

VECTOR GROUP LTD
Form 424B5
January 19, 2017
Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-208815**

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not offers to sell these securities and the issuer is not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated January 19, 2017

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated December 31, 2015)

2,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering 2,000,000 shares of our common stock (common stock) of Vector Group Ltd. (the Company).

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol VGR. On January 18, 2017, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$23.21 per share on the NYSE.

We will receive all of the net proceeds of the offering. We intend to use the proceeds of the offering, together with the proceeds of an offering of senior secured notes due 2025, to fund the redemption of our \$835 million 7.785% Senior Secured Notes due 2021, with the remaining net cash proceeds to be used for general corporate purposes. The closing of this offering is conditioned on the closing of such notes offering.

The underwriter has agreed to purchase the shares of common stock from us at a price of \$21.615 per share, which will result in \$43,230,000 of proceeds to us before expenses. The underwriter may offer the shares of our common stock for sale from time to time in one or more transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, subject to its right to reject any order in whole or in part. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).

Investing in our securities involves risk. See Risk Factors on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

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

The underwriter expects to deliver the shares against payment in New York, New York on January , 2017.

Jefferies

Prospectus Supplement dated January , 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	PAGE
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-i
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-ii
<u>INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE</u>	S-iii
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-iv
<u>MARKET DATA</u>	S-vi
<u>SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>THE OFFERING</u>	S-2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-5
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	S-6
<u>MATERIAL UNITED STATES TAX CONSEQUENCES TO NON-U.S. HOLDERS OF COMMON STOCK</u>	S-7
<u>UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS)</u>	S-10
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-15
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-16

Prospectus

	PAGE
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE</u>	2
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>OUR BUSINESS</u>	6
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	8
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	9

<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	25
<u>DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS</u>	29
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	30
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	31
<u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS</u>	32
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	32
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	34
<u>EXPERTS</u>	34

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We provide information to you about this offering in two separate documents. The accompanying prospectus provides general information about us and the securities we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement provides additional information about us and describes the specific details regarding this offering and the securities offered hereby. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus combined. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, before the date of this prospectus supplement, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

As permitted under the rules of the SEC, this prospectus incorporates important business information about Vector Group Ltd. that is contained in documents that we file with the SEC, but that are not included in or delivered with this prospectus. You may obtain copies of these documents, without charge, from the web site maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov, as well as other sources. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#). Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read this prospectus together with the additional information described under the headings [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Information We Incorporate by Reference](#).

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. Neither we nor the underwriter have authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Neither we nor the underwriter is making offers to sell the securities described in this prospectus in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

References in this prospectus to the terms [we](#), [us](#), [our](#), [the Company](#) or other similar terms mean Vector Group Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries and the term [Vector](#) refers only to Vector Group Ltd., unless we state otherwise or the context indicates otherwise.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC, including the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus is a part and the exhibits to such registration statement, at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may obtain further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. These documents may also be accessed on our web site at www.vectorgrouppltd.com. Information contained on our web site is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our web site to be part of this prospectus.

S-ii

Table of Contents

INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the following information (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ending March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 4, 2016, April 28, 2016 (only Item 5.07), May 9, 2016 (only Item 1.01), December 8, 2016 and December 9, 2016.

We also incorporate by reference each of the documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus. We will not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus any documents or portions thereof that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K after the date of this prospectus unless, and except to the extent, specified in such Current Reports.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, a copy of any of these filings (other than an exhibit to these filings, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into the filing requested) at no cost, upon a request to us by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Vector Group Ltd.

4400 Biscayne Boulevard

Miami, Florida 33137

Telephone Number: (305) 579-8000

S-iii

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference, contains forward looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities law. Forward-looking statements include information relating to our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to, but not limited to:

economic outlook;

capital expenditures;

cost reduction;

legislation and regulations;

cash flows;

operating performance;

litigation;

impairment charges and cost saving associated with restructurings of our tobacco operations; and

related industry developments (including trends affecting our business, financial condition and results of operations).

You can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, be, objective, plan, seek, predict, project and will be and similar words or phrases or their negatives.

The forward-looking information involves important risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from our anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements include, without limitation, the following:

general economic and market conditions and any changes therein, due to acts of war and terrorism or otherwise;

governmental regulations and policies;

effects of industry competition;

the impact of business combinations, including acquisitions and divestitures, both internally for us and externally in the tobacco industry;

the impact of legislation on our competitors' payment obligations, results of operations and product costs, e.g., the impact of federal legislation eliminating the federal tobacco quota system and providing for regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration (the "FDA");

the impact of substantial increases in federal, state and local excise taxes;

uncertainty related to product liability and other tobacco-related litigation, including the *Engle* progeny cases pending in Florida and other individual and class action cases, where certain plaintiffs have alleged compensatory and punitive damage amounts ranging into the hundreds of million and even billions of dollars; and

potential additional payment obligations for us under the Master Settlement Agreement (the "MSA") and other settlement agreements with the states.

Any forward-looking statement you read in this offering memorandum reflects our current views with respect to future events and is subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, operating results, growth strategy and liquidity. We urge you to carefully review the disclosures we make concerning risks and other factors that may affect our business and operating results, including those made under the heading "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as such risk factors may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future, including subsequent Annual Reports on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. We caution you that any forward-looking statements made in this prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by

Table of Contents

reference are not guarantees of future performance, and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or any other document incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We do not intend, and we undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking information to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, unless required by law to do so.

S-v

Table of Contents

MARKET DATA

We use market and industry data throughout this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein that we have obtained from market research, publicly available information and industry publications, including industry data obtained from Management Science Associates, Inc. (Management Science Associates), an independent third-party database management organization that collects wholesale and retail shipment data from various cigarette manufacturers and distributors and provides analysis of market share, unit sales volume and premium versus discount mix for individual companies and the industry as a whole. These sources generally state that the information that they provide has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but that the accuracy and completeness of such information is not guaranteed. The market and industry data is often based on industry surveys and the preparers experience in the industry. Management Science Associates information relating to unit sales volume and market share of certain of the smaller, primarily deep discount, cigarette manufacturers is based on estimates developed by Management Science Associates. Although we believe that the surveys and market research that others have performed are reliable, we have not independently verified this information.

S-vi

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing, and it is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information and historical financial statements (including the notes to those financial statements) that are included elsewhere herein or that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should read the entire prospectus and all of the documents that are incorporated herein by reference carefully, including the Risk Factors sections and the financial statements and the notes to those statements. As used in this prospectus, the terms Vector, Vector Group, we, our and us and similar terms refer to Vector Group Ltd. and all of our consolidated subsidiaries, including VGR Holding LLC (VGR Holding), Liggett Group LLC (Liggett Group or Liggett), Vector Tobacco Inc. (Vector Tobacco) and New Valley LLC (New Valley).

Vector Group Ltd.

We are a holding company and are principally engaged in:

the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in the United States through our Liggett Group and Vector Tobacco subsidiaries; and

the real estate business through our New Valley subsidiary, which is seeking to acquire or invest in additional real estate properties or projects. New Valley owns 70.59% of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC (Douglas Elliman Realty), which operates the largest residential brokerage company in the New York metropolitan area.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and the year ended December 31, 2015, Liggett was the fourth-largest manufacturer of cigarettes in the United States in terms of unit sales. Liggett's manufacturing facilities are located in Mebane, North Carolina where it manufactures most of Vector Tobacco's cigarettes pursuant to a contract manufacturing agreement. At the present time, Liggett and Vector Tobacco have no foreign operations.

Concurrent Transaction

On January 18, 2017, the Company commenced an offer to issue and sell \$850 million aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes due 2025 (the notes) to qualified institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) and to persons outside the United States in compliance with Regulation S under the Securities Act. There can be no guarantee that such an offering will be priced or completed on terms that are favorable to the Company, or at all. The offering of the notes will be made by a separate offering memorandum and is not part of the offering to which this prospectus relates. Accordingly, this prospectus is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any such notes.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33137, our telephone number is (305) 579-8000 and our web site is <http://www.vectorgroupltd.com>. You should not consider information contained on our web site or that can be accessed through our web site to be part of this prospectus. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol VGR.

S-1

Table of Contents**THE OFFERING**

The following summary of the offering contains basic information about the offering and the common stock and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of the common stock, please refer to the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled Description of Capital Stock.

Issuer	Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation
Common stock offered by us	2,000,000 shares
Common stock outstanding prior to the offering	127,739,481 shares
Common stock outstanding upon completion of the offering	129,739,481 shares
Use of proceeds	We intend to use the proceeds of the offering, together with the proceeds of a concurrent offering of senior secured notes due 2025, to fund the redemption of our \$835 million 7.785% Senior Secured Notes due 2021, with the remaining net cash proceeds to be used for general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds.
Risk factors	You should carefully read and consider the information set forth under Risk Factors beginning on page S-3 in this prospectus supplement, beginning on page 6 in the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, before investing in our common stock.
Underwriter conflicts of interest	See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).
NYSE symbol	VGR

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should be aware that an investment in our common stock involves various risks and uncertainties, including those described below, that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations, cash flows or prospects. We urge you to consider carefully the risk factors described below, together with all of the other information included in, and incorporated by reference into, this prospectus before you decide to invest in the borrowed shares. The risks and uncertainties described below and incorporated by reference into this prospectus are not the only ones related to our business, our common stock or the offering. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations, cash flows or prospects. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to the materialization of any of these risks and uncertainties and you may lose all or part of your investment.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

The trading price of our common stock has ranged between \$20.02 and \$23.79 per share over the past 52 weeks. We expect that the market price of our common stock will continue to fluctuate.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate in response to numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include the following:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results;

changes in expectations as to our future financial performance, including financial estimates by securities analysts and investors;

the operating and stock performance of our competitors;

announcements by us or our competitors of new products or services or significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;

the initiation or outcome of litigation;

FDA regulation of our products including, determinations that certain of our new tobacco products are not substantially equivalent to a predicate tobacco product;

the failure or significant disruption of our operations from various causes related to our critical information technologies and systems including cybersecurity threats to our data and customer data as well as reputational or financial risks associated with a loss of any such data;

changes in interest rates;

general economic, market and political conditions;

additions or departures of key personnel; and

future sales of our equity or convertible securities.

