 300 San Mateo, CA 94404	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Preferred Stock Warrants  Preferred Series B Stock	2.36%	3,001,966	3,000,898
				38,968	936,565
			1.07%	500,000	500,000
Total Sling Media, Inc.				538,968	1,436,565

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<b>Portfolio Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Type of Investment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Value<sup>(3)</sup></b>
ViDeOnline Communications, Inc. (0.18%) <sup>(4)</sup> 656 Bair Island Road, Suite 108  Redwood City, CA 94063	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures May 2009  Interest rate 15.00%		\$ 461,158	\$ 461,158
Total ViDeOnline Communications, Inc.				461,158	461,158
<b>Total Electronics &amp; Computer Hardware (11.98%)</b>				29,776,422	30,586,404
Ageia Technologies, Inc. (2.76%) <sup>(4)</sup> 82 Pioneer Way, Suite 118  Mountain View, CA 94041	Semiconductors	Senior Debt Matures August 2008  Interest rate 10.25%		6,975,456	6,975,456
Ageia Technologies, Inc. (0.20%)		Preferred Stock Warrants Preferred Series C Stock	2.44% 1.95%	99,190 500,000	73,604 500,000
Total Ageia Technologies				7,574,646	7,549,060
Cradle Technologies (0.02%) 1197 Borregas Avenue  Sunnyvale, CA 94089	Semiconductors	Preferred Stock Warrants	0.31%	79,150	63,647
Total Cradle Technologies				79,150	63,647
iWatt Inc. (1.27%) <sup>(4)</sup> 90 Albright Way  Los Gatos, CA 95032-1827	Semiconductors	Senior Debt Matures September 2009  Interest rate Prime + 2.75% Revolving Line of Credit Matures September 2007		1,959,537	1,959,537
		Interest rate Prime + 1.75% Preferred Stock Warrants	0.99%	1,250,000 45,684	1,250,000 41,417
Total iWatt Inc.				3,255,221	3,250,954
NEXX Systems, Inc. (1.96%) <sup>(4)</sup> Five Suburban Park Drive  Billerica, MA 01821-3904	Semiconductors	Senior Debt Matures February 2010  Interest rate Prime + 2.75% Revolving Line of Credit Matures December 2009		3,919,015	3,919,015
		Interest rate Prime + 1.75% Preferred Stock Warrants	4.77%	1,000,000 83,116	1,000,000 83,938
Total NEXX Systems, Inc.				5,002,131	5,002,953
<b>Total Semiconductors (6.21%)</b>				15,911,148	15,866,614
Lilliputian Systems, Inc. (3.33%) <sup>(4)</sup> 36 Jonspin Road  Wilmington, MA 01887	Energy	Senior Debt Matures March 2010  Interest rate 9.75%		8,463,170	8,463,170
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.96%	48,460	39,572

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Total Lilliputian Systems, Inc.	8,511,630	8,502,742
<b>Total Energy (3.33%)</b>	8,511,630	8,502,742
<b>Total Investments (110.89%)</b>	\$ 279,946,465	\$ 283,233,751

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\* Value as a percent of net assets

- (1) Preferred and common stock, warrants, and equity interests are generally non-income producing.
- (2) Gross unrealized appreciation, gross unrealized depreciation, and net appreciation totaled \$4,919,518, \$1,632,232 and \$3,287,286, respectively.
- (3) Except for warrants in three publicly traded companies, all investments are restricted at December 31, 2006 and were valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors. No unrestricted securities of the same issuer are outstanding. The Company uses the Standard Industrial Code for classifying the industry grouping of its portfolio companies.
- (4) Debt and warrant investments of this portfolio company have been pledged as collateral under the Citigroup facility. Citigroup has an equity participation right on loans collateralized under the Citigroup facility. The value of their participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments was approximately \$377,000 at December 31, 2006 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by the Company at December 31, 2006.
- (5) Non-U.S. company or the company's principal place of business is outside the United States.
- (6) Debt is on non-accrual status at December 31, 2006, and is therefore considered non-income producing.
- (7) All investments are less than 5% owned.
- (8) The percentage of class held on a fully diluted basis represents the percentage of the class of security we may own assuming we exercise our warrants or options (whether or not they are in-the-money) and assuming that warrants, options or convertible securities held by others are not exercised or converted. We have not included any security which is subject to significant vesting contingencies. Common stock, preferred stock, warrants, options and equity interests are generally non-income producing and restricted. The percentage was calculated based on the most current outstanding share information available to us (1) in the case of private companies, provided by that company, and (2) in the case of public companies, provided by that company's most recent public filings with the SEC.

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**Portfolio Company Descriptions**

***Acceleron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

Acceleron Pharmaceuticals focuses on developing therapeutics for metabolic and musculoskeletal diseases.

***Agami Systems, Inc.***

Agami is a provider of adaptive storage management solutions to the enterprise market. The company develops enterprise network storage systems for high-end storage area networks (SAN) and network-attached storage (NAS) management.

***Adiana, Inc.***

Adiana is developing a non-invasive, permanent form of female sterilization.

***Ageia Technologies***

Ageia Technologies is a developer of technology to enhance interactive media playback. The company develops chips for processing three dimensional visual data for applications such as computer simulation, gaming, and security.

***Atrenta, Inc.***

Atrenta Inc. is a provider of development solutions that seek to turn chip, system and software development into more predictable and controllable processes for the electronic systems industry.

***Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

AVEO is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel cancer therapeutics.

***BabyUniverse, Inc.***

BabyUniverse is an online retailer and content publisher in the pregnancy, baby and toddler marketplace.

***Barrx Medical, Inc.***

Barrx is a medical device company that develops treatment solutions for Barrett's esophagus.

***Blurb, Inc.***

Blurb is a solution to on-demand publishing of books by providing creative book publishing services.

***Compete, Inc.***

Compete extends online market research to seek to transform the way consumers and brands communicate. By combining permission marketing, predictive analytics and a consumer behavior database, Compete helps marketers identify and reach their target consumers.

***Cornice, Inc.***

Cornice seeks to provide compact, low-cost, high-capacity storage for a variety of pocket-able consumer electronic devices, including mobile phones, MP3 players, personal video recorders, GPS devices and portable storage products.

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***Cradle Technologies***

Cradle Technologies is a semiconductor company developing specialized digital signal processing technology for multimedia applications.

***Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

Elixir is a biopharmaceutical company utilizing aging research to develop pharmaceuticals that treat and/or prevent metabolic disease such as obesity and diabetes.

***Epicept Corporation***

Epicept is a pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of topically-delivered prescription pain management therapeutics.

***ForeScout Technologies, Inc.***

ForeScout is a provider of clientless network access control (NAC) solutions that enable customers to gain complete control over network security without disrupting end-user productivity.

***GameLogic, Inc.***

GameLogic is a provider of next generation games, gaming systems, and platforms for casinos and lotteries. The company provides large-scale interactive games and game technology for distribution on a variety of digital media.

***Gomez, Inc.***

Gomez supplies enterprise solutions that help companies achieve and maintain the performance of their mission-critical Internet applications. Gomez provides performance measurement, benchmarking and competitive analysis to companies across all industry segments, including financial services, e-commerce, information technology and travel.

***Guava Technologies, Inc.***

Guava Technologies is a biotechnology company that develops, manufactures and markets cellular analysis systems for the life science research marketplace.

***Gynesonics, Inc.***

Gynesonics is a development stage company focusing on minimally invasive devices for women's health.

***HedgeStreet, Inc.***

HedgeStreet is an Internet-based, government regulated market where traders can hedge against or speculate on economic events and price movements.

***High Roads, Inc.***

HighRoads provides technology-based solutions and services to provide visibility and enable collaboration throughout the design, procurement, management and communication of employee benefits plans.



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***Ikano Communications, Inc.***

Ikano Communications partners with Internet Service Providers to help such providers in reducing operating costs, increasing revenues and expanding geographic reach and product offerings.

***Intelliden, Inc.***

Intelliden offers Intelligent Networking software solutions for network-driven organizations to control, manage and scale their networks.

***Interwise, Inc.***

Interwise, Inc. is a provider of an integrated data, video, and voice conferencing solution for delivering realtime multimedia communications across the extended enterprise. The solution combines voice, rich interactive content, and streaming video in a single platform to support a customer's e-learning.

***Invoke Solutions, Inc.***

Invoke Solutions develops and provides real-time research technologies that seek to help businesses gain instant insight into the opinions, views, and dynamics of their customers, employees, and other constituents.

***Inxight Software, Inc.***

Inxight is a provider of software solutions that enables customers to discover, retrieve, and collect information contained in unstructured data sources in a number of languages.

***iWatt, Inc.***

iWatt is a power management IC company that designs, develops and markets semiconductors for computer, communications and industrial markets.

***Labopharm USA, Inc.***

Labopharm seeks to develop improved formulations of currently marketed drugs using its advanced, proprietary controlled-release drug delivery technologies. Labopharm seeks to develop and commercialize new value-added formulations of existing products that address the market's preference for drugs that offer simplified dosing regimens, improved efficacy or a reduced side effect profile.

***Lilliputian Systems, Inc.***

Lilliputian Systems, Inc. is developing a next generation micro fuel cell system for portable electronics and wireless applications.

***Luminous Devices, Inc.***

Luminous develops a continuous critical care monitor that addresses the rapidly growing clinical demand for tight glycemic control in the operating room, ICU, and hospital ward.

***Market Force Information, Inc.***

Market Force is an emerging provider of store-level, customer experience information for retailers, restaurants, consumer packaged goods companies and the financial and hospitality communities.

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***Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

Merrimack Pharmaceuticals is a drug discovery and clinical development company that has developed a proprietary drug discovery platform. Its clinical programs are focused on developing drugs in the fields of autoimmune disease and cancer.

***NeoScale Systems, Inc.***

NeoScale is a provider of storage security, enabling enterprise customers to achieve data privacy with the lowest operational impact and at the lowest total cost.

***NEXX Systems, Inc.***

Nexx is a provider of processing equipment for advance wager level packaging applications.

***Novasys Medical, Inc.***

Novasys is a medical company dedicated to the development of innovative therapies in women's health.

***OATSystems, Inc.***

OATSystems is a developer of radio-frequency identification (RFID) framework software and services that provide solutions to centrally manage and control RFID for retail, consumer packaged goods and pharmaceutical companies.

***OptiScan Biomedical Corporation***

OptiScan Biomedical Corporation is developing a non-invasive blood glucose monitor utilizing proprietary infrared technology.

***Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

Paratek is developing new therapeutics for the infectious disease market to combat the problem of antibiotic resistance.

***Pathfire, Inc.***

Pathfire provides digital content distribution and management solutions for the broadcast, media and entertainment industries and seeks to supply innovative digital solutions, from distribution to air, for broadcasters, news organizations, television networks, Hollywood studios and other media companies.

***Ping Identity Corporation***

Ping Identity Corporation provides federated identity solutions for web single sign-on and identity-enabled web services. Ping's software seek to allow organizations to securely share identity information across security boundaries.

***Portola Pharmaceuticals***

Portola is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for the treatment and prevention of severe cardiovascular diseases.

***Power Medical Interventions, Inc.***

Power Medical seeks to combine computer-mediated technology with minimally invasive surgical techniques to create next-generation surgical staplers.

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***Proficiency, Inc.***

Proficiency is delivering technology and products that make design intelligence portable and that increase the efficiency of product development processes. Proficiency supplies feature-based design interoperability and feature-based design data exchange solutions.

***QuatRx Pharmaceuticals Company***

QuatRx Pharmaceuticals Company is a pharmaceutical company focused on discovering, licensing, developing and commercializing compounds in the endocrine, metabolic and cardiovascular therapeutic areas.

***RazorGator, Inc.***

RazorGator is an Internet-based ticket sales company focusing on sold-out or hard-to-find tickets for sporting events, concerts and theatrical productions. RazorGator also operates an electronic broker trading and clearing platform for the resale of tickets.

***Rivulet Communications, Inc.***

Rivulet develops technology that enables IP networks to carry all kinds of real-time and other delivery-critical traffic. Rivulet's sophisticated suite of algorithms guarantee real-time delivery of packets with zero packet loss due to router queue overflow.

***Savvion, Inc.***

Savvion develops software focused on helping businesses control and improve operations performed by their people and software systems.

***Simpler Networks Corp***

Simpler Networks seeks to engineer network solutions for local service providers to help them reduce their operational costs by automating labor-intensive processes at the distribution frame.

***Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

Sirtris is a biopharmaceutical company developing and commercializing novel therapeutics that modulate sirtuins, a recently discovered family of enzymes that promotes the body's natural defense against disease. Also known as class III histone deacetylases (HDACs), sirtuins are attractive drug targets for diseases of aging, including metabolic and neurological diseases.

*Sling Media, Inc.*

Sling Media is a provider of consumer electronics for the digital media consumers. The company's solutions aim to enhance existing products and standards with hardware and software that will improve consumers' usage experience. The first member of the Sling Media family is the Slingbox, a device that allows consumers to access their living room television experience at any time, from any location.

*Sportvision, Inc.*

Sportvision is an interactive sports marketing and technology company developing products to enrich fans' interaction with sports via its unique broadcast and interactive solutions and helping create new value for sports properties, marketers and media companies. Sportvision's technologies have been utilized in broadcasts of all of the major sports including the NFL, NBA, NASCAR, NHL, PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, Major League Baseball, NCAA football and basketball, WTA, Arena Football League, XTERRA, Ironman Triathlon and other sporting events on-air and online.

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***Talisma Corporation***

Talisma Corporation is a provider of multi-channel Customer Resource Management (CRM) software. The software integrates email, chat, real-time collaboration, and telephony applications with a multi-channel interaction management platform. In addition, the software offers comprehensive analytics and a fully integrated system-wide knowledgebase and customer database.

***Transoral Pharmaceuticals, Inc.***

TransOral is a specialty pharmaceutical company developing novel formulations of proven active agents to provide meaningful new patient benefits. The Company's initial proprietary technology is being employed to accelerate efficacy and reduce drug dose in the development of therapeutics for the treatment of migraine and insomnia.

***ViDeOnline Communications, Ltd.***

ViDeOnline develops an end to end secure network specifically designed to address the secure distribution and delivery of personal entertainment media.

***Wageworks, Inc.***

WageWorks provides employer-sponsored, tax-advantaged spending solutions, including medical and family-care reimbursement and transit passes.

***Xillix Technologies Corp.***

Xillix Technologies Corp. develops fluorescence endoscopy technology for improved cancer detection. Xillix's latest device incorporates fluorescence and white-light endoscopy in a single device that has been developed for the detection and localization of lung and gastrointestinal (GI) cancers.

**Table of Contents****SENIOR SECURITIES**

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following table for the periods ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004. The information has been derived from our financial statements which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP for the periods ending December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004. Ernst & Young LLP's report on the senior securities table is attached as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See Management's Discussion and Analysis Borrowings for updated senior securities information.

<b>Class and Year</b>	<b>Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Asset Coverage per Unit <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Average Market Value per Unit <sup>(3)</sup></b>
<b>Bridge Loan Credit Facility with Alcmene Funding L.L.C.</b>			
December 31, 2004			N/A
December 31, 2005	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 2,505	N/A
December 31, 2006			N/A
<b>Securitized Credit Facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp.</b>			
December 31, 2004			N/A
December 31, 2005	\$ 51,000,000	\$ 2,505	N/A
December 31, 2006	\$ 41,000,000	\$ 7,230	N/A

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.
- (2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, divided by senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by \$1,000 to determine the Asset Coverage per Unit.
- (3) Not applicable because senior securities are not registered for public trading.

**DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

We determine the net asset value per share of our common stock quarterly. The net asset value per share is equal to the value of our total assets minus liabilities and any preferred stock outstanding divided by the total number of shares of common stock outstanding. As of the date of this prospectus, we do not have any preferred stock outstanding.

At December 31, 2006, approximately 94% of our total assets represented investments in portfolio companies of which 99% are valued at fair value by the Board of Directors. Value, as defined in Section 2(a) (41) of the 1940 Act, is (i) the market price for those securities for which a market quotation is readily available and (ii) for all other securities and assets, fair value is as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors in accordance with established valuation procedures and the recommendation of the Valuation Committee of the Board of Directors. Since there is typically no readily available market value for the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our management pursuant to a valuation policy and a consistent valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty in determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments determined in good faith by our management may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. As a result, determining fair value requires that judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment. Unlike banks, we are not permitted to provide a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we must determine the fair value of each individual investment on a quarterly basis. We will record unrealized depreciation



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on investments when we believe that an investment has decreased in value, including where collection of a loan or realization of an equity security is doubtful. Conversely, we will record unrealized appreciation if we believe that the underlying portfolio company has appreciated in value and, therefore, our investment has also appreciated in value, where appropriate.

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As a business development company, we invest primarily in illiquid securities including debt and equity-related securities of private companies. Our investments are generally subject to some restrictions on resale and generally have no established trading market. Because of the type of investments that we make and the nature of our business, our valuation process requires an analysis of various factors. Our valuation methodology includes the examination of, among other things, the underlying investment performance, financial condition and market changing events that impact valuation.

With respect to private debt and equity-related securities, each investment is valued using industry valuation benchmarks and, where appropriate, equity values are assigned a discount reflecting the illiquid nature of the investment, and our minority, non-control position. When a qualifying external event such as a significant purchase transaction, public offer, or subsequent debt or equity sale occurs, the pricing indicated by the external event will be used to corroborate our private debt or equity valuation. Securities that are traded in the over-the-counter market or on a stock exchange generally will be valued at the prevailing bid price on the valuation date. However, restricted or thinly traded public securities may be valued at discounts from the public market value due to the restrictions on sale.

## **Determinations In Connection With Offerings**

In connection with each offering of shares of our common stock, the Board of Directors or a committee thereof is required to make the determination that we are not selling shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value at the time at which the sale is made. The Board of Directors considers the following factors, among others, in making such determination:

the net asset value of our common stock disclosed in the most recent periodic report we filed with the SEC;

our management's assessment of whether any material change in the net asset value has occurred (including through the realization of net gains on the sale of our portfolio investments) from the period beginning on the date of the most recently disclosed net asset value to the period ending two days prior to the date of the sale of our common stock; and

the magnitude of the difference between the net asset value disclosed in the most recent periodic report we filed with the SEC and our management's assessment of any material change in the net asset value since the date of the most recently disclosed net asset value, and the offering price of the shares of our common stock in the proposed offering.

Importantly, this determination does not require that we calculate net asset value in connection with each offering of shares of our common stock, but instead it involves the determination by the Board of Directors or a committee thereof that we are not selling shares of our common stock at a price below the then current net asset value at the time at which the sale is made.

Moreover, to the extent that there is even a remote possibility that we may (i) issue shares of our common stock at a price below the then current net asset value of our common stock at the time at which the sale is made or (ii) trigger the undertaking (which we provided to the SEC in the registration statement to which this prospectus is a part) to suspend the offering of shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus if the net asset value fluctuates by certain amounts in certain circumstances until the prospectus is amended, the Board of Directors or a committee thereof will elect, in the case of clause (i) above, either to postpone the offering until such time that there is no longer the possibility of the occurrence of such event or to undertake to determine net asset value within two days prior to any such sale to ensure that such sale will not be below our then current net asset value, and, in the case of clause (ii) above, to comply with such undertaking or to undertake to determine net asset value to ensure that such undertaking has not been triggered.

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These processes and procedures are part of our compliance policies and procedures. Records will be made contemporaneously with all determinations described in this section and these records will be maintained with other records we are required to maintain under the 1940 Act.

**Table of Contents****MANAGEMENT**

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors elects our officers who serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors currently consists of four members, one who is an interested person of Hercules Technology Growth Capital as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act and three who are not interested persons and who we refer to as our independent directors.

**Directors, Executive Officers and Key Employees**

Our executive officers, directors and key employees and their positions are set forth below. The address for each executive officer, director and key employee is c/o Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Positions</b>
<b><i>Interested Director:</i></b> <sup>(1)</sup>		
Manuel A. Henriquez	43	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer
<b><i>Independent Directors:</i></b>		
Robert P. Badavas <sup>(2)(3)(4)</sup>	54	Director
Joseph W. Chow <sup>(2)(3)(4)(5)</sup>	54	Director
Allyn C. Woodward, Jr. <sup>(2)(3)(4)(5)</sup>	66	Director
<b><i>Executive Officers:</i></b>		
Manuel A. Henriquez	43	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer
Samir Bhaumik	43	Senior Managing Director
H. Scott Harvey	52	Chief Legal Officer and Chief Compliance Officer
David M. Lund	53	Chief Financial Officer
Shane A. Stettenbenz	36	Chief Technology Officer
Parag I. Shah	35	Senior Managing Director
<b><i>Key Employees:</i></b>		
Kathleen Conte	60	Managing Director
Mark S. Denomme	40	Managing Director
Kevin L. Grossman	38	Managing Director
Roy Y. Liu	46	Managing Director
Edward M. Messman	36	Managing Director
Paul Walborsky	41	Managing Director

(1) Mr. Henriquez is an interested person, as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act, of the Company due to his position as an officer of the Company.

(2) Member of the Audit Committee.

(3) Member of the Valuation Committee.

(4) Member of the Compensation Committee.

(5) Member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

**Interested Director**

**Manuel A. Henriquez** is a co-founder of the company and has been our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since December 2003 and our President since April 2005. Prior to co-founding our company, Mr. Henriquez was a Partner at VantagePoint Venture Partners from August 2000 through July 2003. Prior to VantagePoint Venture Partners, Mr. Henriquez was the President and Chief Investment Officer of Comdisco Ventures, a division of Comdisco, Inc., a leading technology and financial services company, from November 1999 to March 2000. Prior to that, from March 1997 to November 1999, Mr. Henriquez was a Managing Director

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of Comdisco Ventures. Mr. Henriquez was a senior member of the investment team at Comdisco Ventures that originated over \$2.0 billion of equipment lease, debt and equity transactions from 1997 to 2000. Mr. Henriquez received a B.S. in Business Administration from Northeastern University.

## **Independent Directors**

**Robert P. Badavas** has served as a director since March 2006. Mr. Badavas is the President and Chief Executive Officer of TAC Worldwide, a staffing and business services company owned by Goodwill Group of Japan. From November 2003 until becoming president and CEO in December 2005, he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of TAC Worldwide. Prior to joining TAC Worldwide, Mr. Badavas was Senior Principal and Chief Operating Officer of Atlas Venture, a venture capital firm, from September 2001 to September 2003. Prior to joining Atlas Venture, he was Senior Corporate Adviser to the Office of the Chairman of Aether Systems, Inc., a provider of wireless data products and services, from September 2000 to June 2001. Prior to that, he was Chief Executive Officer of Cerulean Technology, Inc., a provider of mobile information systems applications, from December 1995 until Aether Systems, Inc. acquired the company in September 2000. From 1986 to October 1995, Mr. Badavas was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, among other capacities, of Chipcom Corporation, a manufacturer of computer networking intelligent switching systems. Mr. Badavas was previously a board member and Chairman of the Audit Committee for RSA Security, Inc. until its acquisition by EMC Corporation in September 2006. He was previously a director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of ON Technology, until ON Technology was acquired by Symantec, Inc. in 2004 and is a former director of Renaissance Worldwide, until its acquisition by a privately-held company in 2001. Mr. Badavas is a Trustee of both Bentley College in Waltham, MA and Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Learning Center for Deaf Children, Framingham, MA. Mr. Badavas is a graduate of Bentley College with a BS in Accounting and Finance.

**Joseph W. Chow** has served as a director since February 2004. Mr. Chow is Executive Vice President and Chief Risk and Corporate Administration Officer at State Street Corporation, having retired from the company in August 2003 and rejoined it in July 2004. Prior to August 2003, Mr. Chow was Executive Vice President and Head of Credit and Risk Policy at State Street. Before joining State Street in 1990, Mr. Chow worked at Bank of Boston in various international and corporate banking roles and specialized in the financing of emerging-stage high technology companies from 1983 to 1989. Mr. Chow is a graduate of Brandeis University with a B.A. in Economics. He also received an M.C.P. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Management (Finance) from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

**Allyn C. Woodward, Jr.** has served as a director since February 2004. Mr. Woodward was Vice Chairman of Adams Harkness Financial Group (AHFG-formerly Adams, Harkness & Hill) from April, 2001 until January, 2006 when AHFG was sold to Canaccord, Inc. He previously served as President from 1995-2001. AHFG was an independent institutional research, brokerage and investment banking firm headquartered in Boston, MA. Prior to joining AHFG, Mr. Woodward worked for Silicon Valley Bank from April, 1990 to April 1995, initially as Executive Vice President and Co-founder of the Wellesley MA office and more recently as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the parent bank in California. Silicon Valley Bank is a commercial bank, headquartered in Santa Clara, CA whose principal lending focus is directed toward the technology, healthcare and venture capital industries. Prior to joining Silicon Valley Bank, Mr. Woodward was Senior Vice President and Group Manager of the Technology group at Bank of New England, Boston, MA where he was employed from 1963-1990. Mr. Woodward is currently a Director, Chairman of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee of Lecroy Corporation. He is also a former Director of Viewlogic and Cayenne Software, Inc. Mr. Woodward serves on the Board of Directors of three private companies and is on the Board of Advisors of five venture capital firms. Mr. Woodward is on the Board of Overseers and a member of the Finance Committee of Newton Wellesley Hospital, a 250 bed hospital located in Newton, MA. Mr. Woodward is on the Board of Overseers and the Investment Committee and the Finance Committee of Babson College in Babson Park, MA. Mr. Woodward graduated from Babson College with a degree in finance and accounting. He also graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

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### **Executive Officers who are not Directors**

**Samir Bhaumik** joined the company in November 2004 as a Managing Director and was promoted to Senior Managing Director in September 2006. Mr. Bhaumik previously served as Vice President Western Region of the New York Stock Exchange from March 2003 to October 2004. Prior to working for the New York Stock Exchange, Mr. Bhaumik was Senior Vice President of Comerica Bank, previously Imperial Bank, from April 1993 to February 2003. Mr. Bhaumik received a B.A. from San Jose State University and an M.B.A from Santa Clara University. He serves on the advisory boards of Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business, Junior Achievement of Silicon Valley and the American Electronics Association-Bay Area council.

**H. Scott Harvey** is a co-founder of the company and has been our Chief Legal Officer since December 2003. Mr. Harvey has over 20 years of legal and business experience with leveraged finance and financing public and private technology-related companies. Since July 2002, and prior to joining us, Mr. Harvey was in a diversified private practice. Previously, Mr. Harvey was Deputy General Counsel of Comdisco, Inc., a leading technology and financial services company, from January 1997 to July 2002. From 1991 to 1997, Mr. Harvey served as Vice President of Marketing, Administration & Alliances with Comdisco, Inc. and was Corporate Counsel from 1983 to 1991. Mr. Harvey received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri, a J.D. and LLM in taxation from The John Marshall Law School and an M.B.A. from Illinois Institute of Technology.

**David M. Lund** joined us in July 2005 as Vice President of Finance and Corporate Controller, and was promoted to Chief Financial Officer on October 2, 2006. Mr. Lund is our principal financial and accounting officer. He has over 20 years of experience in finance and accounting serving companies in the technology sector. Prior to joining Hercules, Mr. Lund served in senior financial positions for publicly traded companies: InterTrust Technologies, Centillum Communications and Rainmaker Systems, and in private companies: Urban Media, Scion Photonics and APT Technology. Mr. Lund also served in public accounting with Ernst & Young LLP and Grant Thornton LLP. He received a B.S. degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from San Jose State University and a B.S. degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from California State University, Chico. Mr. Lund is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of California.

**Parag I. Shah** joined the company in November 2004 as Managing Director of Life Sciences and was promoted to Senior Managing Director in September 2006. From April 2000 to April 2004, Mr. Shah served as a Senior Vice President in Imperial Bank's Life Sciences Group, which was acquired by Comerica Bank in early 2001. Prior to working at Comerica Bank, Mr. Shah was an Assistant Vice President at Bank Boston from January 1997 to March 2000. Bank Boston was acquired by Fleet Bank in 1999. Mr. Shah completed his Masters degrees in Technology, Management and Policy as well as his Bachelors degree in Molecular Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). During his tenure at MIT, Mr. Shah conducted research at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and was chosen to serve on the Whitehead Institute's Board of Associates in 2003.

**Shane A. Stettenbenz** joined the company in February 2004 as Vice President Information Systems and has served as Chief Technology Officer since December 2004. Mr. Stettenbenz previously served as an IT Director for VantagePoint Venture Partners from May 2001 to June 2003. Prior to that, Mr. Stettenbenz was an IT Manager for Comdisco Ventures, a division of Comdisco, Inc. from May 1997 to May 2001. Mr. Stettenbenz attended San Jose State University from 1991 to 1995 while majoring in Management Information Systems.

### **Key Employees**

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**Kathleen Conte** joined the company as a Managing Director of Life Sciences in November 2004. From December 2003 to November 2004, she worked as an independent consultant. From 1993 to December 2003, she served as Senior Vice President at Comerica Bank running its West Coast Life Sciences Group. Ms. Conte was at



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Prudential Capital Corporation from 1987 to 1993 originating structured private placements. Prior to that she spent 13 years at Wells Fargo Bank in various lending positions. Ms. Conte holds a B.A. degree and an M.B.A. from the University of Delaware.