We cannot predict the extent, if any, to which future sales of shares of common stock or the availability of shares of common stock for future sale, may depress the trading price of our common stock.

In addition, the stock market in recent years has experienced extreme price and trading volume fluctuations that often have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of individual companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. Furthermore, stockholders may initiate securities class action lawsuits if the market price of our stock drops significantly, which may cause us to incur substantial costs and could divert the time and attention of our management. These factors, among others, could significantly depress the price of our common stock.

We have many potentially dilutive securities outstanding.

As of December 31, 2015, we had outstanding options granted to employees, including restricted shares, to purchase approximately 5,940,244 shares of our common stock, with a weighted-average exercise price of \$8.71 per share, of which options 2,035,345 shares were exercisable as of December 31, 2015. We also have outstanding convertible notes and debentures maturing in January 2019 and April 2020, which are currently convertible into 24,894,522 shares of our common stock. The issuance of these shares will cause dilution which may adversely

Table of Contents

affect the market price of our common stock. The availability for sale of significant quantities of our common stock could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the stock.

We are a holding company and depend on cash payments from our subsidiaries, which are subject to contractual and other restrictions, in order to service our debt and to pay dividends on our common stock.

We are a holding company and have no operations of our own. We hold our interests in our various businesses through our wholly-owned subsidiaries, VGR Holding and New Valley. In addition to our own cash resources, our ability to pay interest on our debt and to pay dividends on our common stock depends on the ability of VGR Holding and New Valley to make cash available to us. VGR Holding's ability to pay dividends to us depends primarily on the ability of Liggett, its wholly-owned subsidiary, to generate cash and make it available to VGR Holding. Liggett's revolving credit agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. contains a restricted payments test that limits the ability of Liggett to pay cash dividends to VGR Holding. The ability of Liggett to meet the restricted payments test may be affected by factors beyond its control, including Wells Fargo's unilateral discretion, if acting in good faith, to modify elements of such test.

Our receipt of cash payments, as dividends or otherwise, from our subsidiaries is an important source of our liquidity and capital resources. If we do not have sufficient cash resources of our own and do not receive payments from our subsidiaries in an amount sufficient to repay our debts and to pay dividends on our common stock, we must obtain additional funds from other sources. There is a risk that we will not be able to obtain additional funds at all or on terms acceptable to us. Our inability to service these obligations and to continue to pay dividends on our common stock would significantly harm us and the value of our common stock.

Changes in tax law may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and affect the federal tax considerations of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the common stock.

Potential tax reforms in the United States may result in significant changes in the rules governing United States federal income taxation. Such changes may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Such changes may also affect the federal tax considerations of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the common stock, as discussed below in Material United States Tax Considerations to Non-U.S. Holders of Common Stock.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$43,180,000, after deducting estimated fees and expenses payable by us. We intend to use the proceeds of the offering, together with the proceeds of an offering of senior secured notes due 2025, to fund the redemption of our \$835 million 7.785% Senior Secured Notes due 2021 (the 2021 Notes), with the remaining net cash proceeds used for general corporate purposes.

\$235 million of the 7.785% Senior Secured Notes due 2021 were issued in May 2016 with the net cash proceeds used for general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, additional investments in real estate through the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, New Valley LLC, and in its existing tobacco business.

S-5

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and total capitalization as of September 30, 2016 on:

an actual basis; and

an as adjusted basis to give effect to (i) this offering of common stock, (ii) the issuance and sale by us of \$850 million in aggregate principal amount of notes and (iii) the receipt and application of the net proceeds by us from this offering of common stock and the notes to redeem all of the outstanding 2021 Notes, after deducting fees, underwriting discounts and estimated expenses payable by us.

The information presented in the table below should be read in conjunction with the historical consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus. For purposes of this table, we have not reflected the impact, which could be material, of the application of ASC 470, ASC 480 and ASC 815 to the agreement to conduct this offering of common stock concurrently with the offering of the notes.

	AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016	
	ACTUAL	AS ADJUSTED
	(dollars in thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 445,874	\$ 453,748 ⁽¹⁾
Vector:		
7.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2021 ⁽²⁾	\$ 835,000	\$
% Senior Secured Notes due 2025 to be issued concurrently		850,000
7.5% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Notes due 2019 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	230,000	230,000
5.5% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Notes due 2020 ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾	258,750	258,750
Liggett:		
Revolving credit facility	13,591 ⁽⁶⁾	13,591
Term loan under credit facility	3,073	3,073
Equipment loans.	5,136	5,136
Other	641	641
Total notes payable, long-term debt and other obligations, including current portion	1,346,191	1,361,191
Total stockholders' deficiency	(198,597)	(155,367) ⁽¹⁾
Total capitalization	\$ 1,147,594	\$ 1,205,824 ⁽¹⁾

- (1) Reflects net proceeds of this offering of common shares of \$43.2 million paid by Jefferies LLC, taking into account the application of a portion of such proceeds towards redemption of the outstanding 2021 Notes.
- (2) Amount included in the table above includes premium of \$14.7 million.
- (3) The fair value of the derivatives embedded within the 7.5% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Notes (\$57.9 million at September 30, 2016) and the 5.5% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Debentures (\$62.9 million at September 30, 2016) are included in the table above, but are separately classified as a derivative liability in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.
- (4) Amount included in the table above includes unamortized discount of \$115.5 million.
- (5) Amount included in the table above includes unamortized discount of \$75.2 million.
- (6) As at December 31, 2016, the amount outstanding under the Liggett revolving credit facility was approximately \$37.2 million.

Table of Contents

**MATERIAL UNITED STATES TAX CONSEQUENCES TO
NON-U.S. HOLDERS OF COMMON STOCK**

This section summarizes certain U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder. You are a non-U.S. holder if you are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a beneficial owner of our common stock and you are:

a nonresident alien individual,

a foreign corporation, or

an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from common stock.

This section does not consider the specific facts and circumstances that may be relevant to a particular non-U.S. holder and does not address the treatment of a non-U.S. holder under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction. This section is based on the tax laws of the United States, including the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), existing and proposed regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

If any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our common stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the tax treatment of the partnership. A partner in a partnership holding our common stock should consult its tax advisor with regard to the U.S. federal income tax treatment of an investment in our common stock.

Potential tax reforms in the United States may result in significant changes in the rules governing United States federal income taxation. Such changes may affect the federal tax considerations of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the common stock discussed herein.

You should consult a tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of our common stock in your particular circumstances, as well as any tax consequences that may arise under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

Dividends

Except as described below, if you are a non-U.S. holder of our common stock, dividends paid to you are subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. Subject to the discussion in FATCA Withholding below, even if you are eligible for a lower treaty rate, we and other payors will generally be required to withhold at a 30% rate (rather than the lower treaty rate) on dividend payments to you, unless you have furnished to us or another payor:

a valid Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, your status as a non-United States person and your entitlement to the lower treaty rate with respect to such payments, or

in the case of payments made outside the United States to an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at an office or branch of a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), other documentary evidence establishing your entitlement to the lower treaty rate in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations.

If you are eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax under a tax treaty, you may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of that rate by filing a refund claim with the IRS.

If dividends paid to you are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business within the United States, and, if required by a tax treaty, the dividends are attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States, we and other payors generally are not required to withhold tax from the dividends, *provided* that you have furnished to us or another payor a valid IRS Form W-8ECI or an acceptable substitute form upon which you represent, under penalties of perjury, that:

you are a non-U.S. person, and

the dividends are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business within the United States and are includible in your gross income.

Table of Contents

Effectively connected dividends (and, in the event a treaty applies, dividends attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States) are taxed at rates applicable to U.S. citizens, resident aliens and domestic U.S. corporations.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected dividends that you receive may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate.

Gain on Disposition of Common Stock

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain that you recognize on a disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States, if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting you to U.S. taxation on a net income basis,

you are an individual, you hold our common stock as a capital asset, you are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions exist, or

we are or have been a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and you held, directly or indirectly, at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition, more than 5% of our common stock (assuming our common stock remains regularly traded) and you are not eligible for any treaty exemption.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected gains that you recognize may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate.

We have not been, are not and do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

FATCA Withholding

Pursuant to sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, commonly known as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), a 30% withholding tax (FATCA withholding) may be imposed on certain payments to you or to certain foreign financial institutions, investment funds and other non-U.S. persons receiving payments on your behalf if you or such persons fail to comply with certain information reporting requirements or otherwise fail to qualify for an exemption. Such payments will include U.S.-source dividends and the gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of stock that can produce U.S.-source dividends. Payments of dividends that you receive in respect of our common stock could be affected by this withholding if you are subject to the FATCA information reporting requirements and fail to comply with them or if you hold common stock through a non-U.S. person (e.g., a foreign bank or broker) that fails to comply with these requirements (even if payments to you would not otherwise have been subject to FATCA withholding). Payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of common stock could also be subject to FATCA withholding unless such disposition occurs before January 1, 2019. Foreign financial

institutions located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing FATCA may be subject to different rules. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the relevant U.S. law and other official guidance on FATCA withholding.

Federal Estate Taxes

Common stock held by a non-U.S. holder at the time of death will be included in the holder's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

Table of Contents

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

If you are a non-U.S. holder, we and other payors are required to report payments of dividends on IRS Form 1042-S even if the payments are exempt from withholding. You are otherwise generally exempt from backup withholding and information reporting requirements with respect to dividend payments and the payment of the proceeds from the sale of common stock effected at a U.S. office of a broker, provided that either (i) the payor or broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person and you have furnished a valid IRS Form W-8 or other documentation upon which the payor or broker may rely to treat the payments as made to a non-U.S. person or (ii) you otherwise establish an exemption.

Payment of the proceeds from the sale of common stock effected at a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale effected at a foreign office of a broker could be subject to information reporting in the same manner as a sale within the United States (and in certain cases may be subject to backup withholding as well) if (i) the broker has certain connections to the United States, (ii) the proceeds are paid or confirmation is sent to the United States or (iii) the sale has certain other specified connections with the United States. In addition, certain foreign brokers may be required to report the amount of gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of common stock under FATCA if you are presumed to be a U.S. person.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, dated January , 2017, we have agreed to sell to Jefferies LLC, as underwriter, and Jefferies LLC has agreed to purchase from us, all of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus.

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriter are subject to certain conditions precedent such as receipt by the underwriter of officers' certificates and legal opinions and approval of certain legal matters by its counsel. The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriter will purchase all of the shares of common stock if any of them are purchased. We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter and certain of its controlling persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments that the underwriter may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriter has advised us that, following the completion of this offering, it currently intends to make a market in the common stock as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. However, the underwriter is not obligated to do so, and the underwriter may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice in its sole discretion. Accordingly, no assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the common stock, that you will be able to sell any of the common stock held by you at a particular time or that the prices that you receive when you sell will be favorable.

The underwriter is offering the shares of common stock subject to its acceptance of the shares of common stock from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriter reserves the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part. In addition, the underwriter has advised us that it does not intend to confirm sales to any account over which it exercises discretionary authority.

The expected settlement date under the underwriting agreement is , which is the 6th business day following the date of this prospectus, subject to certain conditions precedent, including the settlement of our concurrent secured notes offering as described under Concurrent Notes Offering . The underwriter may, at its election, borrow shares of our common stock from third parties and offer such shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, which may include block sales, on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices (the borrowed shares). If the underwriter effects any such sales of borrowed shares, the underwriter may close out the related open borrowings of shares of our common stock by delivering to such third-party stock lenders shares of our common stock received by the underwriter from us upon settlement under the underwriting agreement and/or shares of our common stock purchased by the underwriter (or its affiliate) in secondary market transactions over a period that it determines (and, in particular, the underwriter would be expected to effect such purchases of shares of our common stock in secondary market transactions to close out any such open borrowings of shares of our common stock if our concurrent secured notes offering is not consummated or the conditions precedent under the underwriting agreement otherwise fail to be satisfied). Any such purchases of shares of our common stock could cause an increase (or reduce the size of a decrease) in the market price of shares of our common stock at such time. We will not receive any proceeds from any such sales of borrowed shares pursuant to this prospectus.

Commission and Expenses

The underwriter is purchasing the shares of common stock from the Company at \$21.615 per share (representing \$43,230,000 aggregate proceeds to the Company, before deducting expenses). In connection with the sale of the shares of common stock offered hereby, the underwriter may be deemed to have received compensation in the

form of underwriting discounts.

The underwriter may offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The underwriter may effect such transactions by selling shares of common stock to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriter and/or purchasers of shares of common stock for whom they may act as agents or to whom they may sell as principal.

The estimated offering expenses payable by us are approximately \$50,000.

S-10

Table of Contents

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol VGR.

Stabilization

The underwriter has advised us that, pursuant to Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in short sale transactions, stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions or the imposition of penalty bids in connection with this offering. These activities may have the effect of stabilizing or maintaining the market price of the common stock at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. Establishing short sales positions may involve either covered short sales or naked short sales.

Covered short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares of our common stock in this offering. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their option to purchase additional shares of our common stock or purchasing shares of our common stock in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the option to purchase additional shares.

Naked short sales are sales in excess of the option to purchase additional shares of our common stock. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares of our common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering.

A stabilizing bid is a bid for the purchase of shares of common stock on behalf of the underwriter for the purpose of fixing or maintaining the price of the common stock. A syndicate covering transaction is the bid for or the purchase of shares of common stock on behalf of the underwriters to reduce a short position incurred by the underwriters in connection with the offering. Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriter's purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. A penalty bid is an arrangement permitting the underwriters to reclaim the selling concession otherwise accruing to a syndicate member in connection with the offering if the common stock originally sold by such syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction and therefore have not been effectively placed by such syndicate member.

Neither we nor the underwriter makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. The underwriter is not obligated to engage in these activities and, if commenced, any of the activities may be discontinued at any time.

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available by e-mail or on the web sites or through online services maintained by one or more of the underwriters or their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriters may agree with us to allocate a specific number of shares of common stock for sale to online brokerage account holders. Any such allocation for online distributions will be made by the underwriters on the same basis as other allocations. Other than the prospectus

in electronic format, the information on the underwriters' web sites and any information contained in any other web site maintained by any of the underwriters is not part of this prospectus, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or the underwriters and should not be relied upon by investors.

Conflicts of Interest

All of the proceeds of any sales of borrowed shares will be paid to the underwriter or an affiliate thereof. As a result, Jefferies, or an affiliate thereof, will receive more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering. Thus, Jefferies has a conflict of interest as defined in Rule 5121 (Public Offerings of Securities with Conflicts of Interest) of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("Rule 5121"). Accordingly, this offering will be made in compliance with the applicable provisions of Rule 5121. In accordance with Rule 5121, Jefferies will not make sales to

S-11

Table of Contents

discretionary accounts without the prior written consent of the customer. The appointment of a qualified independent underwriter is not required in connection with this offering as a bona fide public market, as defined in Rule 5121, exists for our common stock.

Other Activities and Relationships

The underwriter and certain of its affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriter and certain of its affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various commercial and investment banking and financial advisory services for us and our affiliates, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. In addition, Jefferies is acting as the initial purchaser in the issuance and sale by us of \$850 million in aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes due 2025, the consummation of which this offering is conditioned on.

As of September 30, 2016, Jefferies and/or its affiliates owned approximately 3,953,000 shares, or less than 1.0% of our common stock, based on the outstanding number of shares as of September 30, 2016, and also owned approximately \$5.7 million aggregate principal amount of our outstanding convertible notes. Jefferies also holds a short position of 402,712 shares of our common stock as a hedge against its position in our convertible notes. In November 2012, Jefferies entered into a share lending agreement with us.

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

Settlement

We expect to deliver the shares of common stock against payment for the shares of common stock on or about the closing date specified on the cover page of this prospectus, which will be the sixth business day following the date of the pricing of the shares of common stock. Since trades in the secondary market generally settle in three business days, purchasers who wish to trade shares of common stock on any date prior to three business days before delivery will be required, by virtue of the fact that the shares of common stock initially will settle in T+6, to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

Disclaimers About Non-U.S. Jurisdictions

United Kingdom

This prospectus is only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 as amended (the Order) and/or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a relevant person).

This prospectus and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

S-12

Table of Contents

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date), no offer of any shares of common stock which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus has been or will be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than any offer where a prospectus has been or will be published in relation to such shares of common stock that has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the relevant competent authority in that Relevant Member State in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer of such shares of common stock may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State:

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

provided that no such offer of shares of common stock shall require the Company or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

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

Canada

Resale Restrictions

The distribution of shares of common stock in Canada is being made only in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia on a private placement basis exempt from the requirement that we prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each province where trades of these shares of common stock are made. Any resale of the shares of common stock in Canada must be made under applicable securities laws which may vary depending on the relevant jurisdiction, and which may require resales to be made under available statutory exemptions or under a discretionary exemption granted by the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authority. Purchasers are advised to seek legal advice prior to any resale of the shares of common stock.

Representations of Canadian Purchasers

By purchasing shares of common stock in Canada and accepting delivery of a purchase confirmation, a purchaser is representing to us and the dealer from whom the purchase confirmation is received that:

the purchaser is entitled under applicable provincial securities laws to purchase the shares of common stock without the benefit of a prospectus qualified under those securities laws as it is an accredited investor as defined under National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus Exemptions;

the purchaser is a permitted client as defined in National Instrument 31-103 Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations;

where required by law, the purchaser is purchasing as principal and not as agent; and

the purchaser has reviewed the text above under Resale Restrictions.