**Mark S. Denomme** joined the company as a Managing Director in September 2006. Mr. Denomme has over 18 years of experience in financial services. Prior to joining the company, Mr. Denomme was a Senior Vice President at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., focusing on investments in middle market healthcare companies. From 2000 to 2006, Mr. Denomme was a Managing Director and co-founder of Consilium Partners, an investment banking firm focused on sell-side and buy-side engagements for middle market companies. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Denomme was a Director in the Leveraged Finance group of BancBoston Robertson Stephens, focusing on originating loan syndication and high yield debt opportunities for the firm's technology and media clients. From 1988 to 1997, Mr. Denomme was a commercial lender with Bank of Boston focused on structured debt opportunities with technology and media-related companies. Mr. Denomme holds a BBA degree from the University of Michigan and his series 7, 63 and 24 NASD licenses.

**Kevin Grossman** joined the company in September 2006 as a Managing Director. Mr. Grossman previously served as a Senior Relationship Manager and Senior Vice President in Silicon Valley Bank's Colorado office from July 1999 to August 2006 servicing technology and life sciences companies throughout Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. From December 1998 through July 1999, Mr. Grossman was with Fremont Financial in a Business Development capacity providing Asset Based Lending facilities. Prior to that he served from January 1996 through February 1998 at the National Bank of Canada providing Asset Based Lending deals with Portfolio Management responsibilities. From June 1993 through December 1995 he opened two offices for an asset based lending company in the Pacific Northwest providing services to highly leveraged entities and companies experiencing financial stress. Mr. Grossman earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University. Mr. Grossman is a member of the Board of Advisors for Agility Leasing, and a member of Association for Corporate Growth, Rockies Venture Club, and the Colorado Venture Capital Association. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Denver Metro YMCA and serves as Program Chairman for the Duncan Family Branch.

**Roy Y. Liu** joined the company as a Managing Director in April 2004. Mr. Liu has over 20 years experience in operations and finance of technology companies. Formerly, Mr. Liu was a Vice President at GrandBanks Capital, an early-stage, information technology-focused venture capital firm. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Liu was a founding principal of VantagePoint Structured Investments, a debt fund affiliated with VantagePoint Venture Partners. Prior to joining VantagePoint, Mr. Liu was VP Finance and Chief Financial Officer for toysmart.com, Inc. Prior to joining toysmart.com, he was a First Vice President and co-founded Imperial Bank's Emerging Growth Industries Boston office in 1997, where he focused specifically on debt financing for venture-backed companies. Prior to co-founding Imperial Bank's Emerging Growth Industries Boston office, Mr. Liu was the Chief Financial Officer of Microwave Bypass Systems, Inc. Prior to joining Microwave Bypass, Mr. Liu was Vice President and head of the High Tech Lending group for State Street Bank & Trust Co. Mr. Liu started his finance career in the Acquisition Finance Division of the Bank of Boston. Prior to his career in finance, Mr. Liu worked four years at IBM in research and product development. He holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan.

**Edward M. Messman** joined the company in July 2005 as a Managing Director. From June 2004 to July 2005, Mr. Messman served as the Southwest Regional Market Manager of the Structured Finance Group of Silicon Valley Bank. Prior to Silicon Valley Bank, Mr. Messman worked as an independent consultant from December 2003 to June 2004. From October 1998 to December 2003, Mr. Messman was Vice President of Comerica Bank, previously Imperial Bank, where he formed and managed the Technology and Life Sciences group in Denver, Colorado covering the Rocky Mountain region. Mr. Messman received a B.S. degree in International Business from Grand Canyon University and an M.B.A from the University of Colorado.

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**Paul Walborsky** joined the company in November 2006 as a Managing Director. He previously served as founder and CEO of Grupo Arca, Inc., from January 2004 to November 2006. Prior to founding Grupo Arca, Paul was Senior Vice President in the Wealth and Asset Management group of Lehman Brothers from May 2002 to December 2003. Paul was a Senior Vice President of Business Development at Moneyline, Inc. from November 2001 until May 2002. Prior to this, Paul founded and served as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at WorldStreet Corporation from February 1996 through October 2001. Paul holds a B.A. in Economics from Brandeis University and an M.A. in Finance and Economics from the Lemberg Program at Brandeis University.

**Board of Directors**

The number of directors is currently fixed at four directors.

Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes. One class holds office for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2007, a second class holds office for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2008, and a third class holds office initially for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2009. Each director holds office for the term to which he or she is elected and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies. Mr. Henriquez's term expires in 2007, Mr. Badavas and Mr. Chow's terms expire in 2008 and Mr. Woodward's term expires in 2009. At each annual meeting of our stockholders, the successors to the class of directors whose terms expire at such meeting will be elected to hold office for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders held in the third year following the year of their election and until their successors are duly elected and qualify.

**Compensation of Directors**

The Compensation Committee engages an outside compensation consultant to review the competitiveness and effectiveness of our director compensation program relative to market practices within a select group of peers based on market size, industries, geographic regions and other factors. We historically have retained Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Inc. to act as its compensation consultant regarding independent director compensation. The consultant recommends to the Compensation Committee the mix of cash versus equity compensation to be offered as well as the types of long-term incentives to be granted.

The following table discloses the cash, equity awards and other compensation earned, paid or awarded, as the case may be, to each of our non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended 2006.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Stock		All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
		Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>		
Robert P. Badavas	\$ 204,215	\$	\$	\$	\$ 204,215
Joseph W. Chow	521,085				521,085
Allyn C. Woodward, Jr.	524,835				524,835
Manuel A. Henriquez <sup>(3)</sup>					

(1) During 2006, Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward were awarded retention bonuses of \$125,465, \$374,085 and \$374,085 respectively. Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward elected to receive 5,001, 15,000 and 15,000 shares of our common stock, respectively, in lieu of a portion of the cash payment. The total value of the shares issued for services in fiscal 2006 was \$65,368, \$194,900 and \$194,900 for Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward, respectively.

(2)

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As part of our plan to compensate our non-employee directors, Messrs. Chow and Woodward were granted options to purchase shares of our common stock when they joined the board of directors in 2004. Pursuant to the requirements of the 1940 Act, we cancelled these options when we elected to be regulated as a business development company in 2005. On February 15, 2007, we received exemptive relief from the SEC to issue stock options to our non-employee directors, though no options have been granted yet.

- (3) As an employee director, Mr. Henriquez does not receive any compensation for his service as a director. The compensation Mr. Henriquez receives as Chief Executive officer of the company is disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table.

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As compensation for serving on our Board, each of our independent directors receives an annual fee of \$50,000 and the chairperson of each committee receives an additional \$15,000 annual fee. Each independent director also receives \$2,000 for each Board or committee meeting they attend, whether in person or telephonically. Employee directors and non-independent directors will not receive compensation for serving on the Board. In addition, we reimburse our directors for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Board.

Directors do not receive any perquisites or other personal benefits from the Company.

Under current SEC rules and regulations applicable to business development companies, a business development company may not grant options to non-employee directors, unless it receives exemptive relief from the SEC. On June 21, 2005, we applied for exemptive relief from the SEC to permit us to grant options to purchase shares of our common stock to our non-employee directors as a portion of their compensation for service on our Board and on February 15, 2007, we received approval from the SEC on this exemptive request. No stock options were granted to our non-employee directors as of December 31, 2006.

## **Committees of the Board of Directors**

*Audit Committee.* Our Board has established an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is comprised of Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward, each of whom is an independent director and satisfies the independence requirements for purposes of the Nasdaq Global Market listing standards and as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of 1940 Act. Mr. Badavas currently serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee and is a financial expert as defined under Nasdaq rules. The Audit Committee is responsible for approving our independent accountants, reviewing with our independent accountants the plans and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by our independent accountants, reviewing the independence of our independent accountants and reviewing the adequacy of our internal accounting controls. During the last fiscal year, the Audit Committee held seven meetings.

*Valuation Committee.* Our Board has established a Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee is comprised of Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward, each of whom is an independent director and satisfies the independence requirements for purposes of the Nasdaq National Market listing standards and as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Mr. Chow currently serves as chairman of the Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the full board the fair value of debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded in accordance with established valuation procedures. The Valuation Committee may utilize the services of an independent valuation firm in arriving at fair value of these securities. During the last fiscal year, the Valuation Committee held five meetings.

*Compensation Committee.* Our Board has established a Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is comprised of Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward, each of whom is an independent director and satisfies the independence requirements for purposes of the Nasdaq National Market listing standards and as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Mr. Woodward currently serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee determines compensation for our executive officers, in addition to administering our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2006 Non-Employee Director Plan, which is described below and a copy of such plan as proposed to be amended is attached hereto as Exhibits B and C. During the last fiscal year, the Compensation Committee held two meetings.

*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* Our Board has established a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of Messrs. Chow and Woodward, each of whom is an independent director and satisfies the independence requirements for purposes of the Nasdaq National Market listing standards and as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Mr. Woodward currently serves as Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will nominate to the Board for consideration candidates for



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election as directors to the Board. During the last fiscal year, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee did not hold any meetings, however, discussions regarding candidate nominations and corporate governance were held in conjunction with the meetings of the Board.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

All members of the Compensation Committee are independent directors and none of the members are present or past employees of the Company. No member of the Compensation Committee: (i) has had any relationship with the Company requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act; or (ii) is an executive officer of another entity, at which one of our executive officers serves on the board of directors.

### **Compensation of Executive Officers**

Under SEC rules applicable to business development companies, we are required to set forth certain information regarding the compensation of certain of our executive officers and directors. The following sets forth information regarding the compensation earned by our directors and our five highest paid executive officers (collectively, they are referred to as named executive officers ) in all capacities during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

### **Overview of the Compensation Program**

#### ***Compensation Philosophy***

The compensation and benefit programs of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. are designed with the goal of providing compensation that is fair, reasonable and competitive. The programs are intended to help us align the compensation paid to our executive officers with corporate and executive performance goals that have been established to achieve both our short-term and long-term objectives. We also believe that the compensation programs should enable us to attract, motivate, and retain employees who will contribute to our future success.

The design of the Company's compensation programs is based on the following:

*Competitiveness and Market Alignment* Our compensation and benefits programs are designed to be competitive with compensation plans provided by companies with whom we compete for talent in order to attract the best talent from an increasingly competitive market for top performers in the industries in which we compete.

We compete with private equity, mezzanine and hedge funds for investment professionals. Such funds commonly pay 20% of the net profits (including capital gains), or carried interest, of each newly-raised fund to the partners and employees of the private equity, mezzanine or hedge fund. Thus, we believe that our employee option plans should be designed to provide an economic interest in us similar to that generally gained by partners and employees in private equity, mezzanine lenders, venture capital or hedge funds.

*Compensation Consultant* The Compensation Committee engages an outside compensation consultant to review the competitiveness and effectiveness of our employee compensation program relative to market practices and business goals. We historically have retained Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Inc. to act as our compensation consultant. The consultant reviews overall compensation levels and the relationship of our financial performance to actual compensation levels received over the previous year.

The consultant recommends to the Compensation Committee changes in the mix of cash versus equity compensation to be offered as well as the types of long-term incentives to be granted. The consultant makes suggestions related to the types of performance measures to be used in the Company's annual and long-term

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plans consistent with our business strategies and presents the relevant practices of peer companies. The consultant and the Company developed a list of peer companies based on market size, industries, geographic regions and other factors to be used for compensation and financial analyses. The comparative group included ten business development companies and six other specialty finance companies. However, given the fact that most of our direct competitors are private equity partnerships, specific compensation with respect to our direct competitors typically is not publicly available.

During 2006, the consultant also prepared summary analyses of total compensation for the Compensation Committee with respect to each of the named executive officers and our origination team. These summaries included all forms of current compensation including salary, annual incentives, long-term incentives, and employee benefits.

The consultant shares preliminary findings with the Chair of the Compensation Committee and presents the full report to the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee reviews the information provided by the consultant, including the summary analyses of key elements of compensation paid to each of the peer group executives and members of the origination team. In 2006, using the information previously provided by the consultant, the Compensation Committee determined the appropriate mix of short-term and long-term compensation for the Chief Executive Officer and, based upon recommendations from the Chief Executive Officer concerning individual performance, also determined the appropriate mix of short-term and long-term compensation for each of the other named executive officers.

*Achievement of Corporate and Individual Performance Objectives* We believe that the best way to align compensation with the interests of our shareholders is to link individual compensation with corporate objectives. Compensation is determined by the Compensation Committee on a discretionary basis and is dependent on the achievement of certain corporate and executive performance objectives that have been established to achieve short-term and long-term objectives of the Company. The objectives considered include, among other things, new investment originations and funding growth, revenue growth, realized and unrealized gains, yield on the investment portfolio, operating efficiency, credit performance, information system improvements, and capital (equity and debt) fund raising. We do not attach a specific weight or apply a formula with respect to the foregoing factors. When individual performance exceeds expectation and performance goals established during the year, compensation levels for the individual may exceed the target compensation level. When individual performance falls below expectations, compensation levels are expected to be below target levels.

We do not specifically benchmark the compensation of our executive officers against that paid by other companies with publicly traded securities. This is because we believe that our primary competitors in both our business and for recruiting executive officers and other employees are private equity firms. Such entities do not publicly report the compensation of their executive officers nor do they typically report publicly information on their corporate performance. While various salary surveys, such as those noted above, and other sources provide us Industry Data with regard to these firms, we believe that without accurate, publicly disclosed information on these entities that would serve as benchmarks, it is inappropriate to set formal benchmarking procedures.

*Alignment with Requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act)* Our compensation program must comply with the requirements of the 1940 Act which imposes certain limitations on the structure of a business development company's (BDC) compensation program. For example, the 1940 Act prohibits a BDC from maintaining an incentive stock option award plan and a profit sharing arrangement simultaneously. As a result, if a BDC has an incentive stock option award plan, it is prohibited from using a profit sharing arrangement such as a carried interest formula, a common form of compensation in the private equity industry, as a form of compensation. These limitations and other similar restrictions imposed by the 1940 Act limit the compensation arrangements that can be utilized in order to attract and retain employees.



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### ***Components of Total Compensation***

The Compensation Committee determined that the compensation packages for 2006 for its named executive officers should consist of the following three key components:

Annual base salary,

Annual cash bonus, and

Incentive stock option awards

### ***Annual Base Salary***

Base salary is designed to attract and retain experienced executives who can drive the achievement of our goals and objectives. While our executive's initial base salaries are determined by an assessment of competitive market levels for comparable experience and responsibilities, the factors used in determining changes in base salary include individual performance, changes in role and/or responsibility and changes in the competitive market environment.

### ***Annual Cash Bonus***

The annual cash bonus is designed to reward our executives that have achieved certain corporate and executive performance objectives. The amount of the annual cash bonus is determined by the Compensation Committee on a discretionary basis and is dependent on the achievement of certain quantitative and qualitative objectives during the year that were established to achieve both short-term and long-term objectives.