S-13

Table of Contents

Conflicts of Interest

Canadian purchasers are hereby notified that the underwriter is relying on the exemption set out in section 3A.3 or 3A.4, if applicable, of National Instrument 33-105 Underwriting Conflicts from having to provide certain conflict of interest disclosure in this document.

Statutory Rights of Action

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

Enforcement of Legal Rights

All of our directors and officers as well as the experts named herein may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible for Canadian purchasers to effect service of process within Canada upon us or those persons. All or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of those persons may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible to satisfy a judgment against us or those persons in Canada or to enforce a judgment obtained in Canadian courts against us or those persons outside of Canada.

Taxation and Eligibility for Investment

Canadian purchasers of shares of common stock should consult their own legal and tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in the shares of common stock in their particular circumstances and about the eligibility of the shares of common stock for investment by the purchaser under relevant Canadian legislation.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of our common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriter by Latham & Watkins LLP, New York, New York.

S-15

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, of Vector Group Ltd. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference (which reports express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule, and express an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of Vector Group Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting because of material weaknesses). Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements as of December 31, 2014 and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2014 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Vector Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, of Liggett Group LLC as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is incorporated herein by reference (which report expresses an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule and includes an explanatory paragraph emphasizing that Liggett Group LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vector Group Ltd. and the financial statements may not be indicative of those had it been a stand-alone entity). Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements as of December 31, 2014 of Liggett Group LLC incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Vector Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, of Vector Tobacco Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is incorporated herein by reference (which report expresses an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule and includes an explanatory paragraph emphasizing that Vector Tobacco Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vector Group Ltd. and the financial statements may not be indicative of those had it been a stand-alone entity). Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements as of December 31, 2014 of Vector Tobacco Inc. incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Vector Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements as of December 13, 2013 of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Vector Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

S-16

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Debt Securities

Guarantees of Debt Securities

Warrants

Rights

Purchase Contracts

Units

From time to time, we or certain selling securityholders may offer the securities described in this prospectus separately or together in any combination, in one or more classes or series, in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of the offering.

We will provide the specific terms of the securities to be offered in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The specific plan of distribution for any securities to be offered will also be provided in a prospectus supplement. Prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information**, carefully before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell our securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those offered securities.

We may offer and sell the securities directly, through agents we select from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers we select, or through a combination of these methods. In addition, certain selling securityholders may offer and sell our securities from time to time. We will provide specific information about any selling securityholders in one or more supplements to this prospectus. If we or the selling securityholders use any agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of those securities and the net proceeds we or any selling securityholders expect to receive from that sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol **VGR**. Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

Investing in any of our securities involves a high degree of risk. Please read carefully the section entitled Risk Factors on page 6 of this prospectus, the Risk Factors section contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and the information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus is December 31, 2015

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	2
<u>Information We Incorporate by Reference</u>	2
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>Our Business</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	8
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	8
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	9
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	13
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	17
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	25
<u>Description of Rights</u>	29
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	30
<u>Description of Units</u>	31
<u>Selling Securityholders</u>	32
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	32
<u>Legal Matters</u>	34
<u>Experts</u>	34

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), using a shelf registration process.

As permitted under the rules of the SEC, this prospectus incorporates important business information about Vector Group Ltd. that is contained in documents that we file with the SEC, but that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. You may obtain copies of these documents, without charge, from the web site maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov, as well as other sources. See **Where You Can Find More Information**. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described under the headings **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Information We Incorporate by Reference**. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. Neither we, any selling securityholders, nor any underwriters have authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. We are not making offers to sell the securities described in this prospectus in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

References in this prospectus to the terms **we**, **us**, **our**, **the Company** or other similar terms mean Vector Group Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries and **Vector** means Vector Group Ltd., unless we state otherwise or the context indicates otherwise.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed our registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC under the Securities Act. We also file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC, including the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement, at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may obtain further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. These documents may also be accessed on our web site at www.vectorgroupltd.com. Information contained on our web site is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our web site to be part of this prospectus.

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are part of a registration statement filed with the SEC and do not contain all of the information in the registration statement. The full registration statement may be obtained from the SEC or us as indicated above. Forms of any indenture or other documents establishing the terms of the offered securities are filed as exhibits to the registration statement or will be filed through an amendment to our registration statement on Form S-3 or under cover of a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated in this prospectus by reference. Statements in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement about these documents are summaries and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You should refer to the actual documents for a more complete description of the relevant matters.

INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the following information (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2015, June 30, 2015 and September 30, 2015;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K or Form 8-K/A, as applicable, filed on January 20, 2015, April 30, 2015, May 22, 2015, June 11, 2015, October 2, 2015, October 6, 2015 (but not the information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01), November 12, 2015 (but not the information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01) and December 28, 2015;

the description of our common stock contained in the S-1 Registration Statement filed on June 15, 1998, including any subsequently filed amendments and reports updating such description; and

our definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, filed April 8, 2015 (solely to the extent incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014).

We also incorporate by reference each of the documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offerings under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We will not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus any documents or portions thereof that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K after the date of this prospectus unless, and except to the extent, specified in such Current Reports.

Table of Contents

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, a copy of any of these filings (other than an exhibit to these filings, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into the filing requested) at no cost, upon a request to us by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Vector Group Ltd.

4400 Biscayne Boulevard

Miami, Florida 33137

Telephone Number: (305) 579-8000

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities law. Forward-looking statements include information relating to our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to, but not limited to:

economic outlook;

capital expenditures;

cost reduction;

legislation and regulations;

cash flows;

operating performance;

litigation;

impairment charges and cost saving associated with restructurings of our tobacco operations; and

related industry developments (including trends affecting our business, financial condition and results of operations).

We identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as anticipate , believe , estimate , expect , intend , objective , plan , seek , predict , project and will be and similar words or phrases or their negatives. The forward information involves important risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from our anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements include, without limitation, the following:

general economic and market conditions and any changes therein, due to acts of war and terrorism or otherwise;

governmental regulations and policies;

effects of industry competition;

impact of business combinations, including acquisitions and divestitures, both internally for us and externally in the tobacco industry;

impact of legislation providing for regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration (the FDA);

impact of substantial increases in federal, state and local excise taxes;

uncertainty related to product liability litigation including the *Engle* progeny cases pending in Florida; and

potential additional payment obligations for us under the Master Settlement Agreement (the MSA) and other settlement agreements relating to tobacco-related litigation with the states.

Any forward-looking statement you read in this prospectus reflects our current views with respect to future events and is subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, operating results, growth strategy and liquidity. We urge you to carefully review the disclosures we make concerning risks and other factors that may affect our business and operating results, including those made under the heading Risk Factors in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2015, June 30, 2015 and September 30, 2015 and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as such risk factors may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we

Table of Contents

file with the SEC in the future, including subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Annual Reports on Form 10-K, and in any prospectus supplement. We caution you that any forward-looking statements made in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference are not guarantees of future performance and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other document incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We do not intend, and we undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking information to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, unless required by law to do so.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider any risk factors set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2015, June 30, 2015 and September 30, 2015, which may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future. See "Where You Can Find More Information." The risks and uncertainties we have described are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our operations. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition could suffer. In that case, the trading price of our securities could decline, and you could lose part of your investment.

OUR BUSINESS

Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation, is a holding company and is principally engaged in:

the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in the United States through our Liggett Group LLC ("Liggett") and Vector Tobacco Inc. ("Vector Tobacco") subsidiaries,

the sale of electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes") in the United States through our Zoom E-Cigs LLC ("Zoom") subsidiary, and

the real estate business through our New Valley LLC subsidiary, which is seeking to acquire additional operating companies and real estate properties. New Valley owns 70.59% of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC ("Douglas Elliman Realty"), which operates the largest residential brokerage company in the New York metropolitan area.

Our significant business segments for the year ended December 31, 2014 were Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Real Estate. The Tobacco segment consists of the manufacture and sale of cigarettes. The E-Cigarettes segment includes the operations of the Company's e-cigarette business. The Real Estate segment includes the Company's investments in consolidated and non-consolidated real estate businesses.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, Liggett was the fourth-largest manufacturer of cigarettes in the United States in terms of unit sales. Our tobacco subsidiaries manufacture and sell cigarettes in the United States and all of our tobacco operation's unit sales volume in 2014 and for the first nine months of 2015 was in the discount segment, which management believes has been the primary growth segment in the industry for more than a decade. Our tobacco subsidiaries produce cigarettes in approximately 117 different brand styles as well as private labels for other companies, typically retail or wholesale distributors who supply supermarkets and convenience stores. Liggett's current brand portfolio includes Eagle 20's, Pyramid, Grand Prix, Liggett Select, Eve, USA and various partner brands and private label brands. Liggett's manufacturing facilities are located in Mebane, North Carolina where it manufactures most of Vector Tobacco Inc.'s cigarettes pursuant to a contract manufacturing agreement. Liggett's products are distributed from a central distribution center in Mebane, North Carolina to 17 public warehouses located throughout the United States that serve as local distribution centers for Liggett's customers. Liggett's customers are primarily candy and tobacco distributors, the military and large grocery, drug and convenience store chains.

In addition to New Valley's investment in Douglas Elliman, New Valley holds investment interests in various real estate projects in the United States and abroad through both debt and equity investments.