### ***Incentive Stock Option Awards***

The Compensation Committee's principal objective in awarding incentive stock options is to align each optionee's interests with our success and the financial interests of its stockholders. The Compensation Committee evaluates a number of criteria, including the past service of each such optionee, the present and potential contributions of such optionee our success, years of service, position, and such other factors as the Compensation Committee believes to be relevant in connection with accomplishing the purposes of the long-term goals of the Company. The Compensation Committee does not apply a formula assigning specific weights to any of these factors when making its determination. The Compensation Committee awards incentive stock options on a subjective basis and such awards depend in each case on the performance of the executive under consideration, and in the case of new hires, their potential performance. See "2004 Stock Incentive Plan" for additional information.

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Option awards under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan are generally awarded upon initial employment and on an annual basis thereafter. Options generally vest one-third one year after the date of grant and ratably over the succeeding 24 months.

On July 7, 2006, we applied for exemptive relief with the SEC in order to permit us to issue restricted stock pursuant to the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2006 Non-Employee Director Plan (together, the Plans ). The SEC has commenced its review of the exemptive application and we are currently responding to questions on the relief request, but as of the date hereof, we have not received approval of the application and accordingly cannot evaluate when or if an order regarding our application may be granted.

We believe that the issuance of restricted stock permits us to provide long-term incentives to attract experienced business professionals who might otherwise elect to become employed with private equity, mezzanine lenders, venture capital firms or hedge funds.

Under the Plans, grants of restricted shares cannot exceed 10% of our issued and outstanding shares of stock at any time and grants of restricted stock and options together, cannot exceed 25 percent of the issued and

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outstanding shares of stock at any time. If any awards of restricted stock awards are made, such awards will reduce on a percentage basis the total number of shares of stock for which options may be awarded. All awards granted under the Plans will be in the form stock options if we do not receive exemptive relief from the SEC to issue restricted stock. No more than 1,000,000 shares of our common stock may be made subject to awards under the Stock Plan to any individual in any year.

## **Benefits and Perquisites**

In addition to base salaries, annual cash bonuses and incentive stock option awards, we provide our executives with certain other benefits to assist in remaining competitive in the marketplace. All executive officers and other full-time employees receive general health and welfare benefits, which consist of life and health insurance benefits and the opportunity to participate in our defined contribution 401(k) plan. Our 401(k) plan does not currently provide for a match of contributions by the Company. Our executive officers receive the same benefits and perquisites as our full-time employees. Other than the benefits described above, our executive officers do not receive any other benefits or perquisites from the Company.

## ***Tax and Accounting Implications***

*Stock-Based Compensation.* The Company accounts for stock-based compensation, including options granted pursuant to its 2004 Equity Incentive Plan in accordance with the requirements of SFAS No. 123R.

*Deductibility of Executive Compensation.* Our compensation philosophy and policies are intended to comply with Code Section 162(m) and related regulations, which establish certain requirements in order for performance-based compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 paid to certain executive officers to be deductible by us. In establishing and administering our compensation programs, the Compensation Committee generally intends that performance-based compensation will be deductible under Code Section 162(m), although we retain the flexibility to pay compensation that is not eligible for such treatment if it is in our best interest to do so.

## **Establishing Compensation Levels**

### ***Role of the Compensation Committee and Management***

The Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors who are also non-employee directors as defined in Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and independent directors as defined by Nasdaq Global Market rules.

The Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a charter that sets forth the mission of the Compensation Committee and its specific goals and responsibilities. The Compensation Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.herculestech.com](http://www.herculestech.com). The Compensation Committee evaluates the compensation of the executive officers and their performance relative to their compensation to assure that they are compensated effectively in a manner consistent with the compensation philosophy discussed above. In addition, the Compensation Committee evaluates and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the compensation of the directors.

The key member of management involved in the compensation process is our Chief Executive Officer, Manuel Henriquez. Mr. Henriquez identifies certain corporate and executive performance objectives that have been established to achieve short-term and long-term objectives that are used to determine total compensation. Mr. Henriquez also recommends the overall funding level for the annual cash bonus plan. Mr. Henriquez's recommendations are presented to the Compensation Committee for review and approval, but he is not a member of the Compensation Committee and is not involved in the deliberations of the Committee.

The Compensation Committee makes all decisions with respect to compensation of the named executive officers, subject to review and approval by the full Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer reviews the

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performance of our executive officers (other than himself) and, based on that review, provides input regarding the performance of the other executive officers and makes recommendations for compensation amounts payable to the other executive officers, including the other named executive officers. Our Compensation Committee meets outside of the presence of the Chief Executive Officer when reviewing and determining his compensation.

### ***Company Compensation Policies***

In determining the individual compensation for the Company's executives and employees, the Compensation Committee considers the total compensation to be awarded to each executive and employee and exercises discretion in determining the portion allocated to the various components of total compensation. We believe that the focus on total compensation provides the ability to align compensation decisions with short-term and long-term needs of the business. This approach also allows for the flexibility needed to recognize differences in performance by providing differentiated compensation plans to its executives and employees.

### **Assessment of Company Performance**

In determining the 2006 annual cash bonuses for the executives, the Compensation Committee considered the achievement of certain corporate and executive performance objectives and the short-term and long-term objectives of the company as described above. During 2006, we achieved several strategic investment and operational goals and objectives, including increasing revenues to \$29.5 million representing a 177% increase over 2005 revenues of \$10.7 million, generating \$3.3 million in net realized gains attributed to sales of warrants and equity in four portfolio companies, raising approximately \$143 million in net proceeds from the sale of our common stock, increasing our credit facility from \$100 million to \$150 million, investing \$193 million in 35 total portfolio companies, paying \$1.20 in dividends to stockholders, and expanding its organizational capabilities through growth in investment talent in our Palo Alto office and regional offices in Boulder and Boston.

### **Determination of 2006 Salaries of Named Executive Officers**

The Compensation Committee reviews the components of the compensation provided to our executives.

Individual compensation levels for executives are determined based on individual performance and the achievement of certain corporate and executive performance objectives that have been established to achieve our short-term and long-term objectives.

Increases to base salary are awarded when necessary to address significant changes in the external competitive market for a given position, to recognize an executive for assuming significant additional responsibilities and his/her related performance, or to achieve an appropriate competitive level due to a promotion. Annual increases are generally approved by the Compensation Committee in June or July of each year.

During fiscal 2006, Messrs. Henriquez, Lund, Harvey, Bhaumik and Shah received base salaries of \$550,000, \$200,000, \$190,000, \$210,000 and \$210,000, respectively, and base salaries in 2005 of \$550,000, \$160,000, \$150,000, \$175,000 and \$175,000, respectively.

**Determination of 2006 Annual Cash Bonus for Named Executive Officers**

In determining the amount of an executive's variable compensation (the annual cash bonus) the Compensation Committee evaluates the executive's performance based on qualitative and quantitative measures. For example, new funding originations during the year, yields on our investment portfolio, realized and unrealized gains, credit performance of the investment portfolio, operating efficiency, information system improvements, timeliness of public reporting, amongst other things. Within those guidelines, the Committee considers the overall funding available for such awards, the executive's performance, and the desired mix.

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between the various components of total compensation. Discretion is exercised in determining the overall total compensation to be awarded to the executive. As a result, the amounts delivered in the form of an annual cash bonus are designed to work together in conjunction with base salary to deliver an appropriate total compensation level to the executive.

We believe that the discretionary design of our variable compensation program supports its overall compensation objectives by allowing for significant differentiation of compensation based on individual performance and by providing the flexibility necessary to ensure that compensation packages for its executives are competitive relative to its market.

During fiscal 2006, Messrs. Henriquez, Lund, Harvey, Bhaumik and Shah received cash bonuses of \$1,000,000, \$100,000, \$100,000, \$25,000 and \$272,500, respectively, as compared to cash bonuses for 2005 of \$700,000, \$50,000, \$100,000, \$65,000 and \$150,000, respectively.

## **Incentive Stock Option Awards**

Our principal objective in awarding incentive stock option awards to the eligible executive officers and employees is to align each optionee's interests with our success and the financial interests of our stockholders by linking a portion of such optionee's compensation with the long-term performance. The Compensation Committee awards incentive stock option awards on a subjective basis and such awards depend in each case on the performance of the executive and employee under consideration, and in the case of new hires, their potential performance. Incentive stock option awards are priced at the closing price of the stock on the date the Committee meets and the grant is issued. The Compensation Committee takes into account material non-public information, among other factors, when granting stock options. See 2004 Equity Incentive Plan for additional information.

## ***Change of Control Provisions***

Upon specified covered transactions (as defined in the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan), in which there is an acquiring or surviving entity, the Board may provide for the assumption of some or all outstanding awards, or for the grant of new awards in substitution, by the acquiror or survivor or an affiliate of the acquiror or survivor, in each case on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Board determines. In the absence of such an assumption or if there is no substitution, except as otherwise provided in the award, each award will become fully exercisable prior to the covered transaction on a basis that gives the holder of the award a reasonable opportunity, as determined by the Board, to participate as a stockholder in the covered transaction following exercise, and the award will terminate upon consummation of the covered transaction. A covered transaction includes the following: (i) a merger or other transaction that results in the common stock of the company being acquired by a single person or group; (ii) a sale of substantially all of the company's assets; or (iii) a dissolution or liquidation of the company; (iv) a change in a majority of the board's composition unless approved by a majority of the directors continuing in office.

No executive officer or employee of the Company has a written employment or severance agreement. As a result, no executive officer is entitled to any severance payments.

**Table of Contents****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the compensation earned by our chief executive officer and four other most highly paid executives for services rendered to the Company and its subsidiaries for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

<b>Name and Principal Position</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Salary (\$)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Bonus (\$)</b>	<b>Option Awards (\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>					
Manuel A. Henriquez	2006	\$ 466,667	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 279,200 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,745,867
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>					
David M. Lund	2006	180,000	100,000	26,900 <sup>(4)</sup>	306,900
<b>Chief Legal Officer</b>					
H. Scott Harvey	2006	170,100	100,000	66,800 <sup>(5)</sup>	336,900
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>					
Samir Bhaumik	2006	195,417	25,000	43,400 <sup>(6)</sup>	263,817
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>					
Parag I. Shah	2006	195,417	272,500	41,500 <sup>(7)</sup>	509,417

(1) Salary column represents base salary compensation received by each named executive officer during fiscal 2006.

(2) The amounts reported in the Option Awards column represents the portion of the grant date fair value of the stock option grants made to the Named Executive Officers during 2006 and in prior years that was recognized as expense for financial reporting purposes during 2006 in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 123R, Share-based Payments. See Critical Accounting Policies section of the MD&A in the Company s Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2006 regarding assumptions underlying valuation of equity awards.

(3) Represents expense in 2006 for options to purchase 702,400 shares of our common stock issued under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, respectively.

(4) Represents expense in 2006 for options to purchase 85,000 shares of our common stock issued under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, respectively.

(5) Represents expense in 2006 for options to purchase 171,000 shares of our common stock issued under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, respectively.

(6) Represents expense in 2006 for options to purchase 137,900 shares of our common stock issued under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, respectively.

(7) Represents expense in 2006 for options to purchase 137,900 shares of our common stock issued under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, respectively.



**Table of Contents****Grants of Plan Based Awards**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the options granted during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 to each of our executive officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table:

Name and Principal Position	Grant Date	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>				
Manuel A. Henriquez	06/16/06	97,400	\$ 12.14	\$ 124,800
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>				
David M. Lund	06/16/06	45,000	\$ 12.14	57,600
<b>Chief Legal Officer</b>				
H. Scott Harvey	06/16/06	30,000	\$ 12.14	38,400
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>				
Samir Bhaumik	06/16/06	93,900	\$ 12.14	120,300
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>				
Parag I. Shah	06/16/06	94,400	\$ 12.14	120,900

(1) Options generally vest 33% one year after the date of grant and ratably over the succeeding 24 months. All options may be exercised for a period ending seven years after the date of grant.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table shows outstanding incentive stock option awards classified as exercisable and unexercisable as of December 31, 2006 for each of the executive officers:

Name and Principal Position	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable <sup>(1)</sup>	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable <sup>(2)</sup>	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>				
Manuel A. Henriquez	125,000	302,500	\$ 15.00	06/23/11
		97,400	13.00	06/17/12
			12.14	06/16/13
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>				
David M. Lund	18,889	21,111	13.00	07/15/12
		45,000	12.14	06/16/13
<b>Chief Legal Officer</b>				
H. Scott Harvey	12,821	70,500	15.00	06/23/11
		30,000	13.00	06/17/12
			12.14	06/16/13
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>				

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Samir Bhaumik	4,500	1,500	15.00	12/13/11
	19,000	19,000	13.00	06/17/12
		93,900	12.14	06/16/13
<b>Senior Managing Director</b>				
Parag I. Shah	4,125	1,375	15.00	12/13/11
	19,000	19,000	13.00	06/17/12
		94,400	12.14	06/16/13

(1) No options were exercised or transferred during the year ended December 31, 2006.

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- (2) Options expiring in 2011 to Messrs. Henriquez and Harvey were 100% vested on the date of grant. Options expiring to Messrs. Bhaumik and Shah in 2011 were 25% vested one year after the date of grant and ratably over the succeeding 24 months. Options generally vest 33% one year after the date of grant and ratably over the succeeding 24 months. All options may be exercised for a period ending seven years after the date of grant.

### **2004 Equity Incentive Plan**

Our Board of Directors and our stockholders have approved the 2005 Amendment and Restatement of the Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, for the purpose of attracting and retaining the services of executive officers, directors and other key employees. Under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, our Compensation Committee may award incentive stock options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, or ISOs, to employees, and nonstatutory stock options to employees and directors.

Under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, we have authorized for issuance up to 7,000,000 shares of common stock. Participants in the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan may receive awards of options to purchase our common stock, as determined by our Compensation Committee. Options granted under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan generally may be exercised for a period of no more than seven years from the date of grant. Unless sooner terminated by our Board of Directors, the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan will terminate on the tenth anniversary of its adoption and no additional awards may be made under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan after that date. The 2004 Equity Incentive Plan provides that all awards granted under the plan are subject to modification as required to ensure that such awards do not conflict with the requirements of the 1940 Act applicable to us.

Options granted under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan will entitle the optionee, upon exercise, to purchase shares of common stock from us at a specified exercise price per share. ISOs must have a per share exercise price of no less than the fair market value of a share of stock on the date of the grant or, if the optionee owns or is treated as owning (under Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock, 110% of the fair market value of a share of stock on the date of the grant. Nonstatutory stock options granted under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan must have a per share exercise price of no less than the fair market value of a share of stock on the date of the grant. Options will not be transferable other than by laws of descent and distribution, or in the case of nonstatutory stock options, by gift, and will generally be exercisable during an optionee's lifetime only by the optionee.

Our Compensation Committee administers the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and has the authority, subject to the provisions of the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, to determine who will receive awards under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and the terms of such awards. Our Compensation Committee will have the authority to adjust the number of shares available for awards, the number of shares subject to outstanding awards and the exercise price for awards following the occurrence of events such as stock splits, dividends, distributions and recapitalizations. The exercise price of an option may be paid in the form of shares of stock that are already owned by such optionholder.