We have approximately 1,250 employees, of which approximately 750 were employed by Douglas Elliman primarily in the New York area, 250 were employed at Liggett's Mebane facility and approximately 225 were

Table of Contents

employed in sales and administrative functions at Liggett Vector Brands LLC (LVB), which coordinates our tobacco and e-cigarettes subsidiaries sales and marketing efforts, along with certain support functions.

Our principal executive offices are located at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33137, our telephone number is (305) 579-8000 and our web site is <http://www.vectorgrouppltd.com>. You should not consider information contained on our web site or that can be accessed through our web site to be part of this prospectus.

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

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,					
	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.15x	1.54x	1.30x	1.32x	2.18x	2.00x

For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings include pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest) and amortization of capitalized interest. Earnings are also adjusted to exclude equity in gain or loss of non-consolidated real estate businesses. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, capitalized interest (including amounts charged to income and capitalized during the period), a portion of rental expense (deemed by us to be representative of the interest factor of rental payments), and amortization of debt discount costs.

There was no preferred stock outstanding for any of the periods shown above. Accordingly, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends was identical to the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each period.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in any prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities offered under this prospectus for working capital and general corporate purposes including, but not limited to, capital expenditures, working capital, acquisitions and other business opportunities. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from sales of securities by selling securityholders, if any, pursuant to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following is a summary of the rights of our capital stock, certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended (our certificate of incorporation), and our amended and restated bylaws (our bylaws), and certain provisions of applicable law. For more detailed information, please see our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Authorized Capitalization

Our authorized capital stock consists of:

250,000,000 shares of common stock, with a par value of \$0.10 per share; and

10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, with a par value of \$1.00 per share.

As of December 31, 2015, 123,792,529 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding, and no shares of our preferred stock were issued and outstanding. As of September 30, 2015, we also had outstanding options granted to employees to purchase approximately 3,745,630 shares of our common stock, with a weighted-average exercise price of \$13.82 per share, of which options for 1,710,285 shares were exercisable at December 31, 2015. We also have outstanding convertible notes and debentures maturing in February 2019 and April 2020, which were convertible into 24,895,477 shares of our common stock as of December 31, 2015.

Common Stock

Each outstanding share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available assets, payable in cash, in property or in shares of our common stock. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of all debts and other liabilities and any amounts due to the holders of preferred stock. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights. No redemption or sinking fund provisions apply to our common stock. All of our outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors, without stockholder approval, to designate and issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights and preferences, granted to or imposed upon each such series of preferred stock, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preference, sinking fund terms, rights and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of a series. Except as otherwise fixed by our board of directors in any resolution providing for the issuance of any series of preferred stock or as required by law, the holders of shares of preferred stock shall not be entitled to vote on matters submitted to a vote of stockholders; provided, however, that if any shares of preferred stock are outstanding, we shall not, without the consent of the holders of record of two-thirds of the aggregate number of

shares of preferred stock then outstanding, voting as a class, (i) increase the total number of authorized shares of preferred stock, (ii) create or issue any shares of any class of capital stock ranking, either as to payment of dividends or distribution of assets upon dissolution, liquidation or winding-up, prior to or on a parity with the preferred stock, or (iii) alter or change the designation or the powers, preferences or rights of the preferred stock as a class, or the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors can issue, without stockholder approval, preferred stock with voting and conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power of the holders of common stock and reduce the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments or payments upon liquidation. Such issuance could have the effect of decreasing the market price of the common stock. The issuance of preferred stock or even the ability to issue preferred stock could also have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change of control or other corporate action.

As of December 31, 2015, no shares of preferred stock were issued and outstanding. All shares of preferred stock offered hereby will, when issued, be fully paid and non-assessable and, unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock being offered, will not have any preemptive or similar rights. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to the class or series of preferred stock being offered the specific terms of each series of our preferred stock, including the price at which the preferred stock may be purchased, the number of shares of preferred stock offered, and the terms, if any, on which the preferred stock may be convertible into common stock or exchangeable for other securities.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Delaware Law and Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain certain provisions that may make it more difficult to acquire us by means of a tender offer, open market purchase, proxy fight or otherwise. These provisions and certain provisions of Delaware law are expected to discourage coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids.

These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continued stability in the composition of our board of directors and its policies and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened acquisition of us. The provisions also are intended to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy fights. However, such provisions could have the effect of discouraging others from making tender offers for our shares and, as a consequence, could deprive stockholders of opportunities to realize takeover premiums for their shares.

Set forth below is a summary of the relevant provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and certain applicable sections of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. For additional information we refer you to the provisions of our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws and such sections of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware regulating corporate takeovers. In general, Section 203, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that such person or entity became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to such date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding specified shares; or

at or subsequent to such date of the transaction that resulted in a person or entity becoming an interested stockholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

The application of Section 203 may limit the ability of stockholders to approve a transaction that they may deem to be in their best interests. In addition, Section 203 makes it more difficult for an interested stockholder to

Table of Contents

effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period, although the stockholders may, by adopting an amendment to our certificate of incorporation or bylaws, elect not to be governed by this section, effective 12 months after adoption.

In general, Section 203 defines "business combination" as:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation to or with the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction which results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an "interested stockholder" as any person that is:

the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation;

an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date; or

an affiliate or associate of the above.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws do not exclude us from the restrictions imposed under Section 203. We anticipate that the provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with our board of directors because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if a majority of the directors then in office approve either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder.

Our Board of Directors

Our by-laws provide that the number of directors may be fixed, from time to time, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire board of directors or by action of the stockholders. The size of our board of directors is currently fixed at seven directors. Each director is elected at our annual stockholder meeting, by a plurality vote, and holds

office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified, unless he or she resigns, dies, becomes disqualified or is removed.

Removal of Directors; Vacancies

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that any director may be removed, with or without cause, at any time, by the holders of a majority of the voting power of our issued and outstanding capital stock entitled to vote at an election of directors.

Our bylaws provide that any vacancy in our board of directors may be filled by the vote of a majority of our directors then in office, though less than a quorum, or by our sole remaining director or by our stockholders at the next annual meeting thereof or at a special meeting thereof. Each director so elected shall hold office until his successor shall have been elected and qualified.

Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation

Except as otherwise provided by law or our certificate of incorporation, our certificate of incorporation may be amended, altered or repealed by resolution of our board of directors and approval of our stockholders entitled to vote thereon either at a special or annual meeting (provided that such amendment has been described or referred to in the notice of such meeting).

Table of Contents

Amendment of Bylaws

Except as otherwise provided by law, our certificate of incorporation or our bylaws, our bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed at a meeting of the stockholders (provided that such amendment has been described or referred to in the notice of such meeting) or a meeting of our board of directors, provided that any bylaw made by our board of directors may be amended or repealed by action of our stockholders at any annual or special meeting of stockholders.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol VGR.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the depositary shares and depositary receipts that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future depositary shares or depositary receipts we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any depositary shares or depositary receipts that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of deposit agreement that describes the terms of the depositary shares and depositary receipts we may offer before the issuance thereof. The following summary is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all provisions of the deposit agreement applicable to a particular offering of depositary shares or depositary receipts. We urge you to read any applicable prospectus supplement related to the depositary shares or depositary receipts that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete deposit agreement.

Description of Depositary Shares

We may offer depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts. Each depositary share represents a fraction or a multiple of a share of the particular series of preferred stock issued and deposited with a depositary to be designated by us. The fraction or the multiple of a share of preferred stock which each depositary share represents will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will deposit the preferred shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares according to the provisions of a deposit agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company which we will select as our preferred stock depositary. We will name the depositary in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each holder of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the underlying preferred stock in proportion to the applicable fraction or multiple of a share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share. These rights may include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights. The depositary will send the holders of depositary shares all reports and communications that we deliver to the depositary and which we are required to furnish to the holders of depositary shares.

Depositary Receipts

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to anyone who is buying the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the applicable prospectus supplement.

While definitive engraved depositary receipts (certificates) are being prepared, we may instruct the depositary to issue temporary depositary receipts, which will entitle holders to all the rights of the definitive depositary receipts and be substantially in the same form. The depositary will prepare definitive depositary receipts without unreasonable delay, and we will pay for the exchange of your temporary depositary receipts for definitive depositary receipts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption, a holder of depositary shares may receive the number of whole shares of the related series of preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the holder's depositary receipts after surrendering the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the depositary, paying any taxes, charges and fees provided for in the deposit agreement and complying with any other

requirement of the deposit agreement. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the surrendered depositary shares exceed the number of depositary shares that represent the number of