Upon specified covered transactions (as defined in the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan), all outstanding awards under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan may either be assumed or substituted for by the surviving entity. If the surviving entity does not assume or substitute similar awards, the awards held by the participants will be accelerated in full and then terminated to the extent not exercised prior to the covered transaction.

### **2006 Non-Employee Director Plan**

Our Board of Directors and stockholders have approved the 2006 Non-employee Director Plan (the Director Plan). Under current SEC rules and regulations applicable to business development companies, a business development company may not grant options to non-employee directors. On June 21, 2005, we applied



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for exemptive relief from the SEC to permit us to grant options to purchase shares of our common stock to our non-employee directors as a portion of their compensation for service on our Board. We cannot provide any assurance that we will receive any exemptive relief from the SEC. If the relief requested from the SEC is granted, the three non-employee Directors (and, upon his or her election to the Board, any additional Director) would become eligible to participate in the Director Plan. The following is a summary of the material features of the Director Plan.

The Company has instituted the Director Plan for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Company by providing for the grant of awards under the Director Plan to eligible non-employee Directors. The Director Plan authorizes the issuance of non-statutory stock options ( NSOs ) to non-employee Directors to purchase shares of common stock at a specified exercise price per share. NSOs granted under the Director Plan will have a per share exercise price of no less than the current market value of a share of stock as determined in good faith by the Board on the date of the grant.

Under the Director Plan, non-employee Directors will each receive an initial grant of an option, to purchase shares of common stock. In addition, options granted to the Company's non-employee Directors will generally vest over three years, in equal installments on each of the first two anniversaries of the date of grant. The Compensation Committee has the authority to adjust the number of shares available for options, the number of shares subject to outstanding options under the Director Plan and the exercise price of options; provided, however, that the exercise price of options granted under the Director Plan will not be adjusted unless the Company receives an exemptive order from the SEC or written confirmation from the staff of the SEC that the Company may do so (except for adjustments resulting from changes in the Company's capital structure, such as stock dividends, stock splits and reverse stock splits).

The Director Plan will be effective as of the date the Company receives the requested exemptive relief from SEC.

Unless sooner terminated by the Board, the Director Plan will terminate on the tenth anniversary of its adoption and no additional awards may be made under the Director Plan after that date. The Director Plan provides that all awards granted under the Director Plan are subject to modification as required to ensure that such awards do not conflict with the requirements of the 1940 Act.

The Board will determine the period during which any options granted under the Director Plan shall remain exercisable, provided that no option will be exercisable after the expiration of ten years from the date on which it was granted. Options granted under the Director Plan are not transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, or by gift, and will generally be exercisable during a non-employee Director's lifetime only by such non-employee Director. In general, any portion of any options that are not then exercisable will terminate upon the termination of the non-employee Director's services to the Company. Generally, any portion of any options that are exercisable at the time of the termination of the non-employee Director's services to the Company will remain exercisable for the lesser of (i) a period of three months (or one year if the non-employee Director's services to the Company terminated by reason of the non-employee Director's death) or (ii) the period ending on the latest date on which such options could have been exercised had the non-employee Director's services to the Company not terminated. In addition, if the Board determines that a non-employee Director's service to the Company terminated for reasons that cast such discredit on the non-employee Director as to justify immediate termination of the non-employee Director's options, then all options then held by the non-employee Director will immediately terminate.

The Compensation Committee administers the Director Plan. Under the Director Plan, options may be granted from time-to-time for up to a maximum of 1,000,000 shares of common stock. As of the date of this proxy statement, no options had been issued pursuant to the Director Plan.

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If there is a change in the capital structure of the Company by reason of a stock dividend, stock split or combination of shares (including a reverse stock split), recapitalization or other change in the Company's capital structure, the Board will make appropriate adjustments to the number and class of shares of stock subject to the Director Plan and each option outstanding under it. In the event of a consolidation, merger, stock sale, a sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets, a dissolution or liquidation of the Company or other similar events (a Covered Transaction), the Board may provide for the assumption of some or all outstanding options or for the grant of new substitute options by the acquirer or survivor. If no such assumption or substitution occurs, all outstanding options will become exercisable prior to the Covered Transaction and will terminate upon consummation of the Covered Transaction.

The Director Plan provides that no awards may be granted to the non-employee Directors unless exemptive relief is granted from the SEC. If the SEC grants the order, the Company intends to award options under the Director Plan on an annual basis, though the amount of options that may be granted are limited by the terms of the Director Plan, which prohibits any grant that would cause the Company to be in violation of Section 61(a)(3) of the 1940 Act.

The Board may at any time or times amend the Director Plan or any outstanding awards for any purpose which may at the time be permitted by law, and may at any time terminate the Director Plan as to any future grants of awards; provided, that except as otherwise expressly provided in the Director Plan the Board may not, without the participant's consent, alter the terms of an award so as to affect adversely the participant's rights under the award, unless the Board expressly reserved the right to do so at the time of the grant of the award.

If and when we receive exemptive relief from the SEC, we intend to issue options and restricted shares to each of Messrs. Badavas, Chow and Woodward.

**Table of Contents****CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS**

No person will be deemed to control us, as such term is defined in the 1940 Act.

The following table sets forth, as of March 29, 2007, information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

each person known to us to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding shares of our common stock based on our records of ownership of our common stock as of the date of our initial public offer and filings submitted by these companies to the SEC regarding their ownership of our common stock.

each of our directors and each executive officers; and

all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. Common stock subject to options or warrants that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 29, 2007 are deemed to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding such options or warrants. Such shares, however, are not deemed outstanding for the purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 23,090,751 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 29, 2007.

Unless otherwise indicated, to our knowledge, each stockholder listed below has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned by the stockholder, except to the extent authority is shared by spouses under applicable law, and maintains an address of c/o Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301.

Name and Address	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Class
<b>Principal Stockholders:</b>		
Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,006,181	8.7%
One Maritime Plaza, Suite 1325 San Francisco, CA 94111		
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>	1,631,668	7.1%
100 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202		
Dreman Value Management L.L.C. <sup>(2)</sup>	1,474,567	6.4%
Harbor Side Financial Center Plaza 10, Suite 800		

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Jersey City, NJ 07311		
Deutsche Asset Management <sup>(2)</sup>	1,465,767	6.3%
745 Fifth Avenue, 18 <sup>th</sup> Floor		
New York, NY 10151		
JMP Group LLC <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	1,342,411	5.8%
600 Montgomery Street,		
Suite 1100		
San Francisco, CA 94111		
Jolson 1996 Trust <sup>(4)</sup>	645,942	2.8%

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(1) Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. may be deemed to beneficially own shares of our common stock held of record by certain investment funds affiliated with Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C.



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- (2) Information about the beneficial ownership of our principal stockholders is derived from filings made by them with the SEC.
- (3) Includes 152,797 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants. JMP Group LLC may be deemed to beneficially own shares of our common stock, including shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants, held of record by certain investment funds for which its wholly-owned subsidiary, JMP Asset Management LLC, acts as either general partner or investment adviser. JMP Group LLC and JMP Asset Management LLC each disclaim beneficial ownership of all shares held of record by the funds to the extent attributable to partnership or equity interests therein held by persons other than JMP Group LLC, JMP Asset Management LLC, or their affiliates. Joseph A. Jolson serves as Chief Executive Officer of JMP Group LLC.
- (4) Includes 548,240 shares of our common stock and 52,994 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants held by the Jolson 1996 Trust. Joseph A. Jolson serves as the trustee of the Jolson 1996 Trust and, as a result, may be deemed to beneficially own such shares of common stock, including such 5-year warrants to purchase shares of common stock. This does not include 54,996 shares of our common stock and 9,008 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of 5-year warrants held by the Jolson Family Foundation. Mr. Jolson may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of common stock, including the 5-year warrants to purchase common stock held of record by the Jolson Family Foundation, for which he serves as the President. Mr. Jolson disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares held by the Jolson Family Foundation.

Name	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Class
<b>Interested Director</b>		
Manuel A. Henriquez <sup>(1)</sup>	1,067,499	4.6%
<b>Independent Directors</b>		
Robert P. Badavas	12,001	*
Joseph W. Chow <sup>(2)</sup>	30,126	*
Allyn C. Woodward, Jr.	24,016	*
<b>Executive Officers</b>		
Samir Bhaumik <sup>(3)</sup>	53,458	*
H. Scott Harvey <sup>(4)</sup>	117,188	*
David M. Lund <sup>(5)</sup>	27,769	*
Parag I Shah <sup>(6)</sup>	46,838	*
Shane A. Stettenbenz <sup>(7)</sup>	62,918	*
<b>Executive officers and directors as a group<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>1,441,518</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

- (1) Includes 511,528 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options. Includes shares of our common stock held by certain trusts controlled by Mr. Henriquez.
- (2) Includes 794 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants.
- (3) Includes 3,797 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants and 28,778 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.
- (4) Includes 4,279 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants and 102,904 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.
- (5) Includes 24,444 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.
- (6) Includes 2,994 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants and 28,403 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.
- (7) Includes 60,694 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.
- (8) Includes 11,864 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants and 756,752 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding options.

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The following table sets forth as of March 29, 2007, the dollar range of our securities owned by our directors and named executive officers.

Name	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Company
<b>Independent Directors:</b>	
Robert P. Badavas	over \$100,000
Joseph W. Chow	over \$100,000
Allyn C. Woodward, Jr.	over \$100,000
<b>Interested Director/Portfolio Management Employee:</b>	
Manuel A. Henriquez	over \$100,000
<b>Portfolio Management Employees:</b>	
Samir Bhaumik	over \$100,000
H. Scott Harvey	over \$100,000
David M. Lund	\$10,001-\$50,000
Shane A. Stettenbenz	\$10,001-\$50,000
Parag I. Shah	over \$100,000

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**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

In December 2003, we entered into an engagement letter with JMP Securities LLC, the lead underwriter in our initial public offering. The engagement letter expired on June 16, 2004. Pursuant to the engagement letter, we offered to JMP Securities LLC the opportunity to act as the initial purchaser and placement agent in connection with our June 2004 private offering. As compensation for the services rendered, we agreed to pay to JMP Securities LLC an aggregate amount equal to 7% of the gross proceeds of the private offering, subject to limited exceptions in connection with sales of our securities to persons affiliated with us. In addition, we agreed to reimburse JMP Securities LLC, upon its request, for up to \$150,000 of its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. In accordance with the foregoing, we paid \$1,343,619 in placement fees to JMP Securities LLC in connection with our June 2004 private placement. We have agreed to indemnify JMP Securities LLC, its affiliates and other related parties against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments that such persons may be required to make for these liabilities.

In February 2004, we issued and sold 400 shares of our Series A-1 preferred stock to JMP Group LLC, the ultimate parent entity of JMP Securities LLC, for an aggregate purchase price of \$2.5 million and, in connection with such sale, we paid a \$175,000 placement fee to JMP Securities LLC. In addition, we issued and sold 100 shares of our Series A-2 preferred stock to an entity related to Mr. Henriquez for an aggregate purchase price of \$125,000, and we issued and sold 100 shares of our Series A-2 preferred stock to Mr. Howard for an aggregate purchase price of \$125,000. Our Series A-1 preferred stock held a liquidation preference over our Series A-2 preferred stock and also carried separate, preferential voting rights. In June 2004, each share of Series A-1 preferred stock and Series A-2 preferred stock was exchanged for 208.3333 units with the same terms as the units sold in our June 2004 private offering.

In connection with the issuance of our Series A-1 preferred stock and Series A-2 preferred stock, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the holders of our Series A-1 preferred stock and Series A-2 preferred stock. In June 2004, in connection with the conversion of the Series A preferred stock, the registration rights agreement entered into in connection with the issuance of our preferred stock was terminated and the shares of our common stock issued upon conversion were included in the registration rights agreement entered into in connection with our June 2004 private offer. See Description of Capital Stock Registration Rights.

We have entered into a letter agreement with Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. that provides that until such time as investment funds controlled by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. beneficially own less than 10% of our outstanding common stock, Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. will have the right to recommend one person to our nominating committee for consideration as a nominee to our Board of Directors, provided that such person would not be considered an interested person of the Company under the 1940 Act. Under the terms of the letter agreement, we have also agreed that prior to the date that is two years after certain investment funds controlled by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock and without the written consent of Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C., we will not (i) take any action to alter or repeal the resolution adopted by our board exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. in a manner that would make the Business Combination Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds or (ii) amend the applicable provision of our bylaws in a manner that would make the Control Share Acquisition Act applicable to an acquisition of the Company's common stock by investment funds controlled by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C.

We have also entered into a letter agreement with JMP Asset Management LLC that provides that prior to the date that is two years after certain investment funds controlled by JMP Asset Management LLC cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock and without the written consent of JMP Asset Management LLC that we will not (i) take any action to alter or repeal the resolution adopted by our board exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management LLC in a manner that would make the Business Combination Act applicable to acquisitions



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of our stock by such investment funds or (ii) amend the applicable provision of our bylaws in a manner that would make the Control Share Acquisition Act applicable to an acquisition of the Company's common stock by investment funds controlled by JMP Asset Management LLC.

In connection with our June 2004 private offering, we agreed to obtain the approval of each of JMP Asset Management LLC and Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. for each investment made by us. Though this arrangement was terminated in connection with our election to be regulated as a business development company, under the terms of the letter agreements described above, we have agreed to indemnify, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and the 1940 Act, representatives of JMP Asset Management LLC and Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. in connection with their activities in evaluating our investment opportunities prior to our election to be regulated as a business development company on terms similar to those afforded to our directors and officers under our charter and bylaws.

In accordance with a letter agreement dated June 22, 2004 between us and JMP Group LLC, in January 2005 we issued and sold 72,000 units to funds managed by JMP Asset Management LLC at a price equal to \$30.00 per unit, less a \$2.10 initial purchaser's discount per unit.

On April 12, 2005, we entered into our Bridge Loan Credit Facility with Alcmene Funding, LLC, a special purpose entity affiliated with Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C., one of our significant stockholders. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition Borrowings. In connection with the closing of the Bridge Loan Credit Facility, we paid a \$500,000 upfront fee and will be obligated to pay additional fees under the terms of the facility. On August 1, 2005, we amended our Bridge Loan Credit Facility. The amendment agreement extended the term of the loan to April 12, 2006, eliminated the loan extension fee, revised the interest rate effective August 1, 2005 to LIBOR plus 5.6% through December 31, 2005 and thereafter to 13.5% per annum, and amended certain collateral rights and financial covenants. The loan fees are being amortized over the remaining ten-month period. On March 6, 2006, we entered into an amendment of our Bridge Loan Facility pursuant to which we repaid \$10 million to Alcmene Funding LLC, extended the maturity date to June 30, 2006 and decreased the interest rate to 10.86%.

At March 2, 2006, we entered into an agreement with various affiliates of Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. to sell \$5 million of common stock, priced at the net asset value on February 28, 2006. On March 20, 2006, we completed the sale of 432,900 shares of common stock to the Farallon funds at a price per share of \$11.55, which was the net asset value per share at February 28, 2006.