Table of Contents

whole shares of preferred stock the holder wishes to withdraw, then the depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Once the holder has withdrawn the preferred stock, the holder will not be entitled to re-deposit that preferred stock under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary shares in exchange for such preferred stock. We do not expect that there will be any public trading market for withdrawn shares of preferred stock.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute to record holders of depositary shares any cash dividends or other cash distributions it receives on preferred stock, after deducting its fees and expenses. Each holder will receive these distributions in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by the holder. The depositary will distribute only whole U.S. dollars and cents. The depositary will add any fractional cents not distributed to the next sum received for distribution to record holders of depositary shares. In the event of a non-cash distribution, the depositary will distribute property to the record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such a distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders. The amounts distributed to holders of depositary shares will be reduced by any amounts required to be withheld by the depositary or by us on account of taxes or other governmental charges.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If the series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, we will give the necessary proceeds to the depositary. The depositary will then redeem the depositary shares using the funds they received from us for the preferred stock. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the redemption price payable per share for the applicable series of the preferred stock and any other amounts per share payable with respect to the preferred stock multiplied by the fraction or multiple of a share of preferred stock represented by one depositary share. Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem the depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock on the same day, provided we have paid in full to the depositary the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed and any accrued and unpaid dividends. If fewer than all the depositary shares of a series are to be redeemed, the depositary shares will be selected by lot or ratably or by any other equitable methods as the depositary will decide.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be considered outstanding. Therefore, all rights of holders of the depositary shares will then cease, except that the holders will still be entitled to receive any cash payable upon the redemption and any money or other property to which the holder was entitled at the time of redemption. To receive this amount or other property, the holders must surrender the depositary receipts evidencing their depositary shares to the depositary. Any funds that we deposit with the depositary for any depositary shares that the holders fail to redeem will be returned to us after a period of one year from the date we deposit the funds.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will notify holders of depositary shares of the upcoming vote and arrange to deliver our voting materials to the holders. The record date for determining holders of depositary shares that are entitled to vote will be the same as the record date for the preferred stock. The materials the holders will receive will describe the matters to be voted on and explain how the holders, on a certain date, may instruct the depositary to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares. For instructions to be valid, the depositary must receive them on or before the date specified. To the extent possible, the depositary will vote the shares as instructed by the holder. We agree to take all reasonable actions

that the depositary determines are necessary to

Table of Contents

enable it to vote as a holder has instructed. If the depositary does not receive specific instructions from the holders of any depositary shares, it will vote all shares of that series held by it proportionately with instructions received.

Conversion or Exchange

The depositary, with our approval or at our instruction, will convert or exchange all depositary shares if the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is converted or exchanged. In order for the depositary to do so, we will need to deposit the other preferred stock, common stock, or other securities into which the preferred stock is to be converted or for which it will be exchanged.

The exchange or conversion rate per depositary share will be equal to:

the exchange or conversion rate per share of preferred stock, multiplied by the fraction or multiple of a share of preferred stock represented by one depositary share;

plus all money and any other property represented by one depositary share; and

including all amounts per depositary share paid by us for dividends that have accrued on the preferred stock on the exchange or conversion date and that have not been paid.

The depositary shares, as such, cannot be converted or exchanged into other preferred stock, common stock, securities of another issuer or any other of our securities or property. Nevertheless, if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, a holder of depositary shares may be able to surrender the depositary receipts to the depositary with written instructions asking the depositary to instruct us to convert or exchange the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares into other shares of our preferred stock or common stock or to exchange the preferred stock for any other securities registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. If the depositary shares carry this right, we would agree that, upon the payment of any applicable fees, we will cause the conversion or exchange of the preferred stock using the same procedures as we use for the delivery of preferred stock. If a holder is only converting part of the depositary shares represented by a depositary receipt, new depositary receipts will be issued for any depositary shares that are not converted or exchanged.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

We may agree with the depositary to amend the deposit agreement and the form of depositary receipt without consent of the holder at any time. However, if the amendment adds or increases fees or charges, other than any change in the fees of any depositary, registrar or transfer agent, or prejudices an important right of holders, it will only become effective with the approval of holders of at least a majority of the affected depositary shares then outstanding. We will make no amendment that impairs the right of any holder of depositary shares, as described above under **-Withdrawal of Preferred Stock**, to receive shares of preferred stock and any money or other property represented by those depositary shares, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. If an amendment becomes effective, holders are deemed to agree to the amendment and to be bound by the amended deposit agreement if they continue to hold their depositary receipts.

The deposit agreement automatically terminates if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or converted or exchanged for any other securities into which they or the underlying preferred stock are convertible or exchangeable;

each share of preferred stock has been converted into or exchanged for common stock; or

a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock has been made to the holders of depositary receipts in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up.

Table of Contents

We may also terminate the deposit agreement at any time we wish. If we do so, the depositary will give notice of termination to the record holders not less than 30 days before the termination date. Once depositary receipts are surrendered to the depositary, it will send to each holder the number of whole or fractional shares of the series of preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary receipts.

Charges of Depositary and Expenses

We will pay the fees, charges and expenses of the depositary provided in the deposit agreement to be payable by us. Holders of depositary receipts will pay any taxes and governmental charges and any charges provided in the deposit agreement to be payable by them. If the depositary incurs fees, charges or expenses for which it is not otherwise liable at the election of a holder of a depositary receipt or other person, that holder or other person will be liable for those fees, charges and expenses.

Limitations on Our Obligations and Liability to Holders of Depositary Receipts

The deposit agreement expressly limits our obligations and the obligations of the depositary. It also limits our liability and the liability of the depositary as follows:

we and the depositary are only liable to the holders of depositary receipts for negligence or willful misconduct;

we and the depositary have no obligation to become involved in any legal or other proceeding related to the depositary receipts or the deposit agreement on your behalf or on behalf of any other party, unless you provide us with satisfactory indemnity; and

we and the depositary may rely upon any written advice of counsel or accountants and on any documents we believe in good faith to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by notifying us of its election to do so. In addition, we may remove the depositary at any time. Within 60 days after the delivery of a notice of resignation or removal of the depositary, we will appoint a successor depositary.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer in one or more series under this prospectus, which may include guarantees of the debt securities by certain of our subsidiaries. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series, including whether such debt securities will be guaranteed, in a supplement to this prospectus. We will also indicate in the supplement to what extent the general terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities.

We may issue debt securities either separately, or together with, or upon the conversion or exercise of or in exchange for, other securities described in this prospectus. Debt securities may be our senior, senior subordinated or subordinated obligations and, unless otherwise specified in a supplement to this prospectus, the debt securities will be our direct, unsecured obligations.

The debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. We have summarized select portions of the indenture below. The summary is not complete. The form of the indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement and you should read the indenture for provisions that may be important to you.

General

We can issue an unlimited amount of debt securities under the indenture that may be in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium, or at a discount. The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and set forth in an officer's certificate or a supplemental indenture. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series (including any pricing supplement or term sheet), including the following terms, if applicable:

the title and ranking of the debt securities (including the terms of any subordination provisions)

the price or prices (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount) at which we will sell the debt securities;

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities being offered and any limit on the aggregate principal amount of such series of debt securities;

whether any of our direct or indirect subsidiaries will guarantee the debt securities, including the terms of subordination, if any, of such guarantees;

the date or dates on which the principal of the securities of the series is payable;

the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate;

the dates from which interest will accrue, the interest payment dates and the record dates for the interest payments;

the place or places where principal of, and any interest on, the debt securities will be payable (and the method of such payment), where the securities of such series may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, and where notices and demands to us in respect of the debt securities may be delivered;

any mandatory or optional redemption terms;

any obligation we have to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series shall be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation;

Table of Contents

any dates, if any, on which and the price or prices at which we will repurchase debt securities at the option of the holders of debt securities and other detailed terms and provisions of such repurchase obligations;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities or global debt securities;

the currency of denomination of the debt securities, which may be U.S. dollars or any foreign currency, and if such currency of denomination is a composite currency, the agency or organization, if any, responsible for overseeing such composite currency;

the designation of the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of the principal of, and any interest on, the debt securities will be made;

if payments of principal of, any interest on, the debt securities will be made in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to such payments will be determined;

the manner in which the amounts of payment of principal of, or any interest on, the debt securities will be determined, if these amounts may be determined by reference to an index based on a currency or currencies or by reference to a commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index;

any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;

any addition to, deletion of or change in the events of default described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities and any change in the acceleration provisions described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any addition to, deletion of or change in the covenants described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any depositaries, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents appointed with respect to the debt securities;

the provisions, if any, relating to conversion or exchange of any series of debt securities, including if applicable, the conversion or exchange price and period, the securities or other property into which the debt securities will be convertible, provisions as to whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, at the option of the holders

thereof or at our option, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or exchange price and provisions affecting conversion or exchange if such series of debt securities are redeemed; and

any other terms of the series of debt securities that may supplement, modify or delete any provision of the indenture as it applies to that series, including any terms that may be required under applicable law or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

We may issue debt securities that provide for an amount less than their stated principal amount to be due and payable upon maturity or a declaration of acceleration of their maturity following an event of default pursuant to the terms of the indenture. We will provide you with information on the federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any of these debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we denominate the purchase price of any of the debt securities in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, or if the principal of and any premium and interest on any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, we will provide you with information on the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to that issue of debt securities and such foreign currency or currencies or foreign currency unit or units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Transfer and Exchange

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, or the depository, or a nominee of the depository (we will refer to any such debt security as a global debt security), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (we will refer to any debt security represented by a certificate as a certificated debt security) as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as set forth below, global debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

Certificated Debt Securities. You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at any office we maintain for this purpose in accordance with the terms of the indenture. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

You may effect the transfer of certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal of, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the certificate representing those certificated debt securities and either reissuance by us or the trustee of the certificate to the new holder or the issuance by us or the trustee of a new certificate to the new holder.

Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System. Each global debt security will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository, and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Beneficial interests in global debt securities will not be issuable in certificated form unless (i) the depository has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for such global debt security or has ceased to be qualified to act as such as required by the indenture and we fail to appoint a successor depository within 90 days of such event, (ii) we determine, in our sole discretion, not to have such securities represented by one or more global securities or (iii) any other circumstances shall exist, in addition to or in lieu of those described above, as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless and until a global debt security is exchanged for certificated debt securities under the limited circumstances described in the previous sentence, a global debt security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository to its nominee or by the nominee to the depository, or by the depository or its nominee to a successor depository or to a nominee of the successor depository.