On June 8, 2005, we entered into an Underwriting Agreement with JMP Securities LLC pursuant to which JMP Securities LLC purchased 4,200,000 shares of our common stock and served as the lead underwriter in our initial public offer.

In conjunction with the Company's Rights offering completed on April 21, 2006, the Company agreed to pay JMP Securities LLC a fee of approximately \$700,000 as co-manager of the offering.

In conjunction with the Company's public offering completed on December 7, 2006, the Company agreed to pay JMP Securities LLC a fee of approximately \$1.2 million as co-manager of the offering.

In August 2000, Mr. Henriquez acquired an interest in JMP Group LLC, the ultimate parent entity of the lead underwriter in our initial public offering. Mr. Henriquez's interest represents approximately 0.1% of the fully-diluted equity of JMP Group LLC.



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**CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following discussion is a general summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to us and to an investment in our shares. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the income tax considerations applicable to such an investment. For example, we have not described tax consequences that we assume to be generally known by investors or certain considerations that may be relevant to certain types of holders subject to special treatment under United States federal income tax laws, including stockholders subject to the alternative minimum tax, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, dealers in securities, pension plans and trusts, and financial institutions. This summary assumes that investors hold our common stock as capital assets (within the meaning of the Code). The discussion is based upon the Code, Treasury regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations, each as in effect as of the date of this prospectus and all of which are subject to change, possibly retroactively, which could affect the continuing validity of this discussion. We have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding this offer. This summary does not discuss any aspects of United States estate or gift tax or foreign, state or local tax. It does not discuss the special treatment under United States federal income tax laws that could result if we invested in tax-exempt securities or certain other investment assets in which we do not currently intend to invest.

A U.S. stockholder generally is a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock who is for United States federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or individual resident of the United States including an alien individual who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States or meets the substantial presence test under Section 7701(b) of the Code;

a corporation or other entity taxable as a corporation, for United States federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof;

a trust over which a court in the United States has primary supervision over its administration or over which United States persons have control; or

an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source.

A Non-U.S. stockholder is a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock that is not a U.S. stockholder.

If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds shares of our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A prospective stockholder who is a partner of a partnership holding shares of our common stock should consult his, her or its tax advisors with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Tax matters are very complicated and the tax consequences to an investor of an investment in our shares will depend on the facts of his, her or its particular situation. We encourage investors to consult their own tax advisors regarding the specific consequences of such an investment, including tax reporting requirements, the applicability of federal, state, local and foreign tax laws, eligibility for the benefits of any applicable tax treaty and the effect of any possible changes in the tax laws.

**Election to be Taxed as a Regulated Investment Company**

In conjunction with the filing of our December 31, 2006 tax return, we will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code as of January 1, 2006. However, such an election and qualification to be treated



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as a RIC and as eligible for RIC tax treatment requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. For example, a RIC must meet certain requirements, including source-of income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements. The income-source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

### **Conversion to Regulated Investment Company Status**

We operate to qualify as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under Subchapter M of Code. If we qualify as a regulated investment company and annually distribute to our stockholders in a timely manner at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, we will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of our taxable income and capital gains we distribute to our shareholders. Taxable income generally differs from net income as defined by generally accepted accounting principles due to temporary and permanent timing differences in the recognition of income and expenses, returns of capital and net unrealized appreciation or depreciation.

We have met the criteria specified below to qualify as a RIC, and will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our federal tax return for 2006, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. As A RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate taxes on any income we distribute to our stockholders as dividends, which allows us to reduce or eliminate our corporate level tax. Prior to the effective date of our RIC election, we were taxed as a regular corporation under Subchapter C of the Code. On the effective date of that election, we held assets (including intangible assets not reflected on the balance sheet, such as goodwill) with built-in gain, which are assets whose fair market value as of the effective date of the election exceeds their tax basis. We elected to recognize all of our net built-in gains at the time of the conversion and paid tax on the built-in gains with the filing of our 2005 tax return. In making this election, we marked our portfolio to market at the time of our RIC election and paid approximately \$234,000 in tax on the resulting taxable income.

By December 31, 2006, we were required to distribute our accumulated earnings and profits while we were taxable as a C corporation. During 2006, we distributed \$1.20 per share to our shareholders of which approximately \$0.09 was deemed to be a distribution of these accumulated earnings and profits, \$0.97 was deemed to be a distribution of income and \$0.14 was a return of capital. The distribution of our income and our accumulated earnings and profits is considered ordinary income to our shareholders in 2006.

### **Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company**

For any taxable year in which we:

qualify as a RIC; and

distribute to our stockholders, for each taxable year, at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, which is generally our net ordinary income plus the excess, if any, of realized net short-term capital gains over realized net long-term capital losses (the Annual Distribution Requirement );

we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of our investment company taxable income and net capital gain (*i.e.*, net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses) we distribute to stockholders with respect to that year. In

addition, if we subsequently acquire built-in gain assets from a C corporation in a carryover basis transaction, then we may be subject to tax on the gains recognized by us on dispositions of such assets unless we make a special election to pay corporate-level tax on such built-in gain at the time the assets are acquired. We will be subject to United States federal income tax at the regular corporate rates on any income or capital gain not distributed (or deemed distributed) to our stockholders.

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In order to qualify as a RIC for federal income tax purposes and obtain the tax benefits of RIC status, in addition to satisfying the Annual Distribution Requirement, we must, among other things:

have in effect at all times during each taxable year an election to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act;

derive in each taxable year at least 90% of our gross income from (a) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale of stock or other securities, or other income derived with respect to our business of investing in such stock or securities and (b) net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded limited partnership (the 90% Income Test ); and

diversify our holdings so that at the end of each quarter of the taxable year:

at least 50% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs, and other securities if such other securities of any one issuer do not represent more than 5% of the value of our assets or more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer; and

no more than 25% of the value of our assets is invested in (i) securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) of one issuer, (ii) securities of two or more issuers that are controlled, as determined under applicable tax rules, by us and that are engaged in the same or similar or related trades or businesses or (iii) securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (the Diversification Tests ).

Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

As a RIC, we will be subject to a 4% nondeductible federal excise tax on certain undistributed income unless we distribute in a timely manner an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for each calendar year, (2) 98% of our capital gain net income for the 1-year period ending October 31 in that calendar year and (3) any income realized, but not distributed, in the preceding year (the Excise Tax Avoidance Requirement ). We will not be subject to excise taxes on amounts on which we are required to pay corporate income tax (such as retained net capital gains). We currently intend to make sufficient distributions each taxable year to satisfy the Excise Tax Avoidance Requirement.

We may be required to recognize taxable income in circumstances in which we do not receive cash. For example, if we hold debt obligations that are treated under applicable tax rules as having original issue discount (such as debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest or, in certain cases, increasing interest rates or issued with warrants), we must include in income each year a portion of the original issue discount that accrues over the life of the obligation, regardless of whether cash representing such income is received by us in the same taxable year. Because any original issue discount accrued will be included in our investment company taxable income for the year of accrual, we may be required to make a distribution to our stockholders in order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement, even though we will not have received any corresponding cash amount.

Gain or loss realized by us from the sale or exchange of warrants acquired by us as well as any loss attributable to the lapse of such warrants generally will be treated as capital gain or loss. Such gain or loss generally will be long-term or short-term, depending on how long we held a particular warrant.

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We are authorized to borrow funds and to sell assets in order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement and the Excise Tax Avoidance Requirement (collectively, the Distribution Requirements ). However, under the 1940 Act, we are not permitted to make distributions to our stockholders while our debt obligations and other senior securities are outstanding unless certain asset coverage tests are met. See Regulation Senior Securities; Coverage Ratio. Moreover, our ability to dispose of assets to meet the Distribution Requirements may be limited by (1) the illiquid nature of our portfolio, or (2) other requirements relating to our status as a RIC,

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including the Diversification Tests. If we dispose of assets in order to meet the Distribution Requirements, we may make such dispositions at times that, from an investment standpoint, are not advantageous.

Any transactions in options, futures contracts, hedging transactions, and forward contracts will be subject to special tax rules, the effect of which may be to accelerate income to us, defer losses, cause adjustments to the holding periods of our investments, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains, convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses or have other tax consequences. These rules could affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to stockholders. We do not currently intend to engage in these types of transactions.

A RIC is limited in its ability to deduct expenses in excess of its investment company taxable income (which is, generally, ordinary income plus net realized short-term capital gains in excess of net realized long-term capital losses). If our expenses in a given year exceed investment company taxable income (e.g., as the result of large amounts of equity-based compensation), we would experience a net operating loss for that year. However, a RIC is not permitted to carry forward net operating losses to subsequent years. In addition, expenses can be used only to offset investment company taxable income, not net capital gain. Due to these limits on the deductibility of expenses, we may for tax purposes have aggregate taxable income for several years that we are required to distribute and that is taxable to our stockholders even if such income is greater than the aggregate net income we actually earned during those years. Such required distributions may be made from our cash assets or by liquidation of investments, if necessary. We may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event we realize net capital gains from such transactions, you may receive a larger capital gain distribution than you would have received in the absence of such transactions.

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**Table of Contents****Taxation of U.S. Stockholders**

For federal income tax purposes, distributions by us generally are taxable to U.S. stockholders as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions of our investment company taxable income (which is, generally, our ordinary income plus net realized short-term capital gains in excess of net realized long-term capital losses) will be taxable as ordinary income to U.S. stockholders to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional common stock. For taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2010, to the extent such distributions paid by us are attributable to dividends from U.S. corporations and certain qualified foreign corporations, such distributions may be designated by us as qualified dividend income eligible to be taxed in the hands of non-corporate stockholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains, provided holding period and other requirements are met at both the stockholder and company levels. In this regard, it is anticipated that distributions paid by us generally will not be attributable to dividends and, therefore, generally will not be qualified dividend income. Distributions of our net capital gains (which is generally our realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses) properly designated by us as capital gain dividends will be taxable to a U.S. stockholder as long-term capital gains (currently at a maximum rate of 15%) in the case of individuals, trusts or estates, regardless of the U.S. stockholder's holding period for his, her or its common stock and regardless of whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional common stock. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits first will reduce a U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such stockholder's common stock and, after the adjusted basis is reduced to zero, will constitute capital gains to such U.S. stockholder.

We currently intend to retain some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses, but to designate the retained net capital gain as a deemed distribution. In that case, among other consequences, we will pay tax on the retained amount, each U.S. stockholder will be required to include his, her or its share of the deemed distribution in income as if it had been actually distributed to the U.S. stockholder, and the U.S. stockholder will be entitled to claim a tax credit equal to his, her or its allocable share of the tax paid thereon by us. The amount of the deemed distribution net of such tax will be added to the U.S. stockholder's cost basis for his, her or its common stock. Since we expect to pay tax on any retained net capital gains at our regular corporate tax rate, and since that rate is in excess of the maximum rate currently payable by individuals on long-term capital gains, the amount of tax that individual stockholders will be treated as having paid and for which they will receive a credit will exceed the tax they owe on the retained net capital gain. Such excess generally may be claimed as a credit against the U.S. stockholder's other federal income tax obligations or may be refunded to the extent it exceeds a stockholder's liability for federal income tax. A stockholder that is not subject to federal income tax or otherwise required to file a federal income tax return would be required to file a federal income tax return on the appropriate form in order to claim a refund for the taxes we paid. For federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of shares owned by a stockholder will be increased by an amount equal under current law to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the stockholder's gross income and the tax deemed paid by the stockholder as described in this paragraph. In order to utilize the deemed distribution approach, we must provide written notice to our stockholders prior to the expiration of 60 days after the close of the relevant taxable year. We cannot treat any of our investment company taxable income as a deemed distribution. We may, in the future, make actual distributions to our stockholders of some or all of realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses.

For purposes of determining (1) whether the Annual Distribution Requirement is satisfied for any year and (2) the amount of capital gain dividends paid for that year, we may, under certain circumstances, elect to treat a dividend that is paid during the following taxable year as if it had been paid during the taxable year in question. If we make such an election, the U.S. stockholder will still be treated as receiving the dividend in the taxable year in which the distribution is made. However, any dividend declared by us in October, November or December of any calendar year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified date in such a month and actually paid during January of the following year, will be treated as if it had been received by our U.S. stockholders on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

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If an investor purchases shares of our common stock shortly before the record date of a distribution, the price of the shares will include the value of the distribution and the investor will be subject to tax on the distribution even though economically it may represent a return of his, her or its investment.

A stockholder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss if the stockholder sells or otherwise disposes of his, her or its shares of our common stock. Any gain arising from such sale or disposition generally will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the stockholder has held his, her or its shares for more than one year. Otherwise, it will be classified as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any capital loss arising from the sale or disposition of shares of our common stock held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of capital gain dividends received, or undistributed capital gain deemed received, with respect to such shares. In addition, all or a portion of any loss recognized upon a disposition of shares of our common stock may be disallowed if other shares of our common stock are purchased (whether through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

For taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2010, individual U.S. stockholders are subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 15% on their net capital gain (*i.e.*, the excess of realized net long-term capital gain over realized net short-term capital loss for a taxable year) including any long-term capital gain derived from an investment in our shares. Such rate is lower than the maximum rate on ordinary income currently payable by individuals. Corporate U.S. stockholders currently are subject to federal income tax on net capital gain at the maximum 35% rate also applied to ordinary income. Non-corporate stockholders with net capital losses for a year (*i.e.*, capital losses in excess of capital gains) generally may deduct up to \$3,000 of such losses against their ordinary income each year; any net capital losses of a non-corporate stockholder in excess of \$3,000 generally may be carried forward and used in subsequent years as provided in the Code. Corporate stockholders generally may not deduct any net capital losses for a year, but may carry back such losses for three years or carry forward such losses for five years.

We will send to each of our U.S. stockholders, as promptly as possible after the end of each calendar year, a notice detailing, on a per share and per distribution basis, the amounts includible in such U.S. stockholder's taxable income for such year as ordinary income and as long-term capital gain. In addition, the federal tax status of each year's distributions generally will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (including the amount of dividends, if any, eligible for the 15% qualified dividend income rate). Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local, and foreign taxes depending on a U.S. stockholder's particular situation. Dividends distributed by us generally will not be eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction or the preferential rate applicable to qualified dividend income.

We may be required to withhold federal income tax ( backup withholding ), currently at a rate of 28%, from all taxable distributions to any non-corporate U.S. stockholder (1) who fails to furnish us with a correct taxpayer identification number or a certificate that such stockholder is exempt from backup withholding, or (2) with respect to whom the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS ) notifies us that such stockholder has failed to properly report certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect. An individual's taxpayer identification number is his or her social security number. Any amount withheld under backup withholding is allowed as a credit against the U.S. stockholder's federal income tax liability, provided that proper information is provided to the IRS.