Covenants

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement any restrictive covenants applicable to any issue of debt securities.

No Protection In the Event of a Change of Control

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions which may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control) which could adversely affect holders of debt securities.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Vector may not consolidate with or merge with or into, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of its assets to any person (a successor person) unless:

Vector is the surviving corporation or the successor person (if other than Vector) is a corporation organized and validly existing under the laws of any U.S. domestic jurisdiction and expressly assumes Vector's obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture; and

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the above, any of Vector's subsidiaries may consolidate with, merge into or transfer all or part of its properties to Vector.

Events of Default

Event of Default means with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

default in the payment of any interest upon any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable, and continuance of such default for a period of 30 days (unless the entire amount of the payment is deposited by us with the trustee or with a paying agent prior to the expiration of the 30-day period);

default in the payment of principal of any security of that series at its maturity;

default in the performance or breach of any covenant by us in the indenture (other than defaults described above or defaults relating to a covenant that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default continues uncured for a period of 60 days after we receive written notice from the trustee, or we and the trustee receive written notice from the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;

certain voluntary or involuntary events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Vector; and

any other event of default provided with respect to a series of debt securities, including any events of default relating to guarantors, if any, or subsidiaries that is described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No event of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities (except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization) necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities. The occurrence of certain events of default or an acceleration under the indenture may constitute an event of default under certain indebtedness of ours or our subsidiaries outstanding from time to time.

If an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities at the time outstanding occurs and is continuing (other than an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization), then the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, by a notice in writing to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), declare to be due and payable immediately the principal of (or, if the debt securities of that series are discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all debt securities of that series. In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal amount (or such specified amount) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all outstanding debt securities will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by written notice to us and the trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration of acceleration and its consequences if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and interest, if any, with respect to debt securities of that

series, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of such discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default.

The indenture provides that the trustee will be under no obligation to perform any duty or exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture unless the trustee receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any cost, liability or expense which might be incurred by it in performing such duty or exercising such right of power. Subject to certain rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt

Table of Contents

securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series.

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

that holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request to the trustee to institute the proceedings in respect of such event of default in its own name as trustee under the indenture;

such holder or holders have offered to the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by the trustee in compliance with such request;

the trustee has failed to institute any such proceeding for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity; and

no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee during such 60-day period by holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series.

Notwithstanding any other provision in the indenture, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, and any interest on, that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on the redemption date) and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment and such rights shall not be impaired without the consent of such holder.

The indenture requires us, within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture from our principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer. If a default or event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series and if it is actually known to a responsible officer of the trustee, the trustee shall mail to each holder of the debt securities of that series notice of a default or event of default within 60 days after it occurs or, if later, after a responsible officer of the trustee has knowledge of such default or event of default. The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if the trustee determines in good faith that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

Modification and Waiver

We and the trustee may modify and amend or supplement the indenture or the debt securities of one or more series without the consent of any holder of any debt security:

to add guarantees with respect to debt securities of a series or secure debt securities of a series;

to surrender any of our rights or powers under the indenture;

to add covenants or events of default for the benefit of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to comply with the applicable procedures of the applicable depositary;

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

to comply with covenants in the indenture described above under the heading Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets ;

Table of Contents

to provide for uncertificated securities in addition to or in place of certificated securities;

to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any holder of debt securities;

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of debt securities of any series as permitted by the indenture;

to effect the appointment of a successor trustee with respect to the debt securities of any series and to add to or change any of the provisions of the indenture to provide for or facilitate administration by more than one trustee;

to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; and

for certain other reasons set forth in any prospectus supplement.

We may also modify and amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments. We may not make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holders of each affected debt security then outstanding if that amendment will:

reduce the principal amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest (including default interest) on any debt security;

reduce the principal of, or change the fixed maturity of, any debt security or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the payment of any sinking fund or analogous obligation with respect to any series of debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;

waive a default in the payment of the principal of, or interest, if any, on any debt security (except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such acceleration);

make the principal of, or any interest on, any debt security payable in currency other than that stated in the debt security;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, the right of holders of debt securities to receive payment of the principal of, and any interest on, those debt securities and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to waivers or amendments; or

waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security, provided that such redemption is made at our option.

Except for certain specified provisions, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, by written notice to the trustee, waive our compliance with provisions of the indenture or the debt securities with respect to such series. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all the debt securities of such series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or any interest on, any debt security of that series; provided, however, that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind an acceleration and its consequences, including any related payment default that resulted from the acceleration.

Table of Contents

Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances

Legal Defeasance. The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series (subject to certain exceptions). We will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, government obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued such currency, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants or investment bank to pay and discharge each installment of principal and interest, if any, on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable United States federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such opinion shall confirm that, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

Defeasance of Certain Covenants. The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, upon compliance with certain conditions:

we may omit to comply with the covenant described under the heading Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets and certain other covenants set forth in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants which may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement; and

any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series (covenant defeasance).

The conditions include:

depositing with the trustee money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, government obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued such currency, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants or investment bank to pay and discharge each installment of principal of, and interest, if any, on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities; and

delivering to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities, including any claim or controversy arising out of or relating to the indenture or the securities, will be governed by the laws of the State of New York (without regard to the conflicts of laws provisions thereof other than Section 5-1401 of the General Obligations Law).

Table of Contents

Concerning our Relationship with the Trustee

We and our subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association also serves as trustee under certain of our other indentures.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

General

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, which consist of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, and/or debt securities in one or more series. Warrants may be offered independently or together with common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, and/or debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from those securities.

While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future warrants we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any warrants that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The specific terms of any warrants may differ from the description provided below as a result of negotiations with third parties in connection with the issuance of those warrants, as well as for other reasons. Because the terms of any warrants we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below, you should rely solely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement if that summary is different from the summary in this prospectus.

We will issue the warrants under a warrant agreement, which we will enter into with a warrant agent to be selected by us. We use the term *warrant agreement* to refer to any of these warrant agreements. We use the term *warrant agent* to refer to the warrant agent under any of these warrant agreements. The warrant agent will act solely as an agent of ours in connection with the warrants and will not act as an agent for the holders or beneficial owners of the warrants.

We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement applicable to a particular series of warrants. We urge you to read any applicable prospectus supplement related to the warrants that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete warrant agreement that contain the terms of the warrants and defines your rights as a warrant holder.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of warrants. If warrants for the purchase of debt securities are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, to the extent applicable:

the offering price and the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currencies in which the warrants are being offered;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of debt securities

that can be purchased if a holder exercises a warrant;

the designation and terms of any series of debt securities with which the warrants are being offered, including whether such debt securities are guaranteed, and the number of warrants offered with each such debt security;

the date on and after which the holder of the warrants can transfer them separately from the related series of debt securities;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

Table of Contents

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and the date on which that right expires;

federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the warrants.

Warrants for the purchase of debt securities will be in registered form only.

If warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, to the extent applicable:

the offering price and the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the total number of shares that can be purchased if a holder of the warrants exercises them;

the number of warrants being offered with each share of common stock;

the date on and after which the holder of the warrants can transfer them separately from the related shares of common stock or preferred stock or the related depositary shares;

the amount of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares that can be purchased if a holder exercises the warrant and the price at which those shares may be purchased upon exercise, including, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price and in the securities or other property receivable upon exercise;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call, or accelerate the expiration of, the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and the date on which that right expires;

federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the warrants.

Warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares will be in registered form only.

A holder of warrant certificates may exchange them for new certificates of different denominations, present them for registration of transfer and exercise them at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Until any warrants to purchase debt securities are exercised, the holder of the

warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities that can be purchased upon exercise, including any rights to receive payments of principal, premium or interest on the underlying debt securities or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture. Until any warrants to purchase depositary shares or shares of common stock or preferred stock are exercised, holders of the warrants will not have any rights of holders of the underlying depositary shares or shares of common stock or preferred stock, including any rights to receive dividends or to exercise any voting rights, except to the extent set forth under - Warrant Adjustments below.

Exercise of Warrants

Each holder of a warrant is entitled to purchase the principal amount of debt securities or number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or number of depositary shares, as the case may be, at the exercise price described in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the day when the right to exercise terminates (or a later date if we extend the time for exercise), unexercised warrants will become void.

A holder of warrants may exercise them by following the general procedure outlined below:

deliver to the warrant agent the payment required by the applicable prospectus supplement to purchase the underlying security;

Table of Contents

properly complete and sign the reverse side of the warrant certificate representing the warrants; and

deliver the warrant certificate representing the warrants to the warrant agent within five business days of the warrant agent receiving payment of the exercise price.

If you comply with the procedures described above, your warrants will be considered to have been exercised when the warrant agent receives payment of the exercise price, subject to the transfer books for the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrant not being closed on such date. After you have completed those procedures and subject to the foregoing, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver to you the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares that you purchased upon exercise. If you exercise fewer than all of the warrants represented by a warrant certificate, a new warrant certificate will be issued to you for the unexercised amount of warrants. Holders of warrants will be required to pay any tax or governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with transferring the underlying securities in connection with the exercise of the warrants.