### **Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders**

Whether an investment in the shares is appropriate for a Non-U.S. stockholder will depend upon that person's particular circumstances. An investment in the shares by a Non-U.S. stockholder may have adverse tax consequences. Non-U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors before investing in our common stock.





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In general, dividend distributions (other than certain distributions derived from net long-term capital gains) paid by us to a Non-U.S. stockholder are subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) even if they are funded by income or gains (such as portfolio interest, short-term capital gains, or foreign-source dividend and interest income) that, if paid to a Non-U.S. stockholder directly, would not be subject to withholding. If the distributions are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. stockholder, (and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States), we will not be required to withhold federal tax if the Non-U.S. stockholder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements, although the distributions will be subject to federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. stockholders. (Special certification requirements apply to a Non-U.S. stockholder that is a foreign partnership or a foreign trust, and such entities are urged to consult their own tax advisors.)

For taxable years beginning prior to January 1, 2008, except as provided below, we generally will not be required to withhold any amounts with respect to certain distributions of (i) U.S.-source interest income, and (ii) net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, in each case to the extent we properly designate such distributions. We may or may not make any such designations. In respect of distributions described in clause (i) above, we will be required to withhold amounts with respect to distributions to a Non-U.S. stockholder:

that has not provided a satisfactory statement that the beneficial owner is not a U.S. person;

to the extent that the dividend is attributable to certain interest on an obligation if the Non-U.S. stockholder is the issuer or is a 10% stockholder of the issuer;

that is within certain foreign countries that have inadequate information exchange with the United States; or

to the extent the dividend is attributable to interest paid by a person that is a related person of the Non-U.S. stockholder and the Non-U.S. stockholder is a controlled foreign corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

The cash dividend(s) we intend to pay to our stockholders representing all of our accumulated earnings and profits, if any, for the period from our inception through the effective date of our election to be treated as a RIC, generally will be taxable to Non-U.S. stockholders in the same manner as other dividend distributions described above.

Actual or deemed distributions of our net capital gains to a Non-U.S. stockholder, and gains realized by a Non-U.S. stockholder upon the sale of our common stock, will not be subject to federal withholding tax and generally will not be subject to federal income tax unless the distributions or gains, as the case may be, are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. stockholder (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. stockholder in the U.S.), or in the case of an individual stockholder, the stockholder is present in the U.S. for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or capital gain dividend and certain other conditions are met.

If we distribute our net capital gains in the form of deemed rather than actual distributions, a Non-U.S. stockholder will be entitled to a federal income tax credit or tax refund equal to the stockholder's allocable share of the tax we pay on the capital gains deemed to have been distributed. In order to obtain the refund, the Non-U.S. stockholder must obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and file a federal income tax return even if the Non-U.S. stockholder would not otherwise be required to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number or file a federal income tax return. For a corporate Non-U.S. stockholder, distributions (both actual and deemed), and gains realized upon the sale of our common stock that are effectively connected to a U.S. trade or business may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate if provided for by an applicable treaty). Accordingly, investment in the shares may not be appropriate for a Non-U.S. stockholder.



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A Non-U.S. stockholder who is a non-resident alien individual, and who is otherwise subject to withholding of federal tax, may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding of federal income tax on dividends unless the Non-U.S. stockholder provides us or the dividend paying agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN (or an acceptable substitute or successor form) or otherwise meets documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a Non-U.S. stockholder or otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding.

Non-U.S. persons should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the United States federal income tax and withholding tax, and state, local and foreign tax consequences of an investment in the shares.

### **Failure to Qualify as a Regulated Investment Company**

If we were unable to qualify for treatment as a RIC, we would be subject to tax on all of our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We would not be able to deduct distributions to stockholders, nor would they be required to be made. Such distributions (if made in a taxable year beginning on or before December 31, 2010) would be taxable to our stockholders and, provided certain holding period and other requirements were met, could qualify for treatment as qualified dividend income eligible for the 15% maximum rate to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Subject to certain limitations under the Code, corporate distributees would be eligible for the dividends-received deduction. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the stockholder's tax basis, and any remaining distributions would be treated as a capital gain. To requalify as a RIC in a subsequent taxable year, we would be required to satisfy the RIC qualification requirements for that year and dispose of any earnings and profits from any year in which we failed to qualify as a RIC. Subject to a limited exception applicable to RICs that qualified as such under Subchapter M of the Code for at least one year prior to disqualification and that requalify as a RIC no later than the second year following the nonqualifying year, we could be subject to tax on any unrealized net built-in gains in the assets held by us during the period in which we failed to qualify as a RIC that are recognized within the subsequent 10 years, unless we made a special election to pay corporate-level tax on such built-in gain at the time of our requalification as a RIC.

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### **REGULATION**

The following discussion is a general summary of the material prohibitions and descriptions governing business development companies generally. It does not purport to be a complete description of all of the laws and regulations affecting business development companies.

We have elected to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act and will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code as of January 1, 2006. A business development company is a unique kind of investment company that primarily focuses on investing in or lending to private companies and making managerial assistance available to them. A business development company provides stockholders with the ability to retain the liquidity of a publicly-traded stock, while sharing in the possible benefits of investing in emerging-growth or expansion-stage privately-owned companies. The 1940 Act contains prohibitions and restrictions relating to transactions between business development companies and their directors and officers and principal underwriters and certain other related persons and requires that a majority of the directors be persons other than interested persons, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act. In addition, the 1940 Act provides that we may not change the nature of our business so as to cease to be, or to withdraw our election as, a business development company unless approved by a majority of our outstanding voting securities. A majority of the outstanding voting securities of a company is defined under the 1940 Act as the lesser of: (i) 67% or more of such company's shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company are present or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company.

### **Qualifying Assets**

Under the 1940 Act, a business development company may not acquire any asset other than assets of the type listed in Section 55(a) of the 1940 Act, which are referred to as qualifying assets, unless, at the time the acquisition is made, qualifying assets represent at least 70% of the company's total assets. The principal categories of qualifying assets relevant to our proposed business are the following:

- (1) Securities purchased in transactions not involving any public offering from the issuer of such securities, which issuer (subject to certain limited exceptions) is an eligible portfolio company, or from any person who is, or has been during the preceding 13 months, an affiliated person of an eligible portfolio company, or from any other person, subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the SEC. An eligible portfolio company is defined in the 1940 Act as any issuer which:
  - (a) is organized under the laws of, and has its principal place of business in, the United States;
  - (b) is not an investment company (other than a small business investment company wholly owned by the business development company) or a company that would be an investment company but for certain exclusions under the 1940 Act; and
  - (c) does not have any class of securities listed on a national securities exchange.
- (2) Securities of any eligible portfolio company which we control.
- (3) Securities purchased in a private transaction from a U.S. issuer that is not an investment company or from an affiliated person of the issuer, or in transactions incident thereto, if the issuer is in bankruptcy and subject to reorganization or if the issuer, immediately prior to the purchase of its securities was unable to meet its obligations as they came due without material assistance other than conventional lending or financing arrangements.

- (4) Securities of an eligible portfolio company purchased from any person in a private transaction if there is no ready market for such securities and we already own 60% of the outstanding equity of the eligible portfolio company.
- (5) Securities received in exchange for or distributed on or with respect to securities described in (1) through (4) above, or pursuant to the exercise of warrants or rights relating to such securities.

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- (6) Cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment.

### **Significant Managerial Assistance**

A business development company must have been organized and have its principal place of business in the United States and must be operated for the purpose of making investments in the types of securities described above. However, in order to count portfolio securities as qualifying assets for the purpose of the 70% test, the business development company must either control the issuer of the securities or must offer to make available to the issuer of the securities (other than small and solvent companies described above) significant managerial assistance; except that, where the business development company purchases such securities in conjunction with one or more other persons acting together, one of the other persons in the group may make available such managerial assistance. Making available significant managerial assistance means, among other things, any arrangement whereby the business development company, through its directors, officers or employees, offers to provide and, if accepted, does so provide, significant guidance and counsel concerning the management, operations or business objectives and policies of a portfolio company through monitoring of portfolio company operations, selective participation in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising a portfolio company's officers or other organizational or financial guidance.

### **Temporary Investments**

Pending investment in other types of qualifying assets, as described above, our investments may consist of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment, which we refer to, collectively, as temporary investments, so that 70% of our assets are qualifying assets. Typically, we will invest in U.S. treasury bills or in repurchase agreements, provided that such agreements are fully collateralized by cash or securities issued by the U.S. government or its agencies. A repurchase agreement involves the purchase by an investor, such as us, of a specified security and the simultaneous agreement by the seller to repurchase it at an agreed upon future date and at a price which is greater than the purchase price by an amount that reflects an agreed-upon interest rate. There is no percentage restriction on the proportion of our assets that may be invested in such repurchase agreements. However, if more than 25% of our total assets constitute repurchase agreements from a single counterparty, we would not meet the diversification tests imposed on us by the Code in order to qualify as a RIC for federal income tax purposes. Thus, we do not intend to enter into repurchase agreements with a single counterparty in excess of this limit. We will monitor the creditworthiness of the counterparties with which we enter into repurchase agreement transactions.

### **Warrants and Options**

Under the 1940 Act, a business development company is subject to restrictions on the amount of warrants, options or rights to purchase shares of capital stock that it may have outstanding at any time. In particular, the amount of capital stock that would result from the conversion or exercise of all outstanding warrants, options or rights to purchase capital stock cannot exceed 25% of the business development company's total outstanding shares of capital stock. This amount is reduced to 20% of the business development company's total outstanding shares of capital stock if the amount of warrants, options or rights issued pursuant to an executive compensation plan would exceed 15% of the business development company's total outstanding shares of capital stock.

### **Senior Securities; Coverage Ratio**

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We will be permitted, under specified conditions, to issue multiple classes of indebtedness and one class of stock senior to our common stock if our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least equal to 200% immediately after each such issuance. In addition, while any senior securities remain outstanding, we must make

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provisions to prohibit any dividend distribution to our stockholders or the repurchase of such securities or shares unless we meet the applicable asset coverage ratios at the time of the dividend distribution or repurchase. We may also borrow amounts up to 5% of the value of our total assets for temporary or emergency purposes. For a discussion of the risks associated with the resulting leverage, see Risk Factors. Because we borrow money, there would be increased risk in investing in our company.

### **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted and will maintain a code of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that establishes procedures for personal investments and restricts certain personal securities transactions. Personnel subject to the code may invest in securities for their personal investment accounts, including securities that may be purchased or held by us, so long as such investments are made in accordance with the code's requirements. Our code of ethics will generally not permit investments by our employees in securities that may be purchased or held by us. We may be prohibited under the 1940 Act from conducting certain transactions with our affiliates without the prior approval of our directors who are not interested persons and, in some cases, the prior approval of the SEC.

Our code of ethics was filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement (Registration No. 333-126604) for our initial public offering. You may read and copy the code of ethics at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-202-942-8090. In addition, the code of ethics is available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may obtain copies of the code of ethics, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following email address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549.

### **Privacy Principles**

We are committed to maintaining the privacy of our stockholders and safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information we collect, how we protect that information and why, in certain cases, we may share information with select other parties.

Generally, we do not receive any non-public personal information relating to our stockholders, although certain non-public personal information of our stockholders may become available to us. We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our stockholders or former stockholders to anyone, except as permitted by law or as is necessary in order to service stockholder accounts (for example, to a transfer agent).

We restrict access to non-public personal information about our stockholders to our employees with a legitimate business need for the information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards designed to protect the non-public personal information of our stockholders.

### **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**



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We vote proxies relating to our portfolio securities in the best interest of our stockholders. We review on a case-by-case basis each proposal submitted to a stockholder vote to determine its impact on the portfolio securities held by us. Although we generally vote against proposals that may have a negative impact on our portfolio securities, we may vote for such a proposal if there exists compelling long-term reasons to do so.

Our proxy voting decisions are made by our investment committee, which is responsible for monitoring each of our investments. To ensure that our vote is not the product of a conflict of interest, we require that: (i) anyone involved in the decision making process disclose to our Chief Compliance Officer any potential

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conflict that he or she is aware of and any contact that he or she has had with any interested party regarding a proxy vote; and (ii) employees involved in the decision making process or vote administration are prohibited from revealing how we intend to vote on a proposal in order to reduce any attempted influence from interested parties.

On June 21, 2005, we applied for exemptive relief from the SEC to permit us to grant options to purchase shares of our common stock to our non-employee directors as a portion of their compensation for service on our Board and on February 15, 2007, we received approval from the SEC on this exemptive request. No stock options were granted to our non-employee directors as of December 31, 2006.

On July 7, 2006, we applied for exemptive relief with the SEC in order to permit us to issue restricted stock pursuant to the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2006 Non-Employee Director Plan (together, the Plans). The SEC has commenced its review of the exemptive application and we are currently responding to questions on the relief request, but as of the date hereof, we have not received approval of the application and accordingly cannot evaluate when or if an order regarding our application may be granted.

In addition, on September 28, 2005, we filed an exemptive relief application requesting that the SEC permit us to exclude the indebtedness that our wholly-owned subsidiary, Hercules Technology II, L.P., which is qualified as a small business investment company, issues to the Small Business Administration from the 200% asset coverage requirement applicable to us.

## **Other**

We will be periodically examined by the SEC for compliance with the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act.

We are required to provide and maintain a bond issued by a reputable fidelity insurance company to protect us against larceny and embezzlement. Furthermore, as a business development company, we are prohibited from protecting any director or officer against any liability to our stockholders arising from willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such person's office.

We are required to adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation of the federal securities laws, review these policies and procedures annually for their adequacy and the effectiveness of their implementation. We have designated Mr. Harvey, our Chief Legal Officer, to be our Chief Compliance Officer to be responsible for administering these policies and procedures.

## **Small Business Administration Regulations**

HTII, our wholly-owned subsidiary, is licensed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as a small business investment company (SBIC) under Section 301(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. The Small Business Investment Company regulations currently limit the amount that is available to borrow by any SBIC to \$124.4 million, subject to periodic adjustments by the SBA. There is no assurance that we will draw up to the maximum limit available under the Small Business Investment Company program.

Small business investment companies are designed to stimulate the flow of private equity capital to eligible small businesses. Under present Small Business Administration regulations, eligible small businesses include businesses that have a tangible net worth not exceeding \$18 million and have average annual fully taxed net income not exceeding \$6 million for the two most recent fiscal years. In addition, a small business investment company must devote 20% of its investment activity to smaller concerns as defined by the Small Business Administration. A smaller concern is one that has a tangible net worth not exceeding \$6 million and has average annual fully taxed net income not exceeding \$2 million for the two most recent fiscal years. Small Business

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Administration regulations also provide alternative size standard criteria to determine eligibility, which depend on the industry in which the business is engaged and are based on such factors as the number of employees and gross sales. According to Small Business Administration regulations, small business investment companies may make long-term loans to small businesses, invest in the equity securities of such businesses and provide them with consulting and advisory services. Through our wholly-owned subsidiary HTII, we plan to provide long-term loans to qualifying small businesses, and in connection therewith, make equity investments.