Amendments and Supplements to the Warrant Agreements

We may amend or supplement a warrant agreement without the consent of the holders of the applicable warrants to cure ambiguities in the warrant agreement, to cure or correct a defective provision in the warrant agreement, or to provide for other matters under the warrant agreement that we and the warrant agent deem necessary or desirable, so long as, in each case, such amendments or supplements do not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants.

Warrant Adjustments

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the exercise price of, and the number of securities covered by, a warrant for depositary shares or shares of common stock or preferred stock will be adjusted proportionately if we subdivide or combine our common stock or preferred stock, as applicable. In addition, unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, if we, without payment:

issue shares of common stock or preferred stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock, or any rights to subscribe for, purchase or otherwise acquire any of the foregoing, as a dividend or distribution to all or substantially all holders of our common stock or preferred stock;

pay any cash to all or substantially all holders of our common stock or preferred stock, other than a cash dividend paid out of our current or retained earnings;

issue any evidence of our indebtedness or rights to subscribe for or purchase our indebtedness to all or substantially all holders of our common stock or preferred stock; or

issue common stock, preferred stock or additional shares or other securities or property to all or substantially all holders of our common stock or preferred stock by way of spinoff, split-up, reclassification, combination of shares or similar corporate rearrangement;

then the holders of common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants, or depositary share warrants will be entitled to receive upon exercise of the warrants, in addition to the securities otherwise receivable upon exercise of the warrants and without paying any additional consideration, the amount of shares and other securities and property such holders would have been entitled to receive had they held the common stock or preferred stock or depositary shares issuable under the warrants on the dates on which holders of those securities received or became entitled to receive such additional shares and other securities and property.

Except as stated above, the exercise price and number of securities covered by a warrant for shares of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares, and the amounts of other securities or property to be

Table of Contents

received, if any, upon exercise of those warrants, will not be adjusted or provided for if we issue those securities or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities, or securities carrying the right to purchase those securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities.

Holders of common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants or depositary share warrants may have additional rights under the following circumstances:

certain reclassifications, capital reorganizations or changes of the common stock or preferred stock;

certain share exchanges, mergers, or similar transactions involving us that result in changes of the common stock or preferred stock; or

certain sales or dispositions to another entity of all or substantially all of our property and assets.

If one of the above transactions occurs and holders of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares are entitled to receive shares, securities or other property with respect to or in exchange for their securities, the holders of the common stock warrants, preferred stock warrants, or depositary share warrants then outstanding, as applicable, will be entitled to receive upon exercise of their warrants the kind and amount of shares and other securities or property that they would have received upon the applicable transaction if they had exercised their warrants immediately before the transaction.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the general features of the rights that we may offer under this prospectus. We may issue rights to our stockholders to purchase shares of our common stock and/or any of the other securities offered hereby. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent. When we issue rights, we will provide the specific terms of the rights and the applicable rights agreement in a prospectus supplement. Because the terms of any rights we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below, you should rely solely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement if that summary is different from the summary in this prospectus. We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of rights agreement that describes the terms of the series of rights we are offering before the issuance of the related series of rights. The applicable prospectus supplement relating to any rights will describe the terms of the offered rights, including, where applicable, the following:

the date for determining the persons entitled to participate in the rights distribution;

the exercise price for the rights;

the aggregate number or amount of underlying securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights;

the number of rights issued to each stockholder and the number of rights outstanding, if any;

the extent to which the rights are transferable;

the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

the extent to which the rights include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities;

anti-dilution provisions of the rights, if any; and

any other terms of the rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the distribution, exchange and exercise of the rights.

Holders may exercise rights as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights. If less than all of the rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or

through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby underwriting arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The following description summarizes the general features of the purchase contracts that we may offer under this prospectus. While the features we have summarized below will generally apply to any future purchase contracts we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any purchase contracts that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The specific terms of any purchase contracts may differ from the description provided below as a result of negotiations with third parties in connection with the issuance of those purchase contracts, as well as for other reasons. Because the terms of any purchase contracts we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below, you should rely solely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement if that summary is different from the summary in this prospectus.

We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of any purchase contract that we may offer under this prospectus before the sale of the related purchase contract. We urge you to read any applicable prospectus supplement related to specific purchase contracts being offered, as well as the complete instruments that contain the terms of the securities that are subject to those purchase contracts. Certain of those instruments, or forms of those instruments, have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplements to those instruments or forms may be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part from reports we file with the SEC.

We may issue purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and for us to sell to holders, a specific or variable number of our, or an unaffiliated entity's, securities at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specific or varying number of our securities.

If we offer any purchase contracts, certain terms of that series of purchase contracts will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including, without limitation, the following:

the price of the securities or other property subject to the purchase contracts (which may be determined by reference to a specific formula described in the purchase contracts);

whether the purchase contracts are issued separately, or as a part of units each consisting of a purchase contract and one or more of our other securities or securities of an unaffiliated entity, including U.S. Treasury securities, securing the holder's obligations under the purchase contract;

any requirement for us to make periodic payments to holders or vice versa, and whether the payments are unsecured or pre-funded;

any provisions relating to any security provided for the purchase contracts;

whether the purchase contracts obligate the holder or us to purchase or sell, or both purchase and sell, the securities subject to purchase under the purchase contract, and the nature and amount of each of those securities, or the method of determining those amounts;

whether the purchase contracts are to be prepaid or not;

whether the purchase contracts are to be settled by delivery, or by reference or linkage to the value, performance or level of the securities subject to purchase under the purchase contract;

any acceleration, cancellation, termination or other provisions relating to the settlement of the purchase contracts;

a discussion of certain united states federal income tax considerations applicable to the purchase contracts;

whether the purchase contracts will be issued in fully registered or global form; and

any other terms of the purchase contracts and any securities subject to such purchase contracts.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units comprising two or more securities described in this prospectus in any combination. For example, we might issue units consisting of a combination of debt securities and warrants to purchase common stock. The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the units that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. The particular terms of the units and the extent, if any, to which the general terms and provisions may apply to the units so offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit also is the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. Units will be issued pursuant to the terms of a unit agreement, which may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately at any time or at any time before a specified date. A copy of the forms of the unit agreement and the unit certificate relating to any particular issue of units will be filed with the SEC each time we issue units, and you should read those documents for provisions that may be important to you. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the forms of the unit agreement and the related unit certificate, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

The prospectus supplement relating to any particular issuance of units will describe the terms of those units, including, to the extent applicable, the following:

the designation and terms of the units and the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provision for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

Table of Contents

SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

If the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part is used by selling securityholders for the resale of any securities registered hereunder, information about such selling securityholders, their beneficial ownership of our securities and their relationship with us will be set forth in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment, or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference herein.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We, or selling securityholders, may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods or through underwriters or dealers, through agents and/or directly to one or more purchasers. The securities may be distributed from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Each prospectus will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

Offers to purchase the securities being offered by this prospectus may be solicited directly. Agents may also be designated to solicit offers to purchase the securities from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of our securities will be identified in a prospectus supplement.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, the securities will be sold to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

If an underwriter is utilized in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, an underwriting agreement will be executed with the underwriter at the time of sale and the name of any underwriter will be provided in the prospectus supplement that the underwriter will use to make resales of the securities to the public. In connection with the sale of the securities, we, or selling securityholders, or the purchasers of securities for whom the underwriter may act as agent, may compensate the underwriter in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions. The underwriter may sell the securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for which they may act as agent. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, an agent will be acting on a best efforts basis and a dealer will purchase securities as a principal, and may then resell the securities at varying prices to be determined by the dealer.

Any compensation paid to underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers will be provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act), and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, the maximum amount of underwriting compensation, including underwriting discounts and commissions, to be paid in connection with any offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus may not exceed 8% of the aggregate principal amount of securities offered.

Table of Contents

We may enter into agreements to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments they may be required to make in respect thereof and to reimburse those persons for certain expenses.

The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than were sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, underwriters or other persons acting as agents may be authorized to solicit offers by institutions or other suitable purchasers to purchase the securities at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement, pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the prospectus supplement. These purchasers may include, among others, commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions. Delayed delivery contracts will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the securities covered by the delayed delivery contracts will not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the united states to which the purchaser is subject. The underwriters and agents will not have any responsibility with respect to the validity or performance of these contracts.

We may engage in at-the-market offerings into an existing trading market in accordance with rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act. In addition, we or the selling securityholders may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us, the selling securityholders or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of common stock, and may use securities received from us or the selling securityholders in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of our common stock. In addition, we or the selling securityholders may loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third party that in turn may sell the securities using this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement. Such financial institution or other third party may transfer its economic short position to investors in our securities or in connection with a concurrent offering of other securities.

The underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with us, or perform services for us, in the ordinary course of business for which they receive compensation.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters relating to the issuance and sale of the securities will be passed upon for us by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and, with respect to matters of Virginia law, by Robert T. Vaughan, Jr., P.C.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Vector Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements of Liggett Group LLC incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Vector Group Ltd. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements of Vector Tobacco Inc. incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Vector Group Ltd. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC for the period ended December 13, 2013 and year ended December 31, 2012 incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Vector Group Ltd. Annual Report on Form 10-K have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

2,000,000 Shares

Vector Group Ltd.

Common Stock

Jefferies