HTII will be periodically examined and audited by the Small Business Administration's staff to determine its compliance with small business investment company regulations. In January 2005, we formed HTII and HTM. On September 27, 2006, HTII received final approval to be licensed as a Small Business Investment Company ( SBIC ). HTII is able to borrow funds from the Small Business Administration against eligible pre-approved investments and additional deposits to regulatory capital. On January 30, 2007, HTII received notification that its initial application for leverage under its SBC license was approved allowing HTII to commence drawing up to \$50.0 million of leverage under its first tranche of capital from the SBA. On March 14, 2007, we received approval from the SBA of our first draw request that would allow us to initially borrow up to \$12.0 million under the program.

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**DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN**

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

No action is required on the part of a registered stockholder to receive a dividend distribution in shares of our common stock. A registered stockholder may elect to receive an entire dividend distribution in cash by notifying American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the plan administrator and our transfer agent and registrar, so that such notice is received by the plan administrator no later than 3 days prior to the payment date for dividend distributions to stockholders. The plan administrator will set up an account for shares acquired through the DRP for each stockholder who has not elected to receive distributions in cash (each a "Participant") and hold such shares in non-certificated form. Upon request by a Participant, received not less than 3 days prior to the payment date, the plan administrator will, instead of crediting shares to the Participant's account, issue a certificate registered in the Participant's name for the number of whole shares of our common stock and a check for any fractional share.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table of Contents****DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description is based on relevant portions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and on our charter and bylaws. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you, and we refer you to the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws for a more detailed description of the provisions summarized below.

Under the terms of our charter, our authorized capital stock consists of 60,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of which 23,090,751 shares are outstanding as of March 29, 2007. Under our charter, our Board of Directors is authorized to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, and to cause the issuance of such shares, without obtaining stockholder approval. In addition, as permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, but subject to the 1940 Act, our charter provides that the Board of Directors, without any action by our stockholders, may amend the charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not personally liable for our debts or obligations.

Title of Class	Amount Authorized	Amount Held by Company	
		for its Account	Amount Outstanding
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	60,000,000		23,090,751

**Common Stock**

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

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

**Preferred Stock**

Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, including preferred stock. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, the Board of Directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions,

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qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series. Thus, the Board of Directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions which could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. You should note, however, that any issuance of preferred stock must comply with the requirements of the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act requires, among other things, that (1) immediately



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

### **5-Year Warrants**

As of March 29, 2007, we had outstanding 5-year warrants to purchase an aggregate of 421,810 shares of our common stock. These warrants were issued as part of the units that we sold in our prior private financings and were issued either under our warrant agreement with American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as warrant agent, or pursuant to the terms of our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan. Each 5-year warrant is exercisable until June 17, 2009 and entitles the holder thereof to purchase one share of our common stock. In connection with our election to be regulated as a business development company, the exercise price per share for all of our 5-year warrants was reduced from \$15.00 per share to \$10.57 per share, the net asset value per share of our common stock on the date of determination, in accordance with the terms of the warrant agreement or the applicable warrant certificate. In addition, the warrant agreement, restricts the transfer of warrants outstanding thereunder to transactions involving the transfer of at least 4,000 shares (or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares) of our common stock.

### **Registration Rights**

Pursuant to the registration rights agreement we entered on March 2, 2006, we agreed to register for resale the 432,900 shares of common stock purchased by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. and its affiliated funds. On May 2, 2006, we filed a shelf registration to register the resale of the 432,900 shares of common stock and on June 6, 2006, the shelf registration statement was declared effective. The registration rights agreement also permits the Farallon funds to include any shares of common stock they hold in future underwritten public offerings of our equity securities, subject to certain limitations.

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

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

Our charter authorizes us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity, except with respect to any matter as to which such person shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that their action was in our best interest or to be liable to us or our stockholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad



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

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

In addition, we have agreed to indemnify, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and the 1940 Act, representatives of JMP Asset Management LLC and Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. on terms similar to those afforded to our directors and officers under our charter and bylaws in connection with their activities in evaluating our investment opportunities prior to our election to be regulated as a business development company.

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

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

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

### **Classified Board of Directors**

Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. The terms of the first, second and third classes will expire in 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively. Beginning in 2005, upon expiration of their current terms, directors of each class will be elected to serve for three-year terms and until their successors are duly elected and qualify and each year one class of directors will be elected by the stockholders. A classified board may render a change in control of us or removal of our incumbent management more difficult. We believe, however, that the longer time required to elect a majority of a classified Board of Directors will help to ensure the continuity and stability of our management and policies.

### **Election of Directors**

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

### **Number of Directors; Vacancies; Removal**

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

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

**Action by Stockholders**

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

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### **Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder Proposals**

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

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

### **Calling of Special Meeting of Stockholders**

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

### **Approval of Extraordinary Corporate Action; Amendment of Charter and Bylaws**

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

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

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### **No Appraisal Rights**

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

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

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

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

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

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

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



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

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Control Share Act any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of stock. There can be no assurance that such provision will not be otherwise amended or eliminated at any time in the future. However, we will amend our bylaws to be subject to the Control Share Act only if the Board of Directors determines that it would be in our best interests and if the staff of the SEC does not object to our determination that our being subject to the Control Share Act does not conflict with the 1940 Act.

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### **Business Combinations**

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

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares; or

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

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

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

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and

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

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

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the Board of Directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Our Board of Directors has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination between us and any other person from the provisions of the Business Combination Act, provided that the business combination is first approved by the Board of Directors, including a majority of the directors who are not interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act. This resolution, however, may be altered or repealed in whole or in part at any time. In addition, our Board of Directors has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination with certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management LLC and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. from the provisions of the Business Combination Act. We have agreed with such investment funds that we will not repeal or amend such resolution prior to the date that is two years after such investment funds cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock in a manner that would make the Business Combination Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds without the written consent of such investment funds. If these resolutions are repealed, or the Board of Directors does not otherwise approve a business combination, the statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

**Conflict with 1940 Act**

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

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**Regulatory Restrictions**

Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Hercules Technology II, L.P., has obtained a small business investment company license. The Small Business Administration prohibits, without prior Small Business Administration approval, a change of control or transfers which would result in any person (or group of persons acting in concert) owning 10% or more of any class of capital stock of a small business investment company. A change of control is any event which would result in a transfer of the power, direct or indirect, to direct the management and policies of a small business investment company, whether through ownership, contractual arrangements or otherwise.

**Table of Contents****SELLING SHAREHOLDERS**

Below is information with respect to the number of shares of common stock owned by each of the shareholders. The common stock is being registered to permit public secondary trading of the shares of common stock. Selling holders, which term includes their transferees, pledgees or donees or their successors, may offer the shares of common stock for resale from time to time.

The following table sets forth the name of each selling holder and the following information as of March 29, 2007: the amount of common stock owned by each selling holder; the amount of common stock which may be offered for the account of such selling holder under this prospectus; and the amount of common stock to be owned by such security holder after completion of the offering.

The information included in the table under Shares Beneficially Owned and Ownership Percentage After Offering assumes that each stockholder below will elect to sell all of the shares set forth under Shares Being Offered. The information regarding the identity of the selling stockholders and their affiliations, including their beneficial ownership of our shares of common stock, is based solely on information provided by or on behalf of the selling stockholders.

These assumptions have been made under the rules and regulations of the SEC and do not reflect any knowledge that we have with respect to the present intent of the persons listed as selling stockholders.

The address for each stockholder listed below is c/o Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310 Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Name	Shares Beneficially		Shares that May Be Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned and		
	Owned and			Ownership Percentage After Offering <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	Ownership Percentage	
	Shares	Percentage			Prior to the Offering <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	Shares
Robert P. Badavas	12,001	*	5,001	7,000	*	
Allyn C. Woodward Jr.	24,016	*	15,000	9,016	*	
Joseph W. Chow <sup>(4)</sup>	30,126	*	15,000	15,126	*	
Entities affiliated with <b>Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C.</b>	2,006,181	8.7%	432,900	1,573,281	6.8%	

c/o Farallon Capital Management,  
L.L.C.  
One Maritime Plaza,  
Suite 1325  
San Francisco, CA 94111

\* Less than 1%

(1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Except as indicated in the footnotes to this table, each person named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares set forth opposite that person's name.

(2)

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Assumes the sale of all shares eligible for sale in this prospectus and no other purchases or sales of our common stock. This assumption has been made under the rules and regulations of the SEC and does not reflect any knowledge that we have with respect to the present intent of the persons listed as selling stockholders.

- (3) Applicable percentage of ownership is based on 23,090,751 shares of our common stock outstanding on March 29, 2007.
- (4) Includes 794 shares of common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of outstanding 5-year warrants.

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**SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE**

Future sales of substantial amounts of our common stock or warrants in the public market, or the perception that such sales may occur, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock or warrants and could impair our future ability to raise capital through the sale of our equity securities.

We have 23,090,751 shares of our common stock outstanding of which 467,901 are restricted securities under the meaning of Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act. We have certain restricted securities comprised of 444,150 shares of common stock, registered under a shelf registration statement.

In general, under Rule 144 as currently in effect, if one year has elapsed since the date of acquisition of restricted securities from us or any of our affiliates, the holder of such restricted securities can sell such securities; provided that the number of securities sold by such person within any three-month period cannot exceed the greater of:

1% of the total number of securities then outstanding, or

the average weekly trading volume of our securities during the four calendar weeks preceding the date on which notice of the sale is filed with the SEC.

Sales under Rule 144 also are subject to certain manner of sale provisions, notice requirements and the availability of current public information about us. If two years have elapsed since the date of acquisition of restricted securities from us or any of our affiliates and the holder is not one of our affiliates at any time during the three months preceding the proposed sale, such person can sell such securities in the public market under Rule 144(k) without regard to the volume limitations, manner of sale provisions, public information requirements or notice requirements. No assurance can be given as to (1) the likelihood that an active market for our common stock will develop, (2) the liquidity of any such market, (3) the ability of our stockholders to sell our securities or (4) the prices that stockholders may obtain for any of our securities. No prediction can be made as to the effect, if any, that future sales of securities, or the availability of securities for future sale, will have on the market price prevailing from time to time. Sales of substantial amounts of our securities, or the perception that such sales could occur, may affect adversely prevailing market prices of the common stock.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may offer, from time to time, up to 12,000,000 shares of our common stock. Also, the selling holders named in this prospectus may offer, from time to time, up to 467,901 shares of our common stock. See Selling Shareholders. The selling holders may sell the shares held for their own account or the shares may be sold by donees, transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest that receive such shares from the selling holders as a gift or other non-sale related transfer. We and the selling holders may sell the shares of our common stock through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents or through a combination of any such methods of sale. Shares of our common stock may also be sold at-the-market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market for shares, on an exchange or otherwise. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the shares of our common stock will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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The distribution of the shares of our common stock may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices, provided, however, that the offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, must equal or exceed the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of the offering. We also may, from time to time, authorize dealers or agents to offer and sell these securities upon such terms and conditions as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In connection with the sale of the shares of our common stock, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us or the selling holders or from purchasers of the shares of our common stock, for whom



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

Any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be quoted on the Nasdaq Global Market, or another exchange on which the common stock is traded.

Under agreements into which we or the selling holders may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of shares of our common stock may be entitled to indemnification by us or the selling holders against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or the selling holders in the ordinary course of business.

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

The maximum commission or discount to be received by any member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or independent broker-dealer will not be greater than 10% for the sale of any securities being registered and 0.5% for bona fide due diligence.

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

## **BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES**

Since we generally acquire and dispose of our investments in privately negotiated transactions, we rarely use brokers in the normal course of business. In those cases in which we do use a broker, we do not execute transactions through any particular broker or dealer, but will seek to obtain the best net results for us, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of order, difficulty of execution and operational facilities of the firm and the firm's risk and skill in positioning blocks of securities. While we generally seek reasonably competitive execution costs, we may not necessarily pay the lowest spread or commission available. Subject to applicable legal requirements, we may select a broker based partly upon brokerage or research services provided to us. In return for such services, we may pay a higher commission than other brokers would charge if we determine in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided. For the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 we paid \$12,100, \$4,000 and \$0 in brokerage

commissions, respectively. For the six months ended June 30, 2006 we paid \$11,001 in brokerage commissions.

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**CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR**

Securities we hold in connection with our investments are held under a custody agreement with Union Bank of California. The address of the custodian is 475 Sansome Street, 15th Floor, San Francisco, California 94111. We have also entered into a custody agreement with U.S. Bank National Association, which is located at One Federal Street, Third Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, will act as our transfer agent, dividend paying and reinvestment agent and registrar. The principal business address of the transfer agent is 59 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters regarding the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, Washington, D.C. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for underwriters, if any, by the counsel named in the prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and for the period from February 2, 2004 (commenced operations) to December 31, 2004 as set forth in their report. We have included our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

**AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form N-2, together with all amendments and related exhibits, under the Securities Act, with respect to our shares of common stock offered by this prospectus. The registration statement contains additional information about us and our shares of common stock being offered by this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information, as well as the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and the related exhibits and schedules, at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed electronically by us with the SEC which are available on the SEC's Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of these reports, proxy and information statements and other information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Directors and Shareholders

Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of assets and liabilities of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., including the consolidated schedules of investments, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2006 and for the period from February 2, 2004 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our procedures included correspondence with each portfolio company. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. at December 31, 2006 and 2005, the consolidated results of its operations, the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2006 and for the period from February 2, 2004 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 28, 2007 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Francisco, California

February 28, 2007

**Table of Contents****HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments, at value (cost of \$279,946,465 and \$176,004,865, respectively)	\$ 283,233,751	\$ 176,673,226
Deferred loan origination revenue	(3,450,971)	(2,729,982)
Cash and cash equivalents	16,404,214	15,362,447
Interest receivable	2,906,831	1,479,375
Deferred tax asset		1,454,000
Other assets	2,048,384	1,408,813
 Total assets	 301,142,209	 193,647,879
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	540,376	150,081
Income tax payable		1,709,000
Accrued liabilities	4,189,011	1,436,468
Short-term loans payable	41,000,000	76,000,000
 Total liabilities	 45,729,387	 79,295,549
 <b>Net assets</b>	 <b>\$ 255,412,822</b>	 <b>\$ 114,352,330</b>
<b>Net assets consist of:</b>		
Par value	\$ 21,927	\$ 9,802
Capital in excess of par value	257,234,729	114,524,833
Unrealized appreciation on investments	2,860,654	353,093
Accumulated realized gains (losses) on investments	(1,972,014)	481,694
Distributions in excess of investment income	(2,732,474)	(1,017,092)
 Total net assets	 \$ 255,412,822	 \$ 114,352,330
 Shares of common stock outstanding (\$0.001 par value, 30,000,000 authorized)	 21,927,034	 9,801,965
 Net asset value per share	 \$ 11.65